The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 47, Issue 3

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# **Upcoming Events**

RCA General Meeting Thursday, December 4, 2003 8:00 p.m.

No meeting in January

RCA Executive Meeting Thursday, February 5, 2004 8:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center at the corner of Ashley Drive and Macon Road on the **first Thursday of every month at 8 p.m.**, except January, July, and August. Usually, we alternate between General and Executive meetings. All are welcome at every meeting. December 2003

# Minutes of the RCA Executive Committee Meeting

November 6, 2003

by Richard Zierdt

Three topics dominated the meeting: (1) RCA's position on the use of the soccer fields at Randolph Hills Recreation Center (RHRC); (2) the Park department's new policy of removing trash cans and trash collection service at County parks; (3) RCA's position on the recent electric power outages. These positions will be before the general membership at the December 4 RCA meeting.

(1) After experiencing years of incidents of noise, illegal parking, unlicensed peddling, indecent exposure, public urination, and in September a public brawl on the field at RHRC, the Executive committee takes a position that RHRC should be a youth-only facility. This means that only children under 18 years of age and their parents would be allowed on the field. This would not \*require\* a permit to use the field; however, any group that did get a permit (from the Parks department: 301-495-2525) would be granted use of the field should another, unpermitted group be there at the same time.

The Executive committee feels this is the best policy to control the years of misuse and abuse of the park and the surrounding neighborhood. This policy is easy to enforce: if a group of adults is on the field, that's a violation. Any resident can easily determine that an adult group is on the field, and can call Park police to report the situation (301-949-3010). As a practical matter, no tickets are normally issued. Instead, Park police would stop by, inform the adults as to the youth-only policy, and presumably the adults would then leave.

(2) The Montgomery County Parks and Recreation department will remove all trash cans from County parks in December. Although the County claims that there was no problem at a couple of test parks, and that this saves money (but not reduce our taxes), the RCA exects feel otherwise. As an example, any picnic is going to generate trash. The RCA holds its annual picnic there in September. Our Boy Scout Troop 1083 holds a major Court of Honor there at least once a year. Events like these will generate trash, and participants will not take their trash (garbage) with them. We do not understand how Parks and Recreation feel that they will. So, the RCA Executive Committee takes the position in opposition to this new policy, and fears that all County parks will be the messier because of it.

(3) The recent, and extended, electric power outages in August and September raised alarms all over the County, and residents want to know

(continued on page 3)



### **RCA Executive Committee for 2003-2004**

### OFFICERS

President Matthew Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225

Vice President Mike Saunders 12107 Hunters Lane 301-468-9268

Secretary Kevin Kline 4808 Randolph Road 301-230-1486

#### Treasurer Richard Zierdt

4707 Coachway Drive 301-881-0283

### Directors

Jack Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934

George Gadbois 4718 Topping Road 301-770-5386

Frank Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225

Frank Rossomondo 11611 Ashley Drive 301-770-7450

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

*Echo* Editor Eileen White 11225 Ashley Drive 301-984-2579

#### *Echo* Advertising Mauro Biondo

11508 Monongahela Court 301-770-7590

#### Membership Patricia Longenecker

Patricia Longenecker 4703 Wyaconda Road 301-770-1927

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS (continued)

**Environment** Jack Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934

Education Elinor Walker 12111 Galena Road 301-468-6335

Yard Sale Signs Shelby Hurt 11133 Schuylkill Road 301-770-1783

### **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

Scout Leader, Troop 1083 Dave Talbott 4808 Oxbow Road 301-881-6567

### Cub Master, Pack 1081

George Gadbois 4718 Topping Road 301-770-5386

Scout Liaison Frank Rossomondo 11611 Ashley Drive 301-770-7450

#### Scout Unit Commissioner Mike Saunders 12107 Hunters Lane 301-468-9268

Girl Scout Leader, Troop 1487 Pat Hart 4905 Randolph Road 301-230-2740

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation: Kevin Kline, Mike Saunders, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt www.montgomerycivic.org

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

#### MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA): Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964 email: *Councilmember:Denis@montgomerycountymd.gov* Mr. Denis' aide: Ken Hartman

General County Council Offices:	240-///-/900
County Executive (all of RCA): Douglas Duncan	240-777-2500
Montgomery County Public Schools: School Board Offices: School System Information: School Board Member for District 3 (representing all of RCA):	301-279-3000 301-279-3617 301-279-3391
Ms. Patricia O'Neill	301-320-7600

Maryland Legislative District 18 (representing all of RCA): Senator: Sharon M. Grosfeld 301-858-3137 Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3028 John Hurson 301-858-3770 Richard Madaleno Jr. 301-858-3028

Montgomery County Delegation Office: All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8: Christopher Van Hollen 202-225-5341 email: chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate: Barbara Mikulski Paul Sarbanes

202-224-4654 202-224-4524

Election Precinct: 04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 240-777-8500 www.co.mo.md.us/services/elections

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Office of the Governor 100 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-974-3591 governor@gov.state.md.us www.gov.state.md.us

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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$5.00 per year.

