

# The Echo

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation*

Volume 51, Issue 3

December 2007

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## President's Message

*by Mike Saunders*

I'll start this month's article by spending a few moments thanking all of the committee members and RCA leaders for their volunteer service to our community. Without interested and faithful volunteers, RCA could not function.

I hope you were able to note the articles in the recent editions of the Montgomery Sentinel, The Gazette, and the Washington Post on our reaction to the Park and Planning Department Plan for our Rec Center. The Washington Post sent a photographer to the RCA picnic and we were one of the civic associations featured with a photo of our closed Rec Center and all of the neighbors enjoying the picnic on the patio in their story on Park and Planning's quest to demolish our Rec Center and how much controversy that has created.

If you receive this *Echo* before December 6th, please make time to come over to the Veirs Mill Rec Center on Garrett Park Road near the Beach Drive intersection to voice your dismay at the Rec Center Demolition Plan by the Park and Planning Staff. Roger Berliner, our Montgomery County Councilman, will be in attendance along with representatives of Park and Planning. Come on down and voice your opinion. I will extend the meeting long enough to ensure that RCA'ers have their say in this matter to their elected and appointed officials.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Upcoming Events

### RCA General Meeting

Thursday, December 6, 2007, 8:00 p.m.

*Special Guest Speaker  
Councilman Roger Berliner*

No meeting in January

### RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 2008, 8:00 p.m.



### **New Meeting Location!**

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

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

All are welcome at every meeting.

## Attend the RCA General Meeting!



**Meet "our own" councilmember for District 1 Roger Berliner and get up to date on how the Parks Department wants to demolish our recreation center building and what we can do to stop it.**

You are invited to the RCA General Meeting on **Thursday, December 6th** to meet with Councilman Roger Berliner on items of great interest to RCA-Land. One of the topics for this general meeting is a presentation by Montgomery County Park and Planning on the future of our Recreation Center and their decision to demolish it without a replacement structure. If you have an opinion on this or other topics, please join us. The meeting will be held starting at 8:00 PM at the Veirs Mill Recreation Center, 4425 Garrett Park Road, near Beach Drive.

## RCA Executive Committee for 2007-2008

### OFFICERS

#### President

Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

#### Vice President

George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

#### 2nd Vice President

Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

#### Secretary

Kevin Kline  
4808 Randolph Road  
301-230-1486

#### Treasurer

Dell Pillers/Cline  
11403 Ashley Drive  
301-984-7783

#### Directors

Jack Stillwell  
5106 Macon Road  
301-231-4934

Frank Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

Matthew Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Echo Editor

Eileen White  
11225 Ashley Drive  
301-984-2579

#### Echo Advertising

Mauro Biondo  
11508 Monongahela Court  
301-770-7590

#### Membership

John Kehoe  
4814 Red Fox Road  
301-231-4933

#### Environment

Matt Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(continued)

#### Education

George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

#### Yard Sale Signs

Lorena Segura  
4802 Macon Road  
301-984-8727

#### Special Projects

Kim and Cary Williams  
4710 Topping Road  
301-881-4554

#### Randolph Civic Webmaster

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

### COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

#### Scout Leader, Troop 1083

Dave Talbott  
12104 Foley Street  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
301-933-0048

#### Cub Master, Pack 1081

Sandra Kimball  
13504 Coachlamp Lane  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-603-9078

#### Scout Liaison

Frank Rossomondo  
15133 Vantage Hill Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-598-5772

#### Scout Unit Commissioner

Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

#### Brownie Leader, Troop 1028

Leora Hernandez  
11814 Dewey Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-933-0460

#### Girl Scout Leader, Troop 2138

Deanne Marino  
11129 Schuylkill Road  
301-560-4840

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Kevin Kline, Matthew Shore, Eileen White, Richard Zierdt  
[www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org)

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

### MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):

Councilman: Roger Berliner 240-777-7828  
email: [Councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Mr. Berliner's aides: Thanh Tran, Cindy Gibson, Karen Williams, Rebecca Lord

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

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive: Ike Leggett 240-777-2500

Montgomery County Public Schools: 301-279-3000

School Board Offices: 301-279-3617

School System Information: 301-279-3391

School Board Member for District 3

(representing all of RCA):

Ms. Patricia O'Neill 301-320-7600

Maryland Legislative District 18 (representing all of RCA):

Senator: Richard Madaleno 301-858-3137

Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181

Jane Lawton 301-858-3638

Jeffrey Waldstreicher 301-858-3130

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

Montgomery County Delegation Office:

All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8:

Christopher Van Hollen 202-225-5341

email: [chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov](mailto:chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov)

U.S. Senate:

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654

Benjamin Cardin 202-224-4524

Election Precinct:

04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road

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

751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20851

[www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org)

Maryland State Board of Elections: [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us)

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Office of the Governor

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-974-3591

[governor@gov.state.md.us](mailto:governor@gov.state.md.us) [www.gov.state.md.us](http://www.gov.state.md.us)



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)

## President's Message

(continued from page 1)

As I said last month, I would encourage each of you to continue writing, calling and emailing your council representatives as well as the Park and Planning office on your feelings on this misguided plan. These are the names and addresses you need to write, call or email. Roger Berliner is our councilman and at large council members representing us are Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal and Duchy Trachtenberg. Ike Leggett and the other council members are getting input and comments from their districts too. John Hench, Acting Division Chief, Park Planning and Stewardship office, (301) 650-4364, email: john.hench@mncppc-mc.org also needs to be on your email and calling plan as well. Park and Planning is keeping an official log of comments on the plan. Let's give them some! And let's keep the pressure up!

