

# The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 54, Issue 6

April 2011

## Neighborhood Entrance Upgrades

by Matt Tifford, Environment Chair

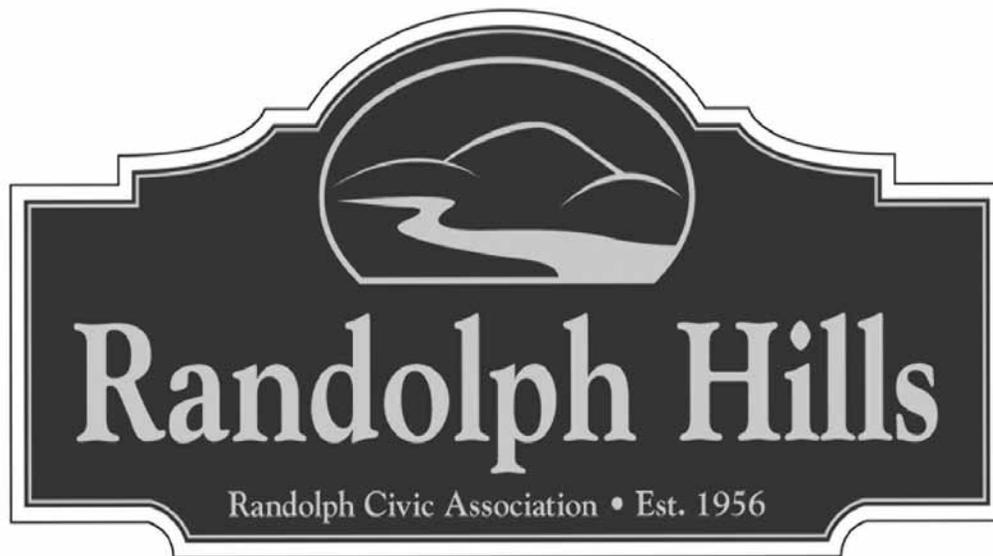
Will this sign be the new face of the Randolph Civic Association's neighborhoods? After working with designers for almost a year, we've whittled it down to a few finalists. While they are all very similar, what remains to be decided is what (if any) kind of graphic to use, and color choices for the sign and text. The project will cost around \$1500 per sign, plus shipping and installation. As in past years, community volunteers will install the signs, so that cost will be fairly minimal; we will have to buy the posts, a few bags of concrete, and rent a post hole digger. We currently have enough money to do one sign, though we are hoping to be able to purchase at least two at a time, as the shipping savings is substantial.

And now, this is the part of my article when I get to beg! We are moving forward on a project which will dramatically change the face of our neighborhood. It is likely that you will see one or more of these signs multiple times a day, whether you are going to work, shopping, or just taking a walk. We need to get this right, and we sure could use your help. So please, come to the April meeting if you

can, or if it's not possible for you to come, get one of your neighbors to go. These are decisions that we should all make together, and the more of us that are involved, the more likely we are to end up with a great sign.

The next meeting will be April 7th at the Viers Mill Recreation Center which is located at

4425 Garrett Park Road (the corner of Garrett Park Road and Beach Drive. The meeting starts at 8:00pm sharp so please arrive and provide input.



Signs such as this could be made for not only Randolph Hills, but other sections such as Montrose Park

## Upcoming Events

### **RCA General Membership Meeting: Annual RCA Board Elections**

Guest Speaker: Montgomery County Park Police Parkwatch Program

April 7th, 2011 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

### **Rock Creek Stream Clean-Up Event**

April 9th, 2011 9:00am-Noon, Randolph Hills Shopping Center and Randolph Hills Local Park

Try to arrive at either site at 9:00am for instructions

### **RCA Community Bazaar (formerly the Yard Sale)**

May 7th, 2011 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.

## RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2010-2011

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## President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

Allow me to start off this message by personally thanking our outgoing RCA Board members. Kevin Kline and David Matera have served our community well and I appreciate their service. As our longest serving Board member, Kevin has provided great institutional knowledge and guidance. David has brought a law enforcement perspective to the group and helped get the ball rolling for our Neighborhood Watch. Thank you both for all your hard work.

With the elections come a new face and familiar one. This will be the first term on the Board for Amber Tedesco of Franklin Park. She is running uncontested for the Vice President Two seat; she has been an RCA volunteer for years and is also active in the Viers Mill Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Matt Tifford is the familiar face. He is our ongoing environmental chair and served as RCA President for the two terms prior to mine. He will be returning to the Board as a Director (he is also running for his seat uncontested). He has been instrumental in the current effort to beautify our neighborhood entranceways. I think it is important to note that both accepted their nominations but did not nominate themselves. They were nominated by their peers who believe they will be valuable additions to the Board. Thank you Amber and Matt.

Back to business: We have a couple of important action items on our County radar. The so-called 'bag tax' that has been instituted successfully by surrounding jurisdictions has been proposed by County Executive Leggett. This has not yet been endorsed yet by the RCA Board, but I will bring it before the group at the April meeting for discussion. My hope is that we as a community will support this important piece of legislation. Although some details are still being worked out, the concept itself is too valuable to our community to reject. Drive down Boiling Brook Parkway. Volunteer at the Rock Creek stream clean-up on April 9th (more details in this issue). Do either of those things and you'll see how these bags impact our community and *(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](http://www.randolphcivic.org)

## Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Thank You to Kevin Kline and David Matera!** Randolph Civic Association elections are coming and Kevin Kline (our longest serving Board member) and David Matera (our current VP2) are stepping down from their posts at our April meeting. Kevin has been of great help over the year on many initiatives and an asset to the community. David has started the process of getting our Neighborhood Watch back up and running and will continue to serve as our Public Safety Chair. RCA-land is lucky to have neighbors like these in our community.
- **It's time to take in your RCA membership yard signs if you haven't already.** A final count is still being made but we topped 500 members for the second year in a row. This is off a bit from our total last year (the year we conducted the membership drive the total rose to about 550) and we will do some targeted outreach via email and phone to those who have not renewed. You can always renew by going to [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org).
- **We are still searching for someone who can take on the role of Echo Advertising Coordinator.** The role involves reaching out to potential new advertisers and coordinating with existing ones. Don't worry, there's no cold calling involved and the time commitment is reasonable. Please contact Dan Hoffman at [dan@randolphcivic.org](mailto:dan@randolphcivic.org) if you are interested.
- **Good neighbor website launched to promote new laws that protect neighborhoods.** Preserving the quality of life in Montgomery County neighborhoods needs help from all of us. New County laws initiated by the County Executive and approved by the County Council are designed to help protect our residential neighborhoods. These laws go into effect April 24, 2011. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/goodneighbors](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/goodneighbors)
- **Springtime means flowers, gardening, and mulch!** Wheaton High School is holding its annual mulch on Sat., April 9, 8:30-3:30. Mulch looks great, is essential for your garden, and is an important fundraiser for the school! You can pick up your mulch or have it delivered. Visit the PTSA website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/ptsa](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/ptsa) for an order form.

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](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) by the deadlines posted on page 11 of this issue. Thank you!



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## Rock Creek Hiker-Biker Trail Pedestrian Bridge Opens

by *Mark Nensel*

For all the Rock Creek Hiker-Biker Trail runners, walkers and bicyclists who've been longing for the time when crossing Veirs Mill Road at Aspen Hill Road would not be a white-knuckle speeding-traffic-dodging experience; your years of waiting have come to an end. The Rock Creek Trail Pedestrian Bridge spanning Veirs Mill Road, under construction for the past three years, has finally opened for trail-user traffic.

The 610-foot-long bridge provides an uninterrupted connection for the Rock Creek Trail within the contiguous Rock Creek Stream Valley Park as it passes the soccer-fields near the Parklawn Memorial Park, allowing now for a direct crossing of Veirs Mill Road, up to Aspen Hill Park, then on to the remainder of the Rock Creek Trail as it progresses toward Baltimore Road, and the trail's eventual terminus at Lake Needwood. For years, trail users had to cross Veirs Mill Road at a traffic signal, then wind a couple blocks through a residential neighborhood off Aspen Hill Road, before reconnecting with the trail to Lake Needwood.

On February 13, 2001, the County Council adopted Resolution 14-773 pertaining to the improvement of the Veirs Mill Road / Aspen Hill intersection. Listed among the County Council's recommendations was "accommodation of a potential Rock Creek Hiker-Biker Trail Bridge over Veirs Mill Road". A 2003 facility planning study conducted by the bridge's architect URS Corporation indicated another important reason: "removing the majority of bicycle and pedestrian traffic ... will improve the operations and safety of the intersection for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians".

The plan for the bridge-construction project was approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board on September 11, 2003. For this project, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) obtained Federal Transportation Enhancement funds and a Maryland Program Open Space grant, in the total amount of \$5.327M. The project was approved and funded for detailed design and construction by the Montgomery County Council. Detailed design was completed and the project was advertised for construction in April 2008. Fort Myer Construction Corpo-

ration won the contract, and completed the project for just under \$6M. Three years later, the bridge is complete and open for traffic. The M-NCPPC is planning an official opening ceremony at the site in April. The exact date is still to be announced.

As for the bike rider experience, the bridge appears – big and green and modern-looking – on a gradual northbound incline. The entrance ramp passes by the former street-level intersection, which is now marked by a large oval structure made of short standing stones that looks strikingly like an ancient English henge (according to Kris Krishnamurthy, the M-NCPPC Construction Manager, when queried about the circular design on the bridge, the ramps, the pylons, and the henge, he replied "it represents the Water Wheel of Veirs Mill"). The ramp up to the flyover is a smooth yet significant incline – it takes moderate effort and push-pedaling, but it levels out at the caged bridge crossing over Veirs Mill Road and emerges on the other side, seamlessly connecting with a newly created trail that runs above Adrian Street and merges into the main northbound trail at Aspen Hill Park. The return trip, coming south from Aspen Hill Park, is a glorious coast downhill, but riders should be aware that the bridge is already well-populated with walkers, runners and bicyclists, so speeding down this decline is ill-advised.

For more information on the bridge, or to download Rock Creek Hiker-Biker Trail maps, or to read up on the other hiker-biker trails that exist all within easy distance from Randolph Hills, visit [www.montgomerytrails.org](http://www.montgomerytrails.org) and [www.montgomeryparks.org](http://www.montgomeryparks.org)



*The Rock Creek Trail Bridge Over Veirs Mill Road*

# March Executive Meeting Minutes

by *Christiana Drapkin*

Dan Hoffman called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

## 1. **Old Business:**

### a. Approval of Board slate for April elections:

Nominations were taken for board officers and directors and the nominations were approved by unanimous voice vote as follows: Dan Hoffman for president, Chad Salganik for vice-president 1, Amber Tedesco for vice-president 2, Christiana Drapkin for secretary, Nick Kriesle for treasurer, Matt Tifford for director.

b. Two board members are stepping down. We thank Kevin Kline who has been serving on the RCA board for many years for his service and dedication. We also thank Dave Matera, who has been serving as board member and as chair for our public safety committee. Their involvement and contribution have made such a positive impact on RCA and the community.

## 2. **Priorities Discussion – Work Plan for 2011:**

Our three key elements for 2011 remain: Safety; Infrastructure and Services (including PEPCO); and Community Identity.

**Safety:** Dave Matera and Brian Hooker will now serve as co-chairs of the Public Safety committee, given the magnitude of the effort. Mara Greengrass, who's been coordinating the neighborhood watch block captains, will work closely with Brian.

### Infrastructure and Services:

**Traffic Safety:** Amber Tedesco alerted us to a daily hazard spot at the intersection of Randolph Road and Hunters Lane. She suggests that we look into a "no left-turn" regulations for the morning traffic at that intersection. Secondly, the bus stop at this intersection has a good number of pedestrians coming and going. There is no pedestrian island or any other feature that will make pedestrian crossing of Randolph Road safer. Especially in the dark, one can find unexpectedly pedestrians standing in the middle lane (used by cars for left turns in either direction). We want to make this crossing safer. In addition, there's poor visibility on Hunters Lane, close to the stop sign and intersection with Randolph Road, due to parked cars, and at times due to a parked school bus. We suggest that a "no parking" zone will be implemented on Hunters Lane, at the stretch immediately off Randolph Road. RCA will call for a traffic study. [NOTE: We have just been alerted by the Dept. of Transportation about impending work to upgrade Randolph Road from Nebel St to the Rock Creek bridge. We should make this intersection part of the upgrade.]