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

### **RCA Executive Committee**

(continued from page 1)

why the power was out for as long as it was. Some feel there are un-coordinated efforts at tree maintenance between PEPCO (our local electric utility) and the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation. While this is probably a problem, and should be better understood, the point is the results speak for themselves. We wonder about the results of electric utility deregulation in Maryland (already underway, and to be fully completed by 2005). We don't recall problems of this magnitude before deregulation was begun, and feel that the profit motive will influence the quality of service provided to customers. A Maryland State delegate is considering introducing legislation in this legislative session that would re-regulate the electric utilities in Maryland. After our recent experiences, and those in California, it is clear to us that electric public utility is one area best left to the public interest, and that the public interest is best served when this utility is regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

### President's Message

by Matt Shore

This is a reminder to all RCA residents about the important vote that will take place at the December meeting. This concerns the Randolph Hills park that has had a problem with rowdy soccer games. The two motions that are on the table are youth only and permit only signs at the park. This will allow better enforcement of the park and create a safer environment for everyone. If anyone has additional comments or concerns about this they will also be addressed at the meeting.

On another note, the railroad track crossing on Randolph Road has become a serious problem again. We had this fixed five years ago but now it is back to the same if not worse bumpy ride. I can't go over the crossing at more than 10 mph and the speed limit is 35mph. This is a dangerous situation for everyone. I will contact CSX and hopefully get the same response we got five years ago and get this fixed. Stay tuned for further updates on this.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



Open: Sun – Thurs 11am – 9:30pm Fri & Sat 11am – 10:30pm

\* \* \* \$10.00 minimum Delivery order \* \* \*



# Councilmember Subin Responds to Tree Maintenance Complaint

by Richard Zierdt

After a call by a concerned RCA resident about the lack of adequate tree maintenance in Montgomery County, I emailed Councilmembers Floreen, Denis, and Subin (see below). Mr. Subin responded (also below). The emails speak for themselves.

October 23, 2003

Dear Councilmembers:

This is Richard Zierdt, treasurer of the Randolph Civic Association.

I write to ask the County Council to expedite the maintenance of trees in our County. I called the County's Highway Services office (240-777-7623) on behalf of an RCA resident who called me, and was told that there is an eighteen to twenty-four month backlog of maintenance. This is too long.

Many of the trees in the neighborhood I represent, most planted over 50 years ago, are in dire need of trimming, with branches now approaching the rain gutters of homes 25 feet away.

Especially when nature has so recently demonstrated the need for proper tree care, why is there such a delay?

I love trees as much as anyone, and I support the planting of more, even in my neighborhood where some have been lost over the years.

But tree maintenance must be improved. Trees are a proud mark of Montgomery County, and they must be properly maintained.

Thank You -

Richard Zierdt, Treasurer, The Randolph Civic Association 301-881-0283 4707 Coachway Drive North Bethesda 20852 November 13, 2003

Dear Mr. Zierdt:

I am writing in response to your recent e-mail correspondence regarding tree maintenance.

Now that the cleanup from Hurricane Isabel is largely complete, the Council is taking this opportunity to review agency policies and budgets regarding tree maintenance and cleanup from storms. The Council's Transportation and Environment Committee is meeting on Thursday morning, November 20 with the Department of Public Works and Transportation, the State Highway Administration, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and PEPCO to discuss these issues and find means for improvement.

Thank you for sharing your concern with the Council.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Subin Council President

### **Treasurer's Report**

by Richard Zierdt

As of November 15, 2003, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$12,196.62. I wrote a check for \$20 to the Montgomery County Civic Federation to account for a dues increase (from \$65 to \$85) to that organization. The MCCF is the major umbrella civic group that represents the County's civic associations collectively. Thanks to all who became or maintained their RCA memberships!

RCA Checking Register 10/09/2003 through 11/15/2003					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 10/09/2003	3		16,980.32
10/15		RCAssociation		190.00	17,170.82
		inc:advertising	Rosa Salon	70.00	
		inc:advertising	Rkvle Auto/Truck Ser 1	120.00	
10/17	E-xfr	Verizon	Sept 22 bill	-23.10	17,147.72
10/22	712	Sam's Club	Sams Club mbrshp renew	s -5,100.00	12,047.72
10/24		RCAssociation	Preferred Auto	272.00	12,319.72
10/27		RCAssociation	\$5 anonymous cash	5.00	12,324.72
10/27	713	Quick Printing	Nov ECHO printing	-1,017.50	11,307.22
11/13	714	MCCF Civ Fed	2003-2004 dues incrs	-20.00	11,287.22
		BALANCE 11/15/200	3		11,287.22

			Checking Register 003 through 11/15/2003		
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 10/09/20	03		859.32
10/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	909.32
10/31		interest	.10%	0.08	909.40
		BALANCE 11/15/2002 RCF bank balance, October 31, 2003: 909.40			909.40
		Total RCA+RCF cas	sh assets		12,196.62



# Steve Kelley



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# ICC Transportation Road Show Continues

### by Richard Zierdt

The Inter-County Connector that would link I-95 around Laurel with I-270 in Gaithersburg is under study. This is a Maryland transportation project (as opposed to a county road such as Randolph Road), and the Maryland Department of Transportation holds public workshops that show the progress of the study of the road (you can also visit www.iccstudy.org for this). I've visited both ICC workshops offered so far, the last one on November 15 at James Blake High School on Norwood Road.