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

Phil Andrews .....240-777-7906  
councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov  
Roger Berliner .....240-777-7828  
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Valerie Ervin..... 240-777-7960  
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Nancy Floreen .....240-777-7959  
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councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov  
Marilyn J. Praisner, Pres.....240-777-7968  
councilmember.praisner@montgomerycountymd.gov  
Duchy Trachtenberg .....240-777-7964  
councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov

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

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

As of November 3, 2007, the balance in the RCA checking account was \$11,443.26. Income for the period totaled \$12,700.93 thanks mainly to the many RCA members who have sent in their dues, donations, bulb orders and Sam's Club card payments. All member checks received through November 1 have been deposited and are reflected in the figures below.

Outflows for the period amounted to \$4,120.56. Two checks have been issued as deposits for work on the new Franklin Park sign. Several checks have been reserved for the payment of Sam's Club accounts: those check numbers are missing from the register below and will appear next month after the amounts are known. ■

RCA Checking Register					
10/05/2007 through 11/03/2007					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		<b>BALANCE 10/05/07</b>			<b>\$ 2,862.89</b>
10/05/07	1026	Yard sale concession food		-194.50	2,668.39
10/15/07	1027	Patrick Signs; FP sign deposit		-550.00	2,118.39
10/16/07	DEP	Dues Income		3,585.00	5,703.39
10/16/07	DEP	Donation income		2,171.86	7,875.25
10/16/07	DEP	RCA member Sams Club		1,750.00	9,625.25
10/16/07	DEP	RCA member flower bulb		553.18	10,178.43
10/16/07	DEP	Donation income: FP sign		920.00	11,098.43
10/16/07	DEP	Advertising income		10.00	11,108.43
10/16/07	DEP	Yard sale income		185.00	11,293.43
10/17/07	EFT	Verizon: Telephone		-25.53	11,267.90
10/18/07	1028	Quick Print: Echo printing		-1,207.53	10,060.37
10/24/07	1029	Web hosting services		-384.00	9,676.37
10/24/07	1030	Montg Co Civic Federation dues		-85.00	9,591.37
10/27/07	DEP	Advertising income		140.00	9,731.37
10/27/07	DEP	Advertising income		140.00	9,871.37
10/27/07	DEP	Advertising income		140.00	10,011.37
10/29/07	1031	Sams Club member refund		-35.00	9,976.37
10/29/07	DEP	Dues Income		995.00	10,971.37
10/29/07	DEP	Donation income		618.00	11,589.37
10/29/07	DEP	RCA member Sams Club		630.00	12,219.37
10/29/07	DEP	RCA member flower bulb		40.89	12,260.26
10/29/07	DEP	Donation income: FP sign		130.00	12,390.26
10/31/07	1034	Corad Pavers; FP sign deposit		-600.00	11,790.26
10/31/07	1036	Dutch Mill Bulbs		-479.07	11,311.19
10/31/07	1037	Postage for dues return envelopes		-533.00	10,778.19
10/31/07	1037	Membership supplies		-26.93	10,751.26
11/03/07	DEP	Donation income: FP sign		25.00	10,776.26
11/03/07	DEP	Donation income		160.00	10,936.26
11/03/07	DEP	Dues Income		170.00	11,106.26
11/03/07	DEP	RCA member Sams Club		315.00	11,421.26
11/03/07	DEP	RCA member flower bulb		22.00	11,443.26
		<b>BALANCE 11/03/07</b>			<b>\$11,443.26</b>

## Minutes of the RCA Executive Meeting

by Kevin Kline, Secretary

November 1, 2007

RCA President Mike Saunders deviated from the meeting agenda, for an update on the new Civic Association sign to be built at Randolph Road and Hunters Lane for the Franklin Park neighborhood. More good news! On behalf of the RCA, Mike signed 2 contracts: to build the sign stone columns; and for the wooden cross-piece. Adding solar lighting was suggested. Shaul was given a \$600 check for a down payment on a contract. Shaul raised enough money for the sign, with a little left over for a bottle of champagne to be used at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 24, 2007).

The Execs discussed and voted on RCA'er Edward Shaw's marketing offer to the RCA. Ed is a representative of 5LINX, an on-line marketing company offering the RCA the opportunity to benefit from "click-throughs" – on-line users who use an RCA website link to buy good and services, thus generating an RCA commission payment. Passed by majority voice-vote: the RCA rejects this offer, because of its \$95 annual fee. However, RCA is open to advertising on its website, and will continue to explore such revenue-generating commissions.

Mike turned to our efforts to save the RCA Recreation Center, in Randolph Hills Local Park, at the intersection of Ashley and Macon. Montgomery County Park and Planning ("Parks") plans on demolishing it! Previously, the Execs debated whether we should even allow Parks to address RCA'ers at the General Meeting on December 6, 2007.