Various PEPCO-related issues were discussed. We want to step up our calls for replanting of lost trees, and make that part of our CIP requests. In addition, Matthew Tifford will draft a letter to PEPCO regarding tree maintenance. Maintenance of electric wires remains an issue, with fraying, old-looking lines reported, and with the recent power line fire on Schuylkill Rd. Christiana Drapkin, together with Karen Helfert and Bob Walker, is conducting an RCA-wide survey on the listserv to track down our

power outages. We hope to get a specific idea where our most vulnerable areas are in the electric grid, and how reliability can be improved overall.

**Community Identity:** We are planning the next RCA Community Yard Sale again for the Mother's Day weekend, on Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Loehmann's Plaza. We're looking for volunteers and participants. Bob Walker and Christiana Drapkin will volunteer with their musical entertainment again as Organ Grinder Lola & Master Bob. Space is available on a first come, first serve basis and bring all your wonderful stuff – toys, household items, clothing, sports equipment, etc that you think will be a welcome bargain to our browsers. The Boy Scout troop 1083 will again provide hot dogs and soda for their fundraising activities.

We are looking at other suggestions for community and family events in our neighborhood. Please bring your ideas and volunteer your time.

**3. Wheaton High School Modernization:** George Gadbois continues to attend the planning meetings and the upcoming work sessions. The Board of Education has received a lot of feedback from the community, school administrations, and parents about how to combine facilities for the two high schools, and how to maintain each school's identity. A charter school scenario found little support in the public comments. At issue is, how to design a two-building Edison HS and Wheaton HS – or how to develop a one-building scenario, or at least combine some common facilities (auditorium, labs, etc), while keeping the schools separation intact. This applies to the schools' administration, academic programs and magnet programs, and school identities.

On March 15 George is slated to give his 5-minute testimony, together with other members of the public. On March 28, the Board of Education will make their decision on how to proceed. After that, the appointed architectural firm will start to conduct their feasibility study and work out the design. By 2012/13 contracting will have commenced, and the school should be ready for opening in 2015. The rest of the site and facilities will be expected to be completed in 2016.

Recently, there has been a lot of interest and discussion by parents on the RCA listserv, who are looking at high school choices for their own children. RCA is planning to organize a group of interested residents to go and visit Wheaton High School on a special information tour with the principal and staff.

**4. Sign Update:** Matthew Tifford has made great strides, working with a sign company to bring updated signs that will identify our Randolph Hills neighborhood at various entry points. We were impressed with the variety and beauty of some of the designs by the design team, and we are ready to begin working with them. The top three designs will be shown in The Echo, and we invite all readers to weigh in with their preferences. At this point, RCF has sufficient funds to get the first two signs produced.

*(continued on page 7)*

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## Wheaton High School Modernization Update

by George Gadbois

As many of you know, Wheaton High School (WHS) has been in the queue for a renovation for a number of years. Due to CIP appropriation shortfalls in the last 10 years, WHS has had their spot in line pushed back two years during this time. But their number is up and they have been approved to move forward with the process. WHS and the Thomas Edison High School of Technology (TEHST), the countywide Career & Technology Education (CTE) center, are co-located on the same property and share one building. Issues pertaining to lower enrollment numbers in both schools concerned MCPS to where the superintendent requested a roundtable committee be formed to help determine the future relationship of the two schools and accept program and facility ideas from these stakeholders before moving forward with a new building design.

The roundtable activity was conducted this past fall and winter and provided the superintendent with five "approaches" to use to help determine a recommendation to the BOE for facility and program for the two schools. On February 10th, the superintendent released his recommendation report which essentially combined the two schools. The report mentioned an application entrance program for WHS (a magnet, a good thing) and maintaining identity between programs. There was massive streamlining recommended, including a single administration. The entire report can be found at: [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CommunityInfo\\_Roundtable.shtml](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CommunityInfo_Roundtable.shtml). The superintendent's recommendation did not sit well with most community stakeholders for either school.

At the board meeting on February 28, the BOE developed two alternatives for consideration. These alternatives were variations of a couple of the original roundtable approaches. They were essentially a two-building, two school model and a one-building, two-school model. The one building model in this case provided some shared spaces, but basically kept the schools separate entities. These alternatives, along with the superintendent's recommendation, were the subject of a hearing on March 15th, where the public presented testimony on their preferences. The majority of testimony supported keeping the schools separate, many advocating for the two-building model. This support for separation came from both WHS and TEHST. WHS wants a top performing academic program that attracts and maintains students of all levels. A magnet will help this, but the fear of being labeled a vo-tech school created a desire by many to maintain its own identity. TEHST was concerned a one-school model would water-down or eliminate many of its fine programs, hence their desire for separation. We await the BOE decision on this scheduled for March 28th.

The next steps following the board decision will be to launch the architect's feasibility study this year, award a

design contract for design to occur next year, award a construction contract for construction to occur between June of 2013 through August of 2015, with site completion in 2016. This will all depend on CIP appropriation approvals along the way.

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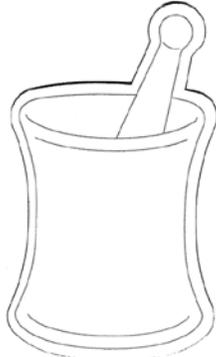
### President's Message

(continued from page 2)

environment. I've written up an opinion piece on the subject for the Citizens League of Montgomery County. You can read it at <http://www.mococitizens.org/blog/detail/tax-my-bags> and provide feedback too.