There were about 100 very cordial anti-ICC demonstrators outside, and inside the building in the lobby there were two "information" tables set up: one for anti-ICC materials, and one for pro-ICC. In the cafeteria the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) had its charts and maps displayed, and several staff members present to explain them and answer questions. No "lobbyists" were allowed.

This is a controversial road, but the SHA as a department is very impressive. The charts are informative enough without being too detailed. Staff members are knowledgeable; they do their jobs well. Theirs is an interesting job: staff members are working on this road because Governor Ehrlich wants them to; when Governor Glendening was in office, who was opposed to the ICC, they didn't. I guess it's just another road to them, while controversy surrounds the project.

Concerning the ICC itself, there are valid arguments both for and against. My take is that the ICC, on the planning books for 40 years, was planned on land that, some of which at least, is now considered environmentally sensitive, and that to build the road would harm the Chesapeake Bay with runoff, displaced wildlife, etc. I agree that if we went back to 1960, and mapped the road then with today's emphasis on the environment, it would not have been drawn where it is planned today. The environmental rules have changed since 1960, but the landscape hasn't. Unfortunately, much development has occurred since 1960, on land that probably should have been reserved for an east-west route. So what we have is a road planned in a less-than-ideal path, surrounded by development that shouldn't be there either, and we're stuck with a mess.

But if the ICC isn't built, our roads will become worse than ever to use, and residential streets will carry traffic they were never designed to carry. The saying goes that "If they build it (the ICC), they (people, development) will come." The problem is that "If they don't build it, they still will come." I've lived in Montgomery County since 1956, and I've seen the development, but I haven't seen the corresponding increase in the transportation infrastructure to support it. I note that I've never seen a 100-person demonstration against a new housing development or shopping center. New roads are such easy targets.





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

DENTIST

# Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

October 12, 2003 to November 15, 2003

General Note: The RCA gets a lot of calls about code violations (untagged cars, tall grass, etc). Please note that phone numbers for agencies that handle such matters are published in the ECHO almost every month. You don't have to leave your name or phone number. The RCA is here to help everyone keep our neighborhood as orderly as possible, so please use these numbers. Please call the RCA as well. We appreciate knowing and learning about our community.

**2003-10-03 (Fri) 5:44 pm** Anonymous. Is there going to be a yard sale? [Yes!]

**2003-10-13 (Mon) 5:02 pm** Anonymous caller from 47xx block of Boiling Brook Parkway complaining about the resident in the house from the Boiling Brook Parkway and Ashley Drive. Resident is speeding along the road. He spoke to the gentleman and cussed him out.



**2003-10-13 (Mon) 6:40 pm** Daisy Aspen called asking if the Randolph Civic Assoc. will do a one mile walk for the children with cancer at St. Jude Hospital in the fall. Please call 800-457-2444. There are 20 patients from Maryland and two from Montgomery County being served at their facility.

**2003-10-18 (Sat) 3:00 pm** Anonymous. Regarding the re-paving of RCA streets: Is there any reason why Boiling Brook parkway was omitted? [Call the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation at 240-777-7623 (ROAD).

**2003-10-18 (Sat) 3:23 pm** Anonymous. Caller thanks Pepco for all the people they sent to correct the power outages – some were even killed. Think about the people in Iraq and pray that we do not have to experience another hurricane.

**2003-10-18 (Sat) 9:37 pm** Anonymous. House at Star and Troy has bushes that completely cover the sidewalk. You cannot even walk down the sidewalk, and they're sticker bushes, and they've been there many, many months. *[Call housing code enforcement at 240-777-3600. You do not have to leave your name. If caller is still reluctant, call the hotline again with the EXACT address, and someone from the RCA will phone it in.]* 

**2003-11-02 (Sun) 08:17 pm** Franklin Park. On Nov 2 at 7:00 pm, caller was walking along Randolph Road near the Railroad station when she came across a young man dressed in black. As he walked past her, he threw chlorine bleach at her and kept walking.