The Execs believe Parks have already decided to demolish our Rec Center, and are now instigating a PR campaign to smooth over civic opposition. County Councilman Roger Berliner will be our guest speaker, so the Execs hope RCA'ers will loudly complain about Parks in his presence.

The Execs hope you read the Gazette newspaper 11/14/07 article on Recreation Centers that quoted 3 RCA'ers in opposition to Parks plan. It demonstrates our opposition campaign is bearing fruit. The Execs discussed Parks' use of appraisers, skewed data, and utilization rates.

Treasurer Dell Pillers/Cline projected a RCA/RFC fiscal year-end deficit of approximately \$1,700. The Execs reviewed the budget for contingency cuts, but no progress was made. Mike suggested tabling the debate on budget cuts until the budget picture became clearer.


Secretary Kline provided a copy of the just-available Montgomery County Public Schools Capital Investment Program (CIP FY 2009 - 2014). The CIP sections for the Walter Johnson Cluster and the Downcounty Consortium (Wheaton) were reviewed and discussed. ■


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## TROOP 1083

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## President's Message

(continued from page 3)

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I'm happy to say that the new Franklin Park Sign fabrication is being completed and construction on the stone pillars for the sign started on the first weekend in November. Please note the photo below. We are at 100% of our contributions goal. Shaul Kopyto of 4819 Ertter Drive collected the final donations and I signed the contracts for the new sign during October. We are on track for a Thanksgiving weekend ribbon cutting. Keep watching the RCA web site for the time of the ribbon cutting at the new sign Thanksgiving weekend.

For those neighbors who have already donated to the sign project, I say MANY MANY THANKS! Watch the RCA Web Site at [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) for dates and times as well as lots of other news of interest to RCA residents. I would like to again thank Shaul for his leadership on the sign replacement and also to contributors of our most recent donations – Geoffrey Demitz, Gerry and Bev Guthrie, Julia and Benny Morlando, Emelda Valenzuela and Patricia Lopez. Again thanks for your contribution.

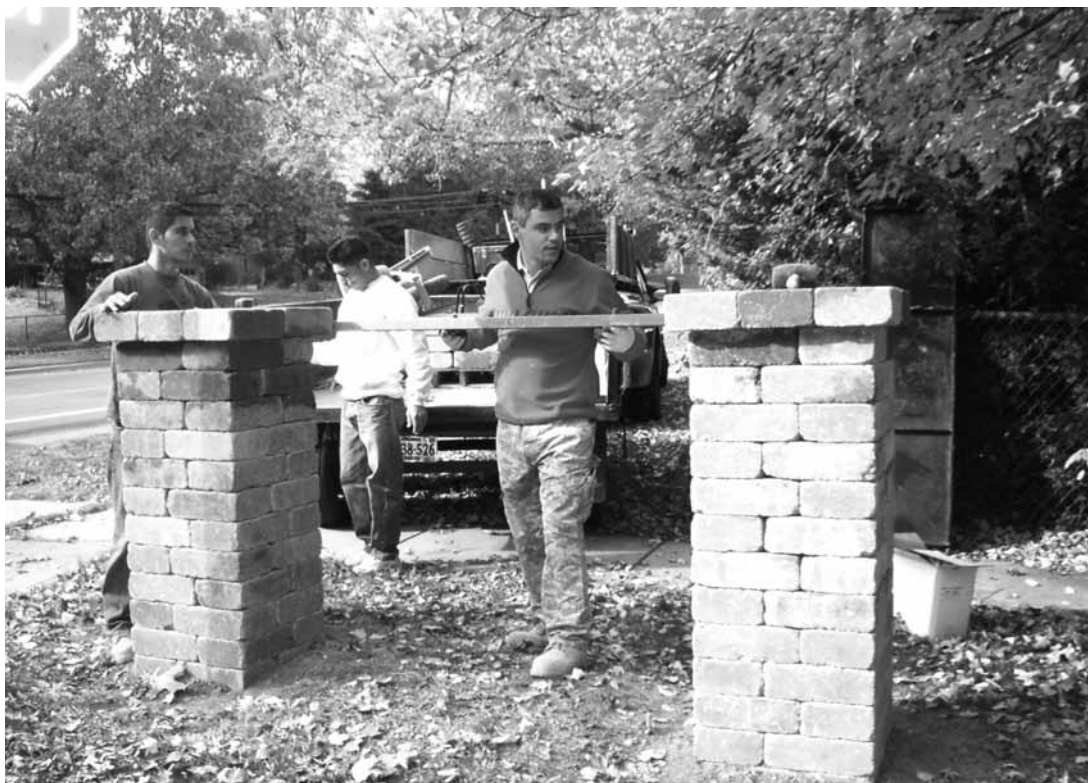
Starting the last weekend in November and continuing through December 23rd, RCA's Boy Scout Troop 1083 will be selling Christmas Trees at the corner of Knowles and

Beach Drive on the side lawn of the Masonic Temple. They have really nice and fresh cut trees and unlike other tree sellers, they deliver free to RCA-Land (or a reasonable distance). Come out and get your tree and support the scouts. You will not be disappointed.