The other item we're tracking is the County budget. There are difficult decisions to be made, and various County departments have drawn their lines in the sand. With a 300 million dollar gap to close, one year after closing a billion dollar gap, the cuts this year will be especially painful. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are again threatening to sue the County. Other County government departments are facing layoffs or elimination entirely. It's going to get ugly. With one child already at Viers Mill Elementary, and another to arrive there in less than two years, I too am concerned over cuts to school budgets. But with 57% of the total County budget allocated for education, MCPS must find efficiencies and cuts that have the least impact on students. Otherwise, other essential services may be cut so severely that they are rendered ineffective. Outgoing Superintendent Jerry Weast is quick to threaten lawsuits or class size increases rather than collaborate with the County Council and Executive. The School Board must play a stronger role in the dialogue. I understand that the School Board is an understaffed, part-time body over-seeing an enormous budget, but this is the job they ran for.

So there will be much to discuss at our April meeting. Despite having no contested seats for the elections, it is still important for you to show up nonetheless. Show your appreciation for our new Board members and come cast your vote. We will also discuss the bag tax among other issues. Come be heard and show your support.



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## March Minutes

(continued from page 5)

### 5. New Business

a. Accessory apartment by right or special exception: Montgomery County has a "Special Exception Process" in place, by which all future changes or additions to a building must be approved before contracting and construction can begin. Unfortunately, it has been our experience that when the county finds violations, the enforcement process is lax. We are concerned that unchecked expansion of occupancy, for example, due to illegal additional housing units (basements converted into apartments without up-to-code fire exit, etc.) will degrade housing standards. Some voices are advocating "by right" renovations and expansions which would circumvent the Special Exception Process. Advocates of "by right" argue that expanding housing units in existing homes will provide more affordable housing choices, will contribute to the narrowing of the housing affordability gap, and will make it easier for aging residents to maintain their homes while renting out parts of their homes. After discussing various pro and cons, the RCA board decided to oppose the change to "by right" practices. We find that the county is already not well-equipped to enforce existing housing codes, and a "by right" practice will open the door to unchecked and possibly unsafe building modifications. We are concerned about overcrowding and fire-safety violations.

b. Panhandling legislation: The board discussed the pros and cons of supporting pending panhandling prohibitions on the median strips of roads. Such panhandling is already forbidden in Prince George's County. Last year, when it came up in our legislature, the bill was stymied by proponents of the "Fill the Boot" campaign that supports local fire departments.

c. New Echo advertising coordinator: We thank Kendra Fletcher for her volunteer work as the Echo's advertising coordinator and are sad to see her step down. We are now looking for a new, dedicated volunteer to pick up the ball and reach out to many of our businesses which don't have to be limited to our immediate area. The Board is discussing in implementing a 10% commission for each new advertising to be brought in. Please contact Dan Hoffman at dan@randolphcivic.org for more information and to apply for the position.

### 6. Standard Business and Reports:

a. The minutes of the February 3, 2011 RCA General meeting, submitted by Christiana Drapkin were approved by unanimous voice vote.

b. Treasurer's Report – tabled until next meeting

c. Membership report: Cindy Zelaya has updated our membership numbers, which are close to 500.

We thank Richard Zierdt for his donation that allows us to renew our www.randolphcivic.org domain for the next ten years.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

## PLANNING ON SELLING/RENTING YOUR HOME?

### KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING TO BUY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Allow me to assist you with your next real estate transaction

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.

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

### COREY GAQUIN



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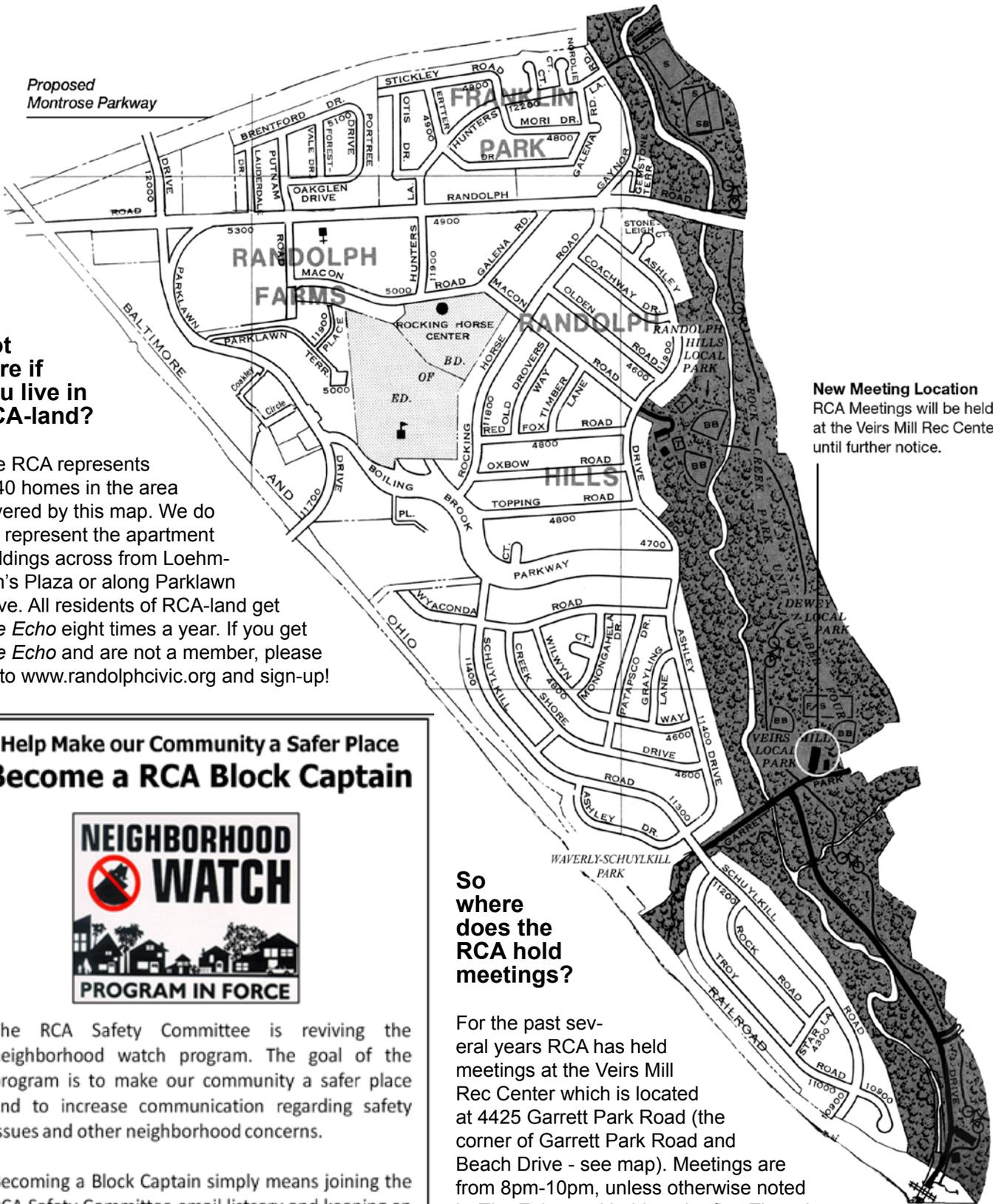