**2003-11-03 (Mon) 2:14 pm** Anonymous. Franklin Park. Caller agrees with the caller from Sept 21,who indicated in the *Echo* that there should be a No Parking sign at least on one side of Hunters Lane at Randolph Road. It is very hard to make a left turn into Franklin Park safely particularly because you can not make a left at the light at Gaynor Road. Is there a county number or office we can call to get a No Parking sign installed? Caller is also concerned about the rough railroad crossing on Randolph Road. *[Call 240-777-7623 about the no parking sign. RCA president Matt Shore is working on getting the railroad crossing improved.]* 

**2003-11-03 (Mon) 4:11 pm** Anonymous. Caller requests that people bag their leaves instead of dumping them into the yard and street only to be blown back into the neighbors yard. This is particularly important when neighbors have already raked their leaves. Caller encourages dog walkers who use extended leads not to allow the dogs to walk into neighbors yards. This can cause fights with other dogs, disturbs the peace.

**2003-11-03 (Mon) 5:08 pm** Anonymous. Caller stated there was a party Saturday evening at 119xx Rocking Horse Road that lasted until 4:00am. Caller would like the owner of the property notified since this is a rental unit. This will not be allowed in our neighborhood.

**2003-11-03 (Mon) 5:23 pm** Anonymous. Caller indicated there are a lot of tires pilled up in front of house 47xx Olden Rd. for over a month. They are unattractive and need to be taken care of. I don't want to have to call the County.

**2003-11-03 (Mon) 9:45 pm** Troy Road. High Schooler Cristin Smith offers babysitting services. Call her at 301-881-2423.

**2003-11-04 (Tues) 3:50 pm** A new resident wants to know where caller can pick up caller's Sam's club membership. *[All Sam's Club accounts should have been given to RCA members by now, typically via telephone. Call Richard Zierdt at home at 301-881-0283 if you have not received yours.]* 

**2003-11-04 (Tues) 6:03 pm** Anonymous. Caller stated caller has been an RCA members for 40 years and would like the RCA to call the Park Police to get the lines repainted on Beach Drive between Strathmore and Garrett Park Rd. You can not see the lines when it is raining.

[Good idea! Park maintenance is 301-670-8175, Mon-Fri, 6:30 am – 3:15 pm. The RCA will call if it can, but it's OK if neighbors call as well.]

**2003-11-06 (Thur) 10:47 am** Caller reports that the 2003-09-20 hotline call in the November *Echo* which reported a theft of a scanner and camera from a car at 11424 Schuylkill Road did not happen at that address.

**2003-11-07 (Fri) 10:47 am** Mark Bushlong of Bennion Road and Andy Wood of Idlewood Road, two boy scouts with RCA-sponsored Troop 1083, will rake leaves and do yard clean up, 301-942-5890, and 301-946-4634, respectfully. *[Their names have been added to the list that is published in most issues of the ECHO.]* 

### RCA Hotline – 24 hours Call 301-881-2722

The RCA invites you to call the RCA Hotline at any time and leave your comments on topics concerning the neighborhood. The Executive Committee is notified of each message left on the answering machine. Be assured your calls are heard and that we appreciate your input.





Volunteers hauled this huge pile of trash out of Waverly-Schuylkill Park on Make a Difference Day/Community Service Day.

# Monster Trash Pile at Waverly-Schuylkill Park

by Margaret Dikel

If you drove by the intersection of Garrett Park Road and Schuylkill Road between October 25 and October 27, you probably noticed the huge trash pile sitting on the curb. That pile was the result of our fourth annual clean-up of Waverly-Schuylkill Park, part of Make a Difference Day / Community Service Day. This year, volunteers worked from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm cleaning up the community gardens, picking up trash, and removing a lot of fallen branches and downed trees left by those storms in August and September.

This year's workers included several who have helped out in the past along with a few new faces. Frank Shore attended the early morning kick-off downtown to register our project and pick up some of the give-aways available, then returned in time to rally the volunteers. His wife Josie and son Matt (RCA President) joined Martha Loop, Bud and Dell Pillers-Cline, Rich Zierdt, Eileen White and her niece Katie McClung, and Margaret Dikel with all the cutting, bagging, and lifting. Lester Bollinger joined the volunteers in the afternoon, thereby missing the best part of the day's activities - a fantastic surf-and-turf barbeque lunch prepared by Dennis and Edith Hernandez with the help of a few of their friends. RCA supplied hamburgers and hotdogs, and others brought drinks and chips, but Dennis and Edith added crab legs, a veggie platter, cookies, and their own wonderful barbequed chicken. (That is great chicken! I move we nominate them Barbeque Masters of the Association. If you are unsure about volunteering for next year's event, come for a few hours just to get some of their food.)

Speaking of next year, for October 2004 we have decided to move our annual clean-up "mid-community," working at the intersection of Boiling Brook Road and Ashley Drive. We have also learned how to register our project as a Student Service Learning Activity, so students will be able to earn SSL credits for school right in their own back yard. No prior experience is necessary, just long pants and work gloves.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 23, 2004 (the 4th Saturday in October) and plan to spend a few hours working to better your neighborhood, earning some SSL credits, and eating that food!