Another long running tradition in RCA-Land is the annual visit by Santa Claus and his Scout helper Elves. This year, I've been told that Santa is planning his visit on December 23rd and he will be passing through RCA-Land between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. As usual, Santa and the Scout Elves will be handing out candy canes for the youngsters in the RCA neighborhood. And as usual, for the children's benefit, he will again be making his list and checking it twice as he passes through our neighborhood. My grandchildren know Santa is a friend of mine and they look forward to coming over to grandpa and grandma's every year just for this event.

Remember, I still visit all sections of RCA-land at least every other week on my motorcycle. I'll ride through RCA as long as the weather holds up. If you see me on either a blue scooter or green ElectraGlide, please wave and say Hi! Smile – Mike. ■

*Progress on the Franklin Park sign is moving along nicely. Cornel Stana of Ertter Dr. is ensuring the stone columns are square, level and plumb. Patrick Signs on Randolph Road will now hang the new sign between the columns.*






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## The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

**Calls Received October 5 to  
November 7, 2007**



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

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

**2007-10-10 (Wed) 3:59 pm** Not Anonymous. Regarding the plans to demolish our civic center (Randolph Hills Recreation Center), why can't they use those high school students who are building those houses on Connecticut Avenue to rebuild the recreation center? The price would be less, and their work is wonderful. That's just an idea you may want to think about. Thank you. *[Excellent idea!]*

**2007-10-10 (Wed) 6:11 pm** Anonymous. Caller read last *Echo* about forcible entry into a house. This is wrong. This destruction will not be tolerated. If caller sees this happening, caller will take a picture and put it in the paper immediately. This is the best way to educate those people who enter from the back door or breaking into windows. Thank you.

**2007-10-12 (Fri) 5:34 pm** Anonymous. Caller got new *Echo* and something that is disturbing to caller having lived under the thumb of other people's authority, once owned a home in Montgomery Village, and they had their bylaws and covenants and told you how you can live in your home and on your property. Caller looks at the RCF (Randolph Civic Foundation) as the first step in the downward spiral of having somebody else having authority over the caller in caller's home and on caller's property. Caller doesn't see the need for it, and sees someone else telling caller what caller can do in caller's yard. If caller is mistaken, then the purposes of the RCF should be clearly stated. *[Richard Zierdt here. This message goes on, but caller's point is made. However, it is unclear how caller believes how the RCF would ever tell caller how to run caller's life. If anything, the County's housing laws will do that more than the RCF ever would. There are no (active, enforceable) covenants anywhere in RCA-land. To be direct about it, the purpose of the RCF is to raise tax-deductible*



money for the betterment of our children through the Boy and Girl Scouts, educating our neighbors on any number of topics useful to residents, and the beautification and identification of our community. It is not the intent of the RCF to run anyone's life.]

**2007-11-04 (Sat) 11:53 am** Not anonymous. Caller went to Sam's Club and found out caller's card was revoked. Caller then paid \$40 for caller's own card, but what is the RCA going to do about it? *[The RCA will give any resident who experiences a problem with their RCA / Sam's Club account, attributable to the RCA, a free year of Sam's Club membership. However, in this particular case, while the caller did renew caller's RCA membership, the caller did not renew caller's RCA/Sam's Club account, so it was deleted. Usually when only the RCA membership is renewed, it is assumed that the member does not want Sam's anymore. In a few other cases, residents paid too late, so their accounts were also revoked. All of the above problems will be resolved without any resident paying more than the normal fee for a Sam's Club card (the RCA Guarantee), but please, folks, renew your RCA membership on time so we can avoid problems like this from the start. By the way, caller handled the situation correctly by paying for another card so that caller could shop that day knowing that the RCA would make it right later.]* ■

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## President's Pen

by George Gadbois

Seasons Greetings Neighbors! As we approach the coming holiday season, please try and remember the less fortunate. Where your time and generosity can afford, give food, clothing and money to those who have less than you during this special time of the year. Most churches as well as the Salvation Army can ensure your donations get to those in need.

Take a minute to review our meeting minutes where the RCF is now the official sponsor (again) of our Boy Scout Troop 1083 and Girl Scout Troop 1028. We anticipate possible support of Girl Scout Troop 2138 as well as continuing donations to Cub Scout Pack 1081. We welcome support of a new older-youth coed BSA program called Venturing. Youth from ages 14-21 plan and execute a program of their choosing that can involve various high adventure outdoor experiences to even career-oriented opportunities. Future *Echo* editions will have articles on their adventures.

As a final educational and safety note, please take particular care during this joyous season to consume spirits responsibly, keep those live indoor Christmas trees watered, watch your electrical loads when plugging in decorative lighting, and drive carefully in the coming wintry weather.

Have a happy and safe holiday with family and friends. Join us at an upcoming meeting. ■

**Missed an ECHO? Get the current and back issues online at [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org).**

**And visit the RCF's website at [RandolphCivicFoundation.org](http://RandolphCivicFoundation.org) -- coming soon!**

## Minutes of the RCF Executive Meeting

by Kevin Kline, Secretary

**November 1, 2007**

President George Gadbois promised a short meeting due to the late hour. The RCF wanted to support Girl Scout Troop 1487, but it became defunct. Instead, passed by unanimous voice-vote: RCF will sponsor Girl Scout Troop 1028, with future budgeting and funding considerations to be voted upon separately. A previously voted-on \$200 cash donation for the defunct Troop 1487 was split between Girl Scout Troops 1028 and 2138.