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**Not sure if you live in RCA-land?**

The RCA represents 1340 homes in the area covered by this map. We do not represent the apartment buildings across from Loehmann's Plaza or along Parklawn Drive. All residents of RCA-land get *The Echo* eight times a year. If you get *The Echo* and are not a member, please go to [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) and sign-up!

**New Meeting Location**  
RCA Meetings will be held at the Veirs Mill Rec Center until further notice.

**Help Make our Community a Safer Place  
Become a RCA Block Captain**



The RCA Safety Committee is reviving the neighborhood watch program. The goal of the program is to make our community a safer place and to increase communication regarding safety issues and other neighborhood concerns.

Becoming a Block Captain simply means joining the RCA Safety Committee email listserv and keeping an eye out for safety issues on your street.

Email [safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org) for more information and to learn how you can help.

**So where does the RCA hold meetings?**

For the past several years RCA has held meetings at the Veirs Mill Rec Center which is located at 4425 Garrett Park Road (the corner of Garrett Park Road and Beach Drive - see map). Meetings are from 8pm-10pm, unless otherwise noted in *The Echo*, and held on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings are not held during the summer and are optional in January. The next meeting is April 7th and we will have a presentation from Park Police about the new Parkwatch program as well as our annual elections.

## RCF President's Message

by Matt Tifford

Spring is upon us, and we here at the Randolph Civic Foundation are ready to go with neighborhood beautification projects. Over the next few weeks there will be much weeding, planting, and mulching. In order to get the most flowery bang for our buck, we are going to eschew hiring a landscaping firm for the time being and instead gather our community's volunteer workforce to get the job done. These sign areas are not very big, and with a few people we should be able to spruce them up quickly. We have also begun planning for our Annual Meeting, and are looking at dates in mid-June. More details will be forthcoming in the May Echo. Let's get planting!

## Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Fernanda Muehlstedt

Hi everyone, my name is Fernanda Muehlstedt and I am a Girl Scout Junior from the local Troop 1028. In our troop, we just had World Thinking Day. That is when we get assigned a country and we do a presentation to all the Girl Scouts in all the other troops in our Service Unit. Our troop got the country of Romania. We made a presentation board about this country and the Embassy of Romania gave us some brochures and ties with their flag printed in them to display and give away. We also made and gave away samples of a Romanian drink called "Oranjada".

We are almost done with our cookie sales and will be doing a lot of booth sales in the local supermarkets. The sales are going very well; the girls are doing a fantastic job selling lots of cookies. Good Job, Girls!!!

## RCF Executive Committee for 2010-2011

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George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

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

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



## Important Websites

Randolph Civic Association	<a href="http://randolphcivic.org">http://randolphcivic.org</a>
Montgomery County	<a href="http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov">www.montgomerycountymd.gov</a>
Montgomery County Parks	<a href="http://www.montgomeryparks.org">www.montgomeryparks.org</a>
Montgomery County Schools	<a href="http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org">www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org</a>
Washington Metro Area Transit Authority	<a href="http://www.wmata.com">www.wmata.com</a>



## Important Phone Numbers

Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	240-773-6070
Park Police: Emergency	301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuykill Parks)</i>	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	240-773-6411
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6260
Consumer Affairs and Protection	240-777-3636
Crisis Center Hotline (24 hours)	240-777-4000
Department of Natural Resources	877-463-6497
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Services	240-777-3000
Fire Marshall (Non-Emergency)	240-777-2457
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3785
<i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Locations, Accounts, Etc.	240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus (wmata.com)	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society (Non-Emer)	240-773-5960
Montgomery County Humane Society (Emer)	240-773-5900
Motor Vehicle Admin (mva.maryland.gov)	800-950-1682
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Report Power Outages	877-737-2662
PEPCO: Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Pollution Complaint (Dumping, Noise, Burning)	240-777-7700
Post Office: Rollins Ave, Rockville	301-231-5973
Montgomery Count Public Schools K-12	301-309-6277
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept)	240-777-1245
RCA Hotline	240-668-4722
Recreation Classes	240-777-6870
Recycling Info	240-777-6410
Senior Programs (55+)	240-777-4925
Street Light Out	240-777-6000
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Tree Maintenance	240-777-6000
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-4001
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-7700

*If any of these websites or phone numbers are incorrect, please email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) or call the RCA Hotline at 240-668-4722.*

## Kept in the Dark with PEPSCO

by *Christiana Drapkin*

I'm sure we've all been moaning and groaning about our power outages, paying at least grudging respect to Mother Nature and her fury. By now, we've coined such mythological terms as "Thundersnow", and "Snowmageddon." Kind of fun stuff that can grow into local lore. However, as the Washington Post reported recently, it appears that PEPSCO's service improvement plan is lacking in some crucial ways. Having to be concerned about unstable electricity service is not something that we want to come to accept as a fact of life, ten miles outside our nation's capital. Especially when we read in the business pages that PEPSCO had posted record gains for its investors in 2009, one of the worst years for the US economy overall.