# Gardeners Wanted!

We are looking for a few good gardeners to help us to plant and care for garden beds and barrels around RCA-land (Schuylkill Road and Garrett Park Road and Coachway Drive and Ashley Drive) If you'd like to help, even if it is just to come by once in a while and do some weeding or watering, we'd appreciate it. We're also looking for shade-tolerant perennials for one bed. Please call Margaret Dikel (301-881-0122) or Frank Shore (301-468-1225).



Loehmann's Plaza 5200- 5290 Randolph Road, Rockville, Maryland 20852

Blockbuster Video	(301) 468-1096
Boat U.S.	(301) 230-0945
Boston Market	(301) 984-0990
Care Cleaners	(301) 816-2092
Chuck E. Cheese	(301) 468-2491
El Torito	(301) 770-0777
GNC	(301) 984-3363
Good Feet	(301) 816-4663
Hair Systems	(301) 881-0338
Kumon U.S.A.	(301) 231-6977
Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
SunTrust Bank	(301) 998-8580
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-2477
Urban Accents	(301) 881-4451
(2-	



7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1111, Bethesda, MD 20814 Telephone: 301-657-0700; Facsimile: 301-657-9850 www.jbgr.com

# News from Pack 1081

by George Gadbois



Along with selling popcorn, Pack 1081 Scouts have been working hard on various achievements.

Our October Pack Meeting also included Physical Fitness Day recognition to all boys that attended that event this past September. Their names were mentioned in the last Echo edition. We also mentioned last issue, in passing, our Den Chiefs. We officially welcome back Boy Scout Scott Talbott as Den Chief to help our Webelos II den leader. This is Scott's third year helping the Pack; thank you, Scott. We also welcome new Den Chiefs Ed Huggins, John Pitkin, Moses Hart and Anthony Gadbois who will assist Webelos I, Bear, Wolf and Tiger dens respectively. Awards for Cub Scout accomplishments and achievements were as follows: The Recruiter patch was awarded to Brenton Polk and Matthew Luong for bringing Preston Polk and Timothy Lim, respectively, on board as new scouts. Brenton and Matthew are both in the Bear den; Preston is one of our new Tigers and Timothy is an addition to our Webelos I den. Thanks to Brenton and Matthew for your efforts. Wolf scout Brad Gessford was awarded the Sports & Academic Program Sports Pin for Baseball. The Wolf rank badge, earned at the end of last year by Matthew Luong (now a Bear), was officially presented to him. New Webelos I scout, **Timothy Lim**, earned and was presented his Bobcat rank badge. Our Webelos II scouts Kyle Blakely, Tony Caffi and Matthew Fieller were presented their Naturalist Activity Pin. Naturalist teaches the boys to know and identify various plants and wild animals occurring in nature. Additionally, Webelos II scouts Kyle Blakely and Tony Caffi completed require-

*Cub Scouts doing community service holiday caroling at the Randolph Nursing Center last year.* 

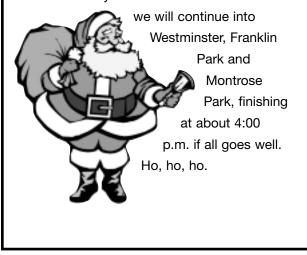


# Santa returns to RCA-land!



Santa rides the fire truck on Sunday, December 21, 2003.

As in past years we will begin in the 3rd section of Randolph Hills at 11 a.m., then continue into the 2nd section and 1st section by 12:30. After a cookie break



ments for their Geologist Activity Pin, which exposes the boys to facts and examples of rocks, minerals, fossils and mountain formations.

Cub Scouts attending the October Antietam camping trip, **DJ Terry, Tyler Bochniak, Joshua Murtagh, Steve Hernandez, Jake Blakely, Gregory Gadbois, AJ Taylor, Joshua Hart, Matt Fieller, Kyle Blakely** and **Tony Caffi**, all received a camping patch at the Pack Meeting.

The Bear den then entertained us with the Invisible Park Bench skit, which ends with Bear scouts all over the floor since the bench they were sitting on had actually been moved, so says the last boy with the punch line who walks up to the group.

We would like to thank adult leaders **Scott Bochniak** and **George Gadbois** for giving up an entire Saturday for Cub Scout training at the annual Pow Wow held this year at St. John's Prospect Hall in Frederick on November 1. Their dedication goes a long way to help our scouts.

At press time, we look toward Scouting-for-Food food pick up on November 15, caroling practice for our community service at the Randolph Nursing Center, a duck-pin bowling outing on November 23 and of course, Thanksgiving. Remember and be thankful for all our men and women in the armed services serving our country in Iraq this Thanksgiving. A Happy Holidays to all as we enter the time of seasonal festivities.

If you are interested in learning more about the Cub Scout program for your 1st – 5th grade son, please stop by Viers Mill ES any Monday evening at 6:30 or call George Gadbois at 301-770-5386. It's never too late to join!

Please visit our new website location: http://hometown.aol.com/pack1081 for pictures and additional info.