Passed by unanimous voice-vote: RCF will sponsor Boy Scout Troop 1083, with budgeting and funding considerations to be consistent with the past RCA/RCF financial support. The RCF will sponsor a new Boy Scouts of America (BSA) initiative, for boys and girls ages 14-21, in high-adventure and career opportunity activities. Passed by unanimous voice-vote: RCF will sponsor BSA Venturing Crew 1083, with budgeting and funding considerations to be voted upon separately.

George asked, what is the status of the RCF educational brochures to be developed and printed? Karen Helfert reported that work continues, but not much to report presently. Karen is also webmaster, and is creating an RCF website. Technical internet issues were discussed.

The next topic was the new RCF bylaws. The Execs hope to have a final draft, jointly reviewed and ready for approval, by the December 6th meeting. Finally, a Conflict of Interest statement was reviewed, discussed and approved. Passed by unanimous voice-vote: To accept the Conflict of Interest statement as written, with the word "corporation" replaced with "foundation," as our counsel deems most appropriate. ■

## RCF Executive Committee for 2007-2008

### OFFICERS

#### President

George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

#### Vice President

Chad Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
202-359-6158

#### Secretary

Kevin Kline  
4808 Randolph Road  
301-230-1486

#### Treasurer

Richard Zierdt  
4707 Coachway Drive  
301-881-0283

#### Directors

Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Matt Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

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

**RCF Web site:**  
**[www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org](http://www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org)**  
**Phone: 301-881-2722**

## ECHO ADVERTISING EDITOR NEEDED

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

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

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

Mauro Biondo

## Keep in touch with your neighbors!

Join the  
**RCA Yahoo Group**  
at

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/  
randolphca/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/)

## RCA/RCF Meetings

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

**December 6, 2007** General Membership Meeting

**February 7, 2008** Executive Committee Meeting

**March 6, 2008** General Membership Meeting

**April 3, 2008** Executive Committee Meeting

**May 1, 2008** General Membership Meeting

**June 5, 2008** General Membership Meeting

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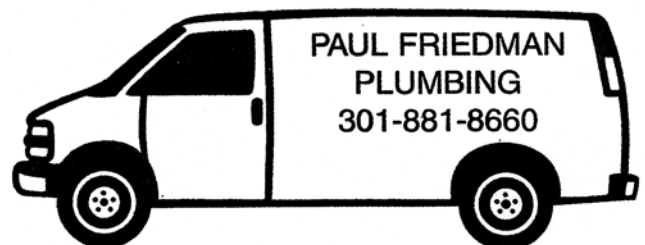


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## Giving to Charity?

by Richard Zierdt

### Watch Where Your Money's Going

When you give to a charity, how do you know your money is being well-spent and in the spirit of furthering the work of that charity? The truth is, you probably don't know, and very few people do. However, there is a web site that tracks many charitable organizations for their giving sources, and how charities spend the money entrusted to it.

One company that rates non-profits is Charity Navigator (CN) and its website is [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org). Using it, you can get financial summary reports on hundreds of large non-profit, usually 501(c)(3) organizations, and see how their donated money is being spent. I used to be a \$100+ annual member of the Phillips Collection, a fine art gallery in Washington. However, when I found out using CN that Phillips' president is paid over \$300K per year, I did not renew my membership.

CN's president, Trent Stamp, is also a lively writer whose essays on philanthropy always cause pause for thought. His essays are posted on the website.

Here are some topics discussed on the website:

- Tips For Giving In Times Of Crisis
- Evaluating Charities Not Currently Rated by Charity Navigator
- Tax Benefits of Giving
- Guide To Donating Your Car
- Guide to Donating Noncash Items
- Guide To Volunteering
- Guide To Giving In The Workplace
- Giving Statistics
- A Donor's Bill of Rights

And there are many more!

CN takes a reasonable approach to giving and the organizations supported by public donations. All non-profits have some overhead, even if just postage costs (such as the RCA and RCF). But exorbitant salaries earned in the name of charity bothers some people, and I'm one of them.

CN does not have the resources to evaluate all non-profits, so it limits itself to the larger ones, typically with budgets over \$500K. So it will be a while before the Randolph Civic Foundation is evaluated! ■

**Check out the RCA's Web Site at  
[www.randolphcivic.com](http://www.randolphcivic.com)**

## Parents Group Forming to Look at Community Schools

by Lindsay Hoffman

A group of parents of pre-school and school-age children are organizing to learn more about our community schools. This group will discuss options through which we become involved and make a difference in the school system that serves RCA. Montgomery County Public Schools have recently released this year's Capital Improvement Plan. This report shows our community elementary school, Viers Mill, to be over-capacity and without concrete plans for growth.