Last month, in the wake of yet another winter storm outage, we sent out a simple survey on our RCA Yahoo Group, asking our neighbors to give us the times and dates of power outages they've experienced: sometimes maybe just a couple of seconds, more often and more memorably, multiple-day outages during winter storms which left some of our residents with such chilly houses that they escaped with their children to nearby hotels, relatives, or sought shelter with welcoming neighbors who were lucky enough to have kept their power.

The data we've collected so far (to date only a small percentage of the 1,340 homes in RCA-Land, so keep your data coming) make it apparent that we might be served by at least three separate main lines – from Franklin Park through the heart of Randolph Hills, to the stretch past Schuylkill, near Garrett Park. Of course, outage data are collected by PEPSCO, and the company itself knows how electricity gets delivered area-wide. Our purpose of the survey, apart from gathering the data, is so we'll feel less dependent on what PEPSCO might want to divulge or not, and so we can provide concrete slice-of-life data when addressing PEPSCO and our local officials and regulators about our expectations. We RCA neighbors have begun to make our mark as one of the most active, better-organized neighborhood associations in the county. We have a stake in the well-being of our community and in the county at large. We put our money where our mouth is, and we open our mouth and "say something when we see something." In the interest of contributing to the discussion to find solutions to problems that ail our infrastructure, we do put in the legwork.

Please respond to our PEPSCO power outage questionnaire on our RCA Yahoo Group, which is short but useful. Even if your electricity is out at home, you might have access at work, or use the internet via your blackberry, smartphone (or other device before the charge has run out).

We are looking for the following specific information: start date and time of power outage; end date and time of power outage; your house address (and please indicate between which streets your house resides).

If you haven't yet joined our RCA listserve, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/join>. We invite you to become part of our informal self-help neighborhood network for many reasons. It's all part of making our community come together, in small every-day ways, and it greatly helps us to contend with and confront big issues like PEPSCO service, infrastructure and planning.

DAVID S. SCHLUTZ, D.M.D.



4618 Randolph Road  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 770-7369  
Fax: (301) 770-7631

DENTIST

## Join Your Neighbors Online



The RCA Yahoo Group is a great resource for keeping up with happenings in RCA land. Need a recommendation for a local handyman? Looking for a babysitter or dog walker? Want to learn more about local activities? Have an idea to improve our neighborhood?

**Get in on the conversation at:**

**<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>**

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## Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster

Troop 1083 is proud to share news about its most recent Eagle Scout. The rank of Eagle is a rare and significant achievement. On February 18, David Santos passed his Eagle Board of Review, which is the formal presentation of the candidate before a panel that judges his Eagle rank application. It is the final step in the long climb to Scouting's highest rank. The Troop and the community at large are very proud of David.

Otherwise, Troop 1083 has been catching its breath since the last ECHO report. There was only one outing in February; but that was no ordinary outing! On February 20, we went skiing and snowboarding at Ski Liberty. Many of the scouts were putting the finishing touches on their Snow Sports merit badge by demonstrating their skills on the slopes. Many others already possess that particular badge and hit the slopes just to make sure their talents didn't get rusty. Webelos scouts, Venture Crew members, siblings, and parents went along, too. As you can see it's a popular annual event!

Troop meetings in February and March have focused on merit badges. Approximately 20 merit badge options were offered so the Scouts would be assured a topic of interest. Boys are working toward Citizenship in the Nation, Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, Reading, Theater, and Personal Fitness merit badges, to name only a few.

The remainder of March and early April will keep the Troop 1083 Scouts and their families busy with service projects and fun outings such as the Webelos weekend campout, a high adventure practice hike, a trip to the Rockville Aquatic Center, and a stream clean.

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

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## Venture Crew 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

Venture Crew 1083 spent much of the past month concentrating on administrative matters. Because the youth members guide the program, this meant it was the Venturers themselves who took the lead in adjusting and ironing out activity schedules, monitoring finances, assigning tasks, setting objectives...you know, taking care of business.

The Crew meeting regularly scheduled for February 14th just happened to fall on St. Valentine's

Day. So, to celebrate (and to provide a change of scenery for conducting business), the Crew met at Advisor Lauren Barrows' home and baked cookies. In the final analysis, there may have been a bit more cookie-baking than business-conducting, but no one seemed to mind.

On February 20, the Crew—along with affiliated Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and Cub Scout units—went skiing at Ski Liberty in Pennsylvania. Conditions weren't quite as perfect as last year's post-blizzard packed powder, but they were better than they've been some other years. As long as there's snow of some sort, the Crew will strap slippery boards to their feet and slide downhill on it!

Check back next month and see what else the Crew 1083 has been up to. 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.

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## 2011-2012 Election Cycle Slate of Candidates

Per our by-laws the RCA has made a call for nominations in the Echo, at our March meeting the Board approved the slate of candidates, and at our April general membership meeting we will hold elections. The candidates are listed below and the status of their seat is in parenthesis:

- President: Dan Hoffman (running for second year; cannot run for same position in 2012)
- Vice President One: Chad Salganik (running for second year; cannot run for same position in 2012)
- Vice President Two: Amber Tedesco (new candidate)
- Secretary: Christiana Drapkin (running for second year; cannot run for same position in 2012)
- Treasurer: Nick Kriesle (running for second year; per a 2010 change in our by-laws this is now a three year term; Nick cannot run for this position again in 2014)
- Board of Directors: Matt Tifford (new candidate; the three Directors are elected to three year terms, with one vacating each year; Matt is nominated for the seat being vacated by Kevin Kline; the seat currently held by Karen Helfert will be up next year)

### Note to Echo Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2010-2011 Issue year are:

May 2011 ..... April 15th

June/July/Aug 2011 ..... May 20th

# The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received February 17th,  
2010 through March 13th, 2011



*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.*

02-19-11 (Sat) at 6:31pm. Received via info@RandolphCivic.org. Anonymous. Just wanted to pass along that someone stole our huge light blue snow tube. We love to use it on the hill on Ashley. Someone came into our backyard and took it as it leaned against the house - right outside the backdoor. My hope by reporting this to the civic association is that someone will notice it hanging around someone's yard or someone using it during the next snow storm. It is rather large. No need to report it, but you'll know that those folks are sorely lacking scruples. We had a GPS stolen in December- now this - sad the neighborhood is really changing - and not for the best.