## Troop 1083 News

### by Brian McGahey

Troop 1083 adds another name to its Eagle plaque this month. **Allistair N. Roper**, known to all as Nachi, received his Eagle Scout Award at a Court of Honor on October 18, 2003 at the Layhill Free Methodist Church in Silver Spring

Nachi joined Troop 1083 in 1997, joining his brother Brenan. He earned Tenderfoot and Second Class in 1998, First Class in 1999, Star in 2000, and Life in 2002. He completed his Eagle Board of Review in June 2003.

Nachi earned Citizenship in the Community, the Nation, and the World merit badges, as well as Fingerprinting, Swimming, Camping, Canoeing, Forestry, Rifle Shooting, Lifesaving, Orienteering, Weather, Climbing, Small Boat Sailing, Environmental Science, First Aid, Motorboating, Snow Sports, Wilderness Survival, Personal Management, Communications, Family Life and Personal Fitness merit badges. His Eagle project was constructing storage shelves for Martha's Table.

**Del. Herman Taylor** of Maryland House Dist. 14 spoke about the value of Scouting. Congratulatory letters from **President Bush**, Vice- President Cheney, Gov. Ehrlich, Sen. Mikulski, Sen. Sarbanes and Rep. Van Hollen were read.

Good job Nachi!

Troop events in October included camping at Antietam battlefield, showing Webelos from Pack 1081 what Boy Scout camping looks like.

In November, the troop camped at Bears Den, a cabin in Bluemont VA, near the Appalachian Trail and hiked on the AT.

Of course in December we will ride the fire truck with Santa Claus on Dec. 21 and distribute candy canes. AND don't forget – Christmas trees every weekend starting with Thanksgiving weekend, at the Masonic Temple at Beach Dr. and Knowles Ave. in Kensington.

If you are interested in our program please come to a meeting on Monday night at 7:30 p.m., on days when school is in session, at Viers Mill Elementary School. Or call Mr. Dave Talbott our Scoutmaster at 301-881-6567.

Support your Community. Join the RCA! Still only five dollars!

To find more RCA information go to http://www.randolphcivic.org designed by



A Custom Web Site Designer (web site hosting also available)

venue.com

Lori L. Teachum ewebavenue.com or 301-540-1106

# Support Your Local Boy Scouts

Troop 1083 Selling Christmas Trees

Corner of Knowles and Howard Ave. Just East of Beach Drive

> Saturday and Sunday November 29 & 30 December 6 & 7 December 13 & 14 December 20 & 21

Time 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Free Local Delivery





(301) 460-0400

### County Considers Restructuring the Volunteer Firefighters

by Richard Zierdt

The Montgomery County Council is considering a bill, 36-03, that would re-structure the volunteer firefighters in the County by strengthening the office of the fire administrator, among other things. Today, the volunteers manage themselves, but under scrutiny of the fire administrator and the Fire and Rescue Commission, which has two members who are volunteer firefighters, and serves as the policy making body.

The County Council held a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, November 18, 2003 (where a council aide told me there was tremendous opposition), and the Council's Public Safety Committee (Councilmembers Subin, Knapp, and Andrews) will hold a work session on Monday, December 1 (no doubt after you've read this). No public testimony is allowed at that time, but the public can look and listen while committee members discuss the bill.

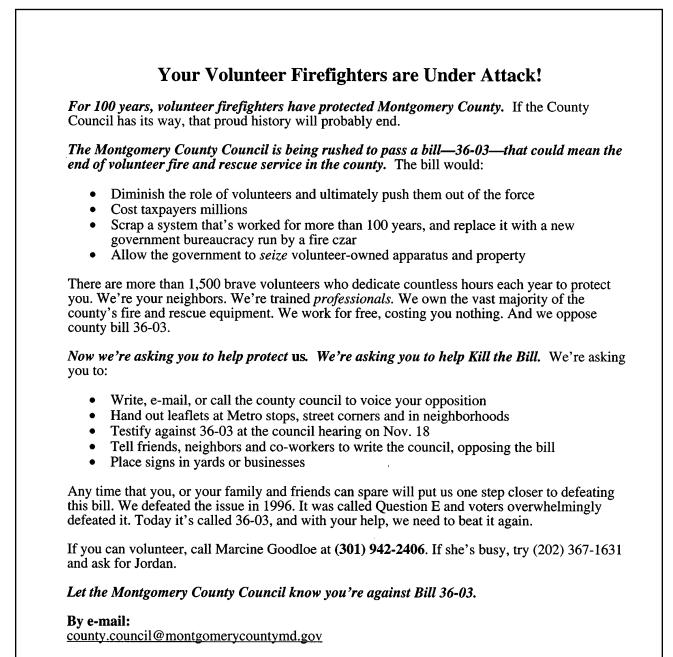
On November 19, I talked with a representative of the Fire and Rescue Commission (www.montgomery countymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/mc/services/dfrs/frc/frc. asp). He said the Commission has taken no position on the bill, but it might discuss it at their next meeting on Thursday, December 11, 7 PM, at 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium (open to the public).