If you have children who attend or will attend Viers Mill Elementary or are just interested in becoming involved with one of the most important aspects of our community, please get involved. This is also an excellent opportunity for those with young children, or expecting a child, to meet other families in the neighborhood. The group can be contacted by email at [RandolphParents@gmail.com](mailto:RandolphParents@gmail.com), or call Lindsay Hoffman at (301) 775-9807. ■

## Girl Scout Troop 1028 News

by Leora Hernandez

This troop is a multi-level troop which consist of Juniors (3rd-5th grade), Brownies (1st – 3rd) and Daisies (K).

Juniors – are working hard on earning their Sign of the Rainbow patch. They are growing their understanding of the world by looking at different country's languages (Gratzia, Prego), children's games and more for the World Neighbor badge. They are also expanding their knowledge of citizenship for the Model Citizenship badge by learning how to care for the flag and perform a ceremony, provide community service, learn about government, and more. One activity they took seriously was acting out roles of Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court. They each created bills which they argued for and listened to opposing arguments and then voted on. The girls took turns acting as President with the power to veto or sign the bills into law. They then heard cases concerning the new laws and made interpretations. We are excited about developing a relationship with another local Junior Scout Troop. They have invited us to one of their meetings to learn about first aid from a doctor who will be helping the girls earn their first aid badge. We are hoping to join them on some camping trips in the future!

Brownies/Daisies – are learning about manners for a Manners Try-it badge. The girls loved dining restaurant style while practicing good table manners. They ordered from menus and dined on lasagna, salad, and fruit for dessert. With bright smiles, they learned how to properly shake hands and the importance of a confident hand shake from a special guest. The key points – firm grip, eye contact, and nice

smile were perfected. They are also working on developing good habits for the Healthy Habits Try-it. A dentist visited to share the importance of healthy teeth. A RN talked about avoiding the bad habit of smoking. Devon (a Junior scout) and her mom taught the girls some karate and self defense skills. KI-AI! The girls enjoyed making a poster to help them remember the Girl Scout promise and law.

Daisies – We Need You! We are trying to grow our Daisy troop. We are looking for someone who would be interested in working with kindergartners at our troop meetings. Daisies earn petals by doing different themed activities at each meeting suited to their age. It is a great opportunity for girls to get a taste of the Girl Scout program. If you have a kindergartener who is interested in being a Daisy, and/or you would like more information about becoming a leader, please contact Leora Hernandez at 301-933-0460.

Troop activities: In October, the Association had a hike and sing along. **Erica Tallman, Amanda Hernandez, Yvonne Baker, Devon Blackwell, Jazel Pierson**, and a sibling **James** filled two groceries bags full with trash on their half hour walk in a park along Rock Creek. They were surprised at finding a used diaper among other things. We talked about how trash in the parks can make its way through the waterways, adding to the pollution problems. They enjoyed singing songs like The Twelve Days of Camping (2 stressed out counselors, 4 engorged tics, 5

homesick brownies, etc.), Kookaburra (an Australian bird) and Princess Pat while sipping hot chocolate. They also enjoyed playing with other girl scouts from the area – spinning and spinning on a merry-go-round. In November our Girl Scout Troop joined the Boy Scout Troop 1083 and Cub Scout Pack 1081 in Scouting for Food. This is our troop's first year participating. Details of participants were not available at the time this article was written.

Upcoming events include our awards ceremony and investiture in December and in January Girl Scouts will begin to take orders for cookies. This is our troop's main fund raiser.

We want to thank the Randolph Civic Foundation and those who have contributed to it for becoming our sponsor.

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

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## News from Pack 1081

by Mike Mulcahy



In addition to selling popcorn, Pack 1081 Scouts have been working hard on various achievements. Our October Pack Meeting included Physical Fitness Day recognition to all boys that attended that event this past month. Congratulations to the Overall Best Athletes: Tiger **Josiah Polk**, Wolf **Mark Kimball**, Bear **Sebastian Jardine**, Webelos I **Matthew Kimball** and Webelos II **Preston Polk**. Sure sounds like it might have been "Scout Family Day" at that event! We want to officially welcome back for another year, Boy Scout Den Chief **Gregory Gadbois** who is assisting the Webelos II Den. Also, we extend a warm welcome to our new Den Chiefs who are helping this year: **Scott Levensgard** (Webelos I), **David Santos** (Bears), **Jason Beam** (Wolves) and **Patrick Owen** (Tigers). Boys, thank you for your help! Pack Meeting awards for accomplishments and achievements were as follows: Tiger **Josiah Polk** was awarded the Summertime Award, and Tigers **Josiah Polk**, **Daniel Hernandez**, **Galen Gibbons**, **Daniel Poliquin**, **Thomas Alder**, **Damien Raber** and **Nathaniel Harley** all received the Physical Fitness Belt Loop. Wolf **Brian DeOliviera** was awarded Sports and Academic Belt Loops in Ice Skating, Roller Skating, Swimming and Fishing. Wolves **Mark Kimball**, **Wolfie**