03-04-11 (Fri) at 3:12pm. Anonymous. Caller was reading the latest Echo about the power lines going down over the top of the trees. If PEPCO would put the power lines criss-crossing crossing the road so they go from the left side of the road to the right side of the road to left side of the road to the right side of the road so the majority of the lines would be over the streets and not over the trees, as trees don't grow in the street, then when the trees did fall they wouldn't take down the wires. But nobody had the vision to think about routing the wires in such a configuration as to save us from having to go with no electricity. It would be an easy solution and it would allow us to keep our trees that shade and help cool our neighborhood in the heat of summer and give us a good appearance in the rest of the year. They're not going to do it but it's just a thought to make an "X" pattern down the street instead of just running it down one side of the street or the other. That's my thought for the day.

03-04-11 (Fri) at 3:22pm. Same caller. The problem in Franklin Park about the mail is deplorable. Caller has gone around and around with these people about the mail service ever since losing a mailman that had been doing a good job in the neighborhood for years and years. He couldn't keep his mouth shut in the

office and would get in trouble back there but he did good work out here – he'd get the mail in the right box. Caller had a \$40K check stolen and negotiated and the postal inspector got involved. Caller never could find out who stole it but believes it was the new mailman. The post office is not going to admit that but if it was anyone else who stole it, caller would have been able to find out who stole it. Caller did eventually get caller's money. One problem is that we have too many 4900 addresses in Franklin Park and the mailman's relays start and end with 4900. So, the mailman sees 4900 and throws whatever mail into the box regardless of the name. One of the 4900's is a rental property which accounts for why that mail doesn't get delivered.

03-06-11 (Sun) at 1:17pm. Anonymous. Caller does not understand the idea that the old masonry foundations for the neighborhood sign posts are no longer permitted. What does that mean? Does that mean they have to be taken away and uprooted and these so-called "foam" things put in? Caller doesn't understand and this is very costly. Caller doesn't believe that these things have to be uprooted and taken away. Also, this business about having to log in to a website is really alienating to a lot of people. Caller doesn't think we should have to log into a website to know about this RCA association. It's very unpleasant to think that every single person should have a computer. Caller does have a computer but caller doesn't think it should be a prerequisite to knowing about one's association. *(RCA Note: Masonry signs on public right-of-way, such as where ours are located, are no longer permitted by the County. So when we replace our aging signs we will not have that as an option. Nothing is being uprooted because of a change in regulation. Some signs are being replaced because they are old and rotting. As for the website, most of the same information is also available in the Echo. However, since we can only produce the Echo eight times a year, things such as the website and Yahoo group are critical for timely communication.)*

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Congressional Bank	(301) 984-6000
Dollar Tree	(301) 231-6097
Hair Systems	(301) 881-0338
Lifestyle Spa	(301) 468-9770
Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
Royal Martial Arts	(301) 770-1007
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-4672
West Marine	(301) 230-0945

## Community Fixtures:

### Cafe 2020 Review

By Brian Hooker and Dan Hoffman

(Editor's note: Both Brian and Dan, independent of each other, wrote up a review on Café 20/20. We have melded both reviews together to incorporate the two perspectives.)

Dan Hoffman: Since moving into the neighborhood about five years ago, I've been intrigued by Café 2020 in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center. Located between the Goodwill Store and the Kosher Mart, Café 2020 offers a non-descript exterior that cannot really be described as inviting. You can't see into the restaurant easily, if at all, and it takes a bit of courage to bring yourself to walk in. That's why I've lived here for five years without ever trying it. Alan Kronstadt, owner of the shopping center, had once told me it was a nice place, owned by an older Korean couple who had invested much into the restaurant. So when fellow resident Brian Hooker suggested a recon mission along with some other neighborhood guys I jumped at the idea. Finally the mysteries surrounding this place would be revealed (Yes, 'mysteries' may be a bit melodramatic.).

Brian Hooker: I do not claim to be a connoisseur of anything. I can easily go from a fine craft

beer to a Bud Light in an instant without even a slight grimace – don't even let me get started on wine. With that said I offer up my review of Cafe2020 in Randolph Hills Shopping Center. On a cold January evening I and four of the other cognoscenti of Randolph Hills walked or guiltily drove at idle speeds to the spacious parking lot at Randolph Hills Shopping Center. I was very interested in this establishment especially after the closing of the Buffalo Wings and Beer location in Loehmann's Plaza. Since I don't subscribe to cable television, I occasionally find myself in want of an establishment that televises sports for its patrons. Close proximity to my residence is important to me as well.

DH: Five of us arrived around 8:30pm and upon walking in the door we were very pleasantly surprised. The place is nice, not scary, and the staff was very friendly. It's a Korean restaurant and bar that very clearly caters to Koreans. There is a dance floor area and what appears to be Karaoke equipment to go with a huge mural of movie scenes (most from the 1980s). It's dark and lit more like you would expect from a nightclub. The menu is in Korean with very loose English translation. The English language explanations were not very descriptive so we asked for assistance. We ordered two dishes to share at the recommendation of our waitress and then ordered some drinks. Before I describe the food, let me say that if you're going somewhere to really drink, and you're a big fan of wine or beer, this may not be the best place to go. The beer and wine selection is very limited. Mixed drinks were also a bit expensive, but there are happy hour specials and the selection of cocktails was lengthy.