Proponents of the bill say that better coordination is needed in light of possible terrorist attacks. They say that there should be service agreements between the County and the 19 volunteer safety organizations in our County to put in writing what is expected of the volunteers. Opponents say that the volunteers provided excellent service on September 11, 2001, and during storms since then, and that service agreements can be handled without going overboard with an overhaul of the fire and rescue system that has served the County so well for so long. Why fix what isn't broken?

I note that the intent of this bill is similar to a ballot question on the 1996 ballot in Montgomery (Question "E"). I remember receiving at least two glossy placards urging me to vote for the question which would place all fire and rescue oversight into a single "fire czar," removing what little autonomy still exists for the volunteers. I also remember the bill being blown away 2-1 in voting. Sometimes money, no matter how much, does not buy elections.

My fear is that this bill will discourage citizens from becoming fire and rescue volunteers in our county. Volunteer fire fighting rescue has been a tradition not only in Montgomery, but in our country since the days of Franklin. Also, see www.killthebill.org (meaning stop bill 36-03).

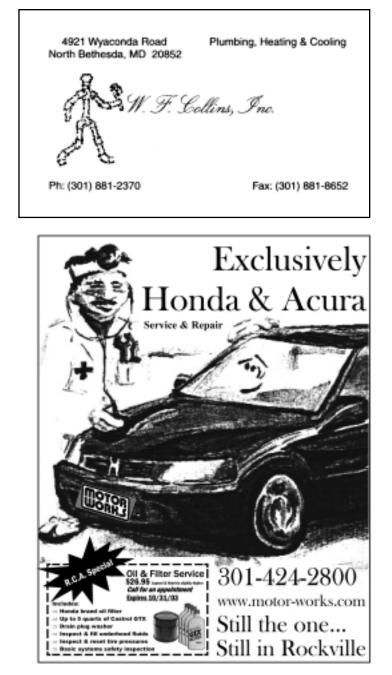
The following is from a coalition of Montgomery County volunteer firefighters. The RCA has taken no official position on this issue, bill 36-03. To see the actual text of the bill visit: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/2003bills/36-03.pdf



**By mail:** Montgomery County Council Members 100 Maryland Ave. Rockville MD 20850

By phone: the council's 24-hour comment line is (240) 777-7999

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# Montgomery County Pushes Composting

from the County Department of Public Works

Be selfish this Fall: put your leaves into a compost pile in your yard instead of setting them at the curb for collection. The result is a wonderful soil conditioner for lawns and gardens. Use of compost is also an excellent way to improve poor soils while protecting the environment from synthetic fertilizers and chemicals. While you may begin composting at any time of year, Fall is particularly ideal.

Compost bins are now available for free through Montgomery County. For a list of locations, please visit www.mcrecycles.org or call 240-777-6400.

- 1. Build your compost pile anytime of year.
- 2. Create a simple, freestanding pile no more than 5 feet high, or build or buy an inexpensive bin to keep your pile tidy.
- Locate pile on level, well-drained ground in either sun or shade – stay away from wooden fences and buildings, and avoid placing on your neighbor's property line. Don't set up over shallow tree roots.
- 4. Build a six inch base of branches, twigs or brush for drainage and aeration (old wooden pallets also work extremely well).
- Use leaves by themselves or mix in grass and other "green" garden trimmings for quicker compost. When adding new materials to an existing pile, be sure to mix them in thoroughly – especially green materials like grass. Don't create layers.
- 6. Don't build your pile with grass alone mix in dry leaves, straw or wood chips to avoid odors.
- Moisten materials as you add them and leave a concave depression at the top of the pile to capture rainwater.
- Keep materials moist throughout the year but not wet. It is often best not to cover your pile. This allows water in. A dry pile will not compost.
- Never add meat, bones, fat, oils, dairy products or processed foods to avoid odors and pests. Never add diseased plants, weeds with seeds, or cat or dog wastes.
- 10. Try to turn, fluff, or aerate on occasion whether every week, every month or just once or twice a year.
- 11. Wait 6 to 12 months and get ready to use your compost as a top-dressing for your lawn, a mulch for trees and shrubs, or a side-dressing for annuals, herbs, and vegetables.
- 12. Compost is ready to use when it is dark brown-black, crumbly, and sweet-smelling. Enjoy!

Got more leaves than you can handle practically? Consider leaf mulching with your lawnmower. Also, the Division of Solid Waste Services provides yard trim collection for leaves, grass, and brush year-round. Remember, plastic bags are not accepted.

For more information about Montgomery County's recycling programs, please visit www.mcrecycles.org or call 240-777-6410.