**Woolard** and **Pedro Cerritino** earned the Belt Loop in Physical Fitness, and Wolves **Mark Kimball**, **Wolfie Woolard**, **Brian DeOliviera** and **Pedro Cerritino** were awarded the Leave No Trace Award. Bears **Devon Parker** and **Sebastian Jardine** were awarded the Leave No Trace Award as well. In addition, **Devon Parker** and **Sebastian Jardine** earned the Physical Fitness Belt Loop. Webelos I Scouts **Carmen Lett**, **Benjamin Barnhard**, **Matthew Kimball**, **Jassir Begazo**, **Jonathan Romero** and **Mateo Streed** all received the Outdoorsman Activity Badge. **Matthew Kimball** earned the Physical Fitness Belt Loop. Webelos II Scout **Preston Polk** was awarded Sports and Academic Belt Loops in Baseball, Chess, and Soccer. **Preston Polk** also received the Scholar, Sportsman and Showman Activity Badges. Webelos II Scout **Adam Levensgard** received the Aquanaut, Scholar and Communicator Activity Badges, and **Aidan Gibbons** was presented the Scholar Activity Badge. Congratulations to all the boys that worked so hard to earn the many awards mentioned above and congratulations to **Sebastian Jardine** and to **Devon Parker** who both earned the Bobcat Pin! Lastly, Scouts **Mark Kimball**, **Matthew Kimball**, **Mateo Streed**, **Adam Levensgard**, **Colin McLean** and **Aidan Gibbons** all received the Recruiter Patch for recruiting new Scout members to share in the fun and learning at Pack 1081. Please do not forget that without Scout members, there would be no Pack!

Scouts also were presented Patches for participating in last month's Outings. B&O Train Museum Outing Patches were awarded to: **Aidan Gibbons**, **Adam Levensgard**, **Preston Polk**, **DJ Terry**, **Brandon Wagner**, **Jassir Begazo**, **Matthew Kimball**, **Mateo Streed**, **Sebastian Jardine**, **Mark Kimball**, **Brian DeOliviera**, **Pedro Cerritino**, **Wolfie Woolard**, **Galen Gibbons**, **Adrian Streed**, **Nathaniel Harley** and **Daniel Poliquin**. Patches for the Family Camping at Little Bennett were presented to: **Aidan Gibbons**, **Adam Levensgard**, **Colin McLean**, **Preston Polk**, **Matthew Kimball**, **Mateo Streed**, **Sebastian Jardine**, **Mark Kimball**, **Wolfie Woolard**, **Galen Gibbons**, **Josiah Polk**, **Adrian Streed**, **Daniel Poliquin**, **Thomas Alder** and **Damien Raber**. A Special Polar Bear Award was given to

*Scouts at the push-up station on Physical Fitness Day.*



**Tim Jardine** for sleeping without a sleeping bag in the chilly temperatures.

The Webelos II Den then entertained us with the fun, pre-Halloween Pumpkin skit.

Hopefully, the boys saw enough pumpkins at the Pack Meeting because the Pack's scheduled outing to Clark Elloak Farm in Ellicott City, MD on Saturday, October 27th, was unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather. We thought that all that rain would never end!

At press time, the Pack looks forward to the U.S. Geological Survey Open House in Reston, VA, to Scouting-for-Food food pick up on Saturday, November 10, a trip to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian on Saturday, November 17th, to caroling practice for our community service at the Randolph Nursing Center, our annual Ice Skating outing in December and of course, to Thanksgiving. Remember and be thankful for all our men and women in the armed services serving our country 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. It's never too late to join!

Please visit our website location for more Pack 1081 news and pictures: <http://www.pack1081.org>. ■



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## Troop 1083 News

by Leora Hernandez

Santa Claus is coming Sunday, December 23rd for his annual fire truck ride through RCA-land. Santa will begin his ride around 11 am in the Troy Road section, then proceed to the areas south of Boiling Brook. After a 1:30 pm cookie break, Santa will continue in the areas north of Boiling Brook, then proceed to Rocking Horse Center area, and finish in Westminster, Franklin Park, and Montrose Park at about 4 pm.

During Santa's ride through RCA-land Santa's elves will be walking alongside the fire truck passing out candy canes. We ask drivers to please remember to yield to these young pedestrians, and to please be patient if you happen to get caught behind Santa's fire truck. Thanks in advance for helping make Santa's ride a safe one!

On November 5, a new Venturing Crew Open House was held to kickoff Crew 1083. The Venturing program is open to coed youth ages 14 through 21. If you are looking for high adventure, Crew 1083 may be your answer.

*Scouts camp out at Antietam Battlefield.*



For more information on Crew 1083 visit our webpage at [www.troop1083.org/crew](http://www.troop1083.org/crew).