BH: According to Yelp.com Cafe2020 is in the category of a Korean Bar. However, the only hint of Korean-ness on Cafe2020's website is in the menu. According to my companions the restaurant/bar had undergone a renovation in recent years which is supported by the website which still bills it as the "all-new Cafe2020." Upon entering the restaurant past the small vestibule one is confronted with a rather modern-looking bar with three or four bar-height tables. The room was dimly lit with 3 televisions all tuned to ESPN or some other sports channel - I recall being pleasantly surprised at catching the end of a Caps game. At the hour that we arrived - around 8pm- the restaurant was pretty empty. The few folks that were there, and the attractive hosts and hostesses, hinted to the restaurant's Korean roots. Once seated at a table in the bar area we ordered a mix of domestic and Japanese beers, and mixed drinks. There was no beer on tap from what I recall. Beyond our table and a few stairs below the bar area was a vast dining area terminated by a small stage that we guessed was for Karaoke, although at that hour it was mostly empty and nobody was singing. *(continued on page 15)*



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## CLASSIFIEDS

*The Echo publishes classified ads free for RCA members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes no claims or guarantees regarding the quality of goods or services sold.*

**WATERCOLOR CLASSES.** Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, friendly classes for adults. No experience necessary. Patient teacher works with each student individually. 30 years experience. Call Martha Seigel 301-946-5388.

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**Yardwork Service Available.** Contact Greg Gadbois if you need assistance with chores such as leaf raking, lawn cutting or snow shovelling. Call 240-499-5337.

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**Two Cemetary Plots** - "King David Memorial Gardens" Falls Church, VA. Prime location. Bargain: Only \$3,000 for both (Less than half the cemetary price). Call 301-984-7584 and leave a message.

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**BEST BUDDIES PETSITTING SERVICE:** Going out of town? Need your dog to be walked daily? Have a cat that needs to be boarded? Well we are a home away from home providing the best loving care for your pet depending on your needs. We board cats and dogs and we do not crate them. We have a fenced-in quarter acre lot right here in Randolph Hills! Dogs get two 30 minute walks daily and all animals get breakfast and dinner; we provide the food! Between walks, there is plenty of playtime. Prices reasonable and our schedule is setup to meet your needs. Pickup and drop-off service is provided if needed. Any medications can and will be administered. We are bonded and insured. Call Danny Beigel at: 240.654.0694 or go to [www.bestbuddiespetservice.com](http://www.bestbuddiespetservice.com) email us at [bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com](mailto:bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com)

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### **Community Fixtures: Cafe 2020 Review** *(continued from page 14)*

Being adventurous we ordered mostly Korean fare even though standard Western-style fried bar appetizers (e.g., assorted "poppers") were available. Of the items we ordered the only one that stood out in my mind was the Korean barbequed beef (or was it pork?). The other items left me feeling that we should have just ordered the poppers. Between bantering about whatever was on the television, and whatever it was we were eating, we tried to name all the pop culture icons that were on the very, very large photo mural opposite the bar.

DH: The food. We first were served a pound-ed beef cutlet that was breaded in a manner that reminded me of a pork katsu dish minus the egg and onions. I love a katsu dish and this did not disappoint. It was crispy, tasty, and the barbeque sauce it came

with added a nice bit of sweetness. There were some accompaniments but they were forgettable. The dish really needed no embellishment though. Next came something that seemed to be very popular. Every other table seemed to have an order of it, and at this point the restaurant had begun to fill. It looked like a fried ball of some sort similar to a hushpuppy, but the menu described it as 'fried beef'. The waitress had recommended it, so we dug in. After several bites we were all very confused, there seemed to be no beef at all. We picked a few apart and they seemed to consist of only fried dough and scallions. They had little flavor and consensus at the table was that this dish missed the mark significantly. Not wanting to end on that note, we ordered something that is a Korean classic. Not kimchee, but rather Bulgogi, a marinated and grilled beef barbeque dish. At this point I was on the fence about Café 2020. Although my perception before was the result of my active imagination, I did now have a positive feeling about the place. I wanted another hidden Randolph Hills gem, but the food needed to be good for it to qualify. So I was very happy when the Bulgogi turned out to be amazing. The marinade had just the right balance of flavor and heat. It was served on a bed of perfectly grilled onions and our table devoured it. Even as I type this I'm getting hungry thinking about it. I've been back twice more to see if the dish was consistently good. Both times the Bulgogi lived up to expectations and on my follow-up visits it also came with accompaniments: some mung bean sprouts, kimchee, rice, and a strange spicy vegetable dish.

BH: As our evening was winding down Cafe2020 was just getting started. More and more young folks (not that I'm old, I think I call all unmarried and/or childless people "young" as an excuse for my own frumpiness) began filling up the large seating areas below the bar. Everyone looked like they were just getting ready for an evening out in downtown DC (an observation based on my one trip to DC's theater district last summer). To conclude, I'll say that all-in-all I enjoyed Cafe2020, the service was great, the food OK, and the drinks no different than anywhere else I visit. I will definitely be back again for a game, a night out of the house, or just to name the rest of the folks on that really big mural.

DH: The food prices are reasonable. One of my later visits was at 11:00pm and the kitchen was still pumping out food. So keep this place in mind when you need some tasty late night snacks. The staff was consistently friendly and I've had no problems with service. I have not tried the desserts yet, but if you do, drop me a line and let me know what your experience was. I would recommend Café 2020 if you're in the mood for something different. The website is [www.cafe2020md.com](http://www.cafe2020md.com) and the address is 4880 Boiling Brook Parkway. Give it a shot. It's local, family owned, and a very nice change of pace.

**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>
12108 Hunters Lane	\$363,450	\$345,000	36	\$0	13-Oct-10
4729 Wyaconda Road	\$359,000	\$359,000	62	\$10,770	18-Oct-10
11012 Troy Road	\$359,900	\$356,500	65	\$0	20-Oct-10
4626 Creek Shore Drive	\$365,000	\$362,000	10	\$0	9-Nov-10
11423 Schuylkill Road	\$310,000	\$300,000	10	\$10,000	10-Nov-10
11808 Ashley Drive	\$274,900	\$273,500	68	\$0	6-Dec-10
12114 Hunters Lane	\$374,900	\$367,500	45	\$10,000	15-Dec-10
4905 Macon Road	\$369,000	\$369,000	31	\$6,000	17-Dec-10
4706 Red Fox Road	\$365,000	\$365,000	11	\$0	20-Dec-10
4616 Coachway Drive	\$359,000	\$359,000	194	\$9,000	30-Dec-10
4716 Red Fox Road	\$367,000	\$360,000	10	\$500	11-Feb-11
4705 Coachway Drive	\$299,950	\$300,000	55	\$5,000	15-Feb-11



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