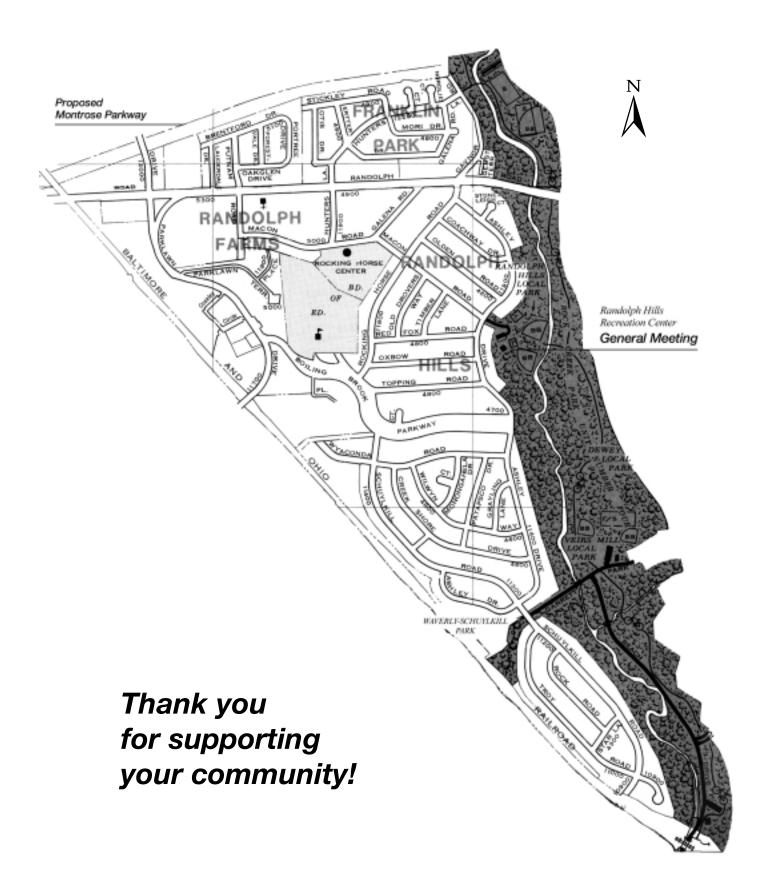
### Fall Leaves and Winter Snow: Here's Your Help

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

Andrew Souder 301-770-7632 Ashley Drive Matt Bebawy 301-881-4698 Red Fox Brett Valenta 301-816-0293 Ashley Drive Alex Cassel 301-770-8757 Macon Road Mike Couture 301-984-8647 Creekshore Drive Steven Santos 301-468-1756 Wilwyn Way Chris Geerman 301-230-1386 Ashley Drive Mark Bushlong 301-942-5890 Bennion Road Andy Wood 301-946-4634 Idlewood Road







# C L A S S I F I E D S

The Echo publishes classified ads free for community members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes every effort to ensure the quality of goods or services offered.

**FOR SALE** – two tub chairs, need to be recovered. Upholstery supplies. Indoor copper building wire. Call 301-770-4807.

**PORTRAITS**. Professional artist, Robert LeMar, with 30+ years experience paints portraits of your loved ones, best friend, or favorite pet. Oil or pastel. Reasonable rates. Examples and references available. Call 301-962-7451. Website: *www.rlemar.com/portraits* 

WINTER WATERCOLOR CLASSES. Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, informal classes for adults. All levels welcome, including complete beginners. Held in teacher's Victorian home. Martha Seigel, MFA, the American University, 22 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.



MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK POLICE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DIVISION

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ? DRUG USE ?

CALL THE PARK POLICE EMERGENCY: (301) 949-3010 NON-EMERGENCY: (301) 949-8010

# Have you seen RCA's Web site at www.randolphcivic.org

Can't wait for the next *Echo*? You can download the latest issue, which is usually available a week or so before the printed *Echo* is delivered. Back issues are also available.

### Note to Contributors: The deadline for the January/February issue of The Echo is January 9.

# Important Phone Numbers 2

(Police Reporting Areas (PRA): Franklin, Montrose Park: #306; Westminster, Randolph Farms: #308; Randolph Hills 1st & 2nd sections #308; Randolph Hills 3rd section: #309) Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station) .....301-279-1591 (for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks) (wildlife nuisance problems) (for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.) Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info. . . . . . 202-637-7000 Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance . .240-777-7700 (noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil) PEPCO: Power Out ..... toll free 1-877-737-2662 (to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.) Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com) . . . . . 240-777-7433 Tree Maintenance (ask for county arborist) .....240-777-7623 

Wishes for a Joyful Holiday Season to You andYour Family... there's no time quite like the Holidays to Appreciate and Enjoy our Friends andFamilies.

> Best Wishes for Warm and Happy Holidays from Denise Szczur and your friends at Long and Foster Realtors.



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Watch your mailbox for my wrap-up of another great year for home sales and sky-rocketing values in Randolph Hills, Franklin Park, Randolph Farms and Montrose Park. Denise Szczur - the neighborhood's favorite Realtor since 1988!

Email: denise.szczur@longandfoster.com

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