In October, the Troop added five new scouts plus several new adult leaders. The new scouts are: **Brady Grundy, Michael Berger, Will Anderson, Mike Mapes, and Andres Valencia.**

The Boy Scouts had a great time camping out at Antietam Battlefield, where they witnessed reenactments and worked on requirements for advancement to get ready for the fall Court of Honor. The scouts who attended were: **Jason Beam, Matthew Best, Jake Blakely, Kyle Blakely, Edwin Fuentes, Anthony Gadbois, Steve Hernandez, Scott Johnson, Sawyer Kibbe, and Scott Levensgard.**

In October, we camped out nearby at the Parklawn Campsite, where we held our fall Court of Honor. Scouts who attended the campout were: **Matthew Best, Bryan Bravo, Maxwell Demulder, Brad Gessford, Brady Grundy, Steve Hernandez, Scott Johnson, Joshua Murtagh, Joseph Owen, Patrick Owen, John Pitkin, and David Santos.**

During the Court of Honor, 101 merit badges were awarded as follows:

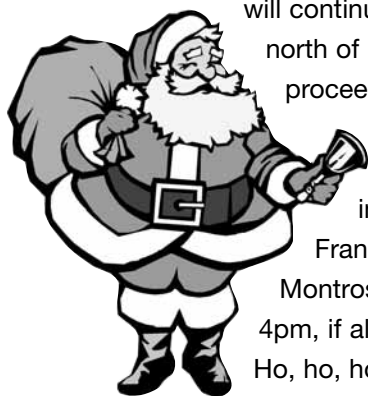
**William Anderson:** Nature, and Swimming; **Jason Beam:** Communications, Computers, Emergency Prep, Energy, Environmental Sci, Music, Personal Management, Wood Carving; **Bryan Bravo:** Personal Management; **Matthew Best:** Archery, Camping, Weather; **Jake Blakely:** Archery, Camping, Communications; **Kyle Blakely:** Personal Fitness; **Anthony Gadbois:** Traffic Safety; **Gregory Gadbois:** Archery, Life Saving, Music, Wilderness Survival; **Brad Gessford:** Fingerprinting, Mammal Study, Swimming; **Brady Grundy:** Basketry, Nature, Swimming; **Bubba Hart:** Communications, Life Saving, Wilderness Survival; **Josh Hart:** Archery, Lifesaving, Music, Wilderness Survival; **Steve Hernandez:** Canoeing, Computers, Fishing, Rifle Shooting, Wilderness Survival; **Johnny Hilderbrand:** Aviation, Camping, Forestry, Nuclear Science; **Edward Huggins:** Photography, Weather; **Scott Johnson:** Basketry, Camping, Environmental Sci, Forestry, Nuclear Science; **Sawyer Kibbe:** Fingerprinting, Mammal Study, Swimming; **Scott Levensgard:** Camping, Communications, Canoeing, Motor Boating, Music, Rifle Shooting, Radio, Traffic Safety, Wood Carving; **Matthew Luong:** Basketry, Environmental Sci, Photography, Rowing, Weather; **Galen Miley:** Engineering, Radio; **Joshua Murtagh:** Archery, Indian Lore, Photography, Rifle Shooting; **Joseph Owen:** Electricity, Electronics, Geology, Motor Boating, Personal Management, Shotgun Shooting, Soil and Water; **Patrick Owen:** Canoeing, Computers, Electricity, Electronics, Forestry, Indian Lore, Orienteering; **John Pitkin:** Fingerprinting, Traffic Safety; **Daniel Pouridas:** Forestry, Music, Photography, Weather; **David Santos:** Computers, Music, Reading; **Hafez Taghavi:** Personal Fitness, Personal Management; **Eric Uglen:** Rifle Shooting. Seven scouts received 8 rank advancements as follows:

## Santa returns to RCA-land!



Santa rides the fire truck on **Sunday, December 23, 2007.**

As in past years Santa will begin around 11 a.m. in the Troy Road section, then proceed to the areas south of Boiling Brook, then north of Boiling Brook. After a 1:30 cookie break, Santa will continue in the area north of Boiling Brook, then proceed to Rocking Horse Center area, and finish in Westminster, Franklin Park, and Montrose Park at about 4pm, if all goes well. Ho, ho, ho.



**Jason Beam:** Life; **Maxwell Demulder:** 1st Class; **Jake Blakely:** Star; **Brad Gessford:** 2nd Class; **Steve Hernandez:** 1st Class; **Sawyer Kibbe:** Tenderfoot, 2nd Class; **Joshua Murtagh:** 1st Class. **Joseph Owen** earned World Conservation. Congratulations to everyone!

In November, Troop 1083 scouts collected non-perishable food items for the benefit of the Washington Area Food Bank. Details of our effort were unavailable at the time this *Echo* issue went to print, but we would like to extend out sincere thanks to everyone who contributed for your generosity. The scouts took a break from tent camping and stayed in lodges at the Harpers Ferry Hostel.

Troop 1083's holiday tree sale will be held at the Masonic Lodge, on the corner of Knowles and Howard Avenues just east of Beach Drive from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm on the following dates (Saturdays and Sundays): November 24th and 25th, and December 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th, (22nd and 23rd if needed). Free delivery to Randolph Hills area. All trees are \$45. Selections include Fraser Fir, Douglas Fir, Blue Spruce, Canaan Fir, Concolor Fir, Balsam Fir and Table Tops.

Upcoming events include tree sale, Santa Ride, and Klondike Derby. If you are a boy who has finished the 5th grade, you can join us. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Call Scoutmaster Dave Talbot at 301-933-0048. Check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org). ■

## A note from Mary Lee

We have a very nice neighbor on Schuylkill Road who so graciously brings in our trash cans and papers, trying to keep our street looking neat. We'd like to give Millie Banks a big THANK YOU and wish her a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Thank you!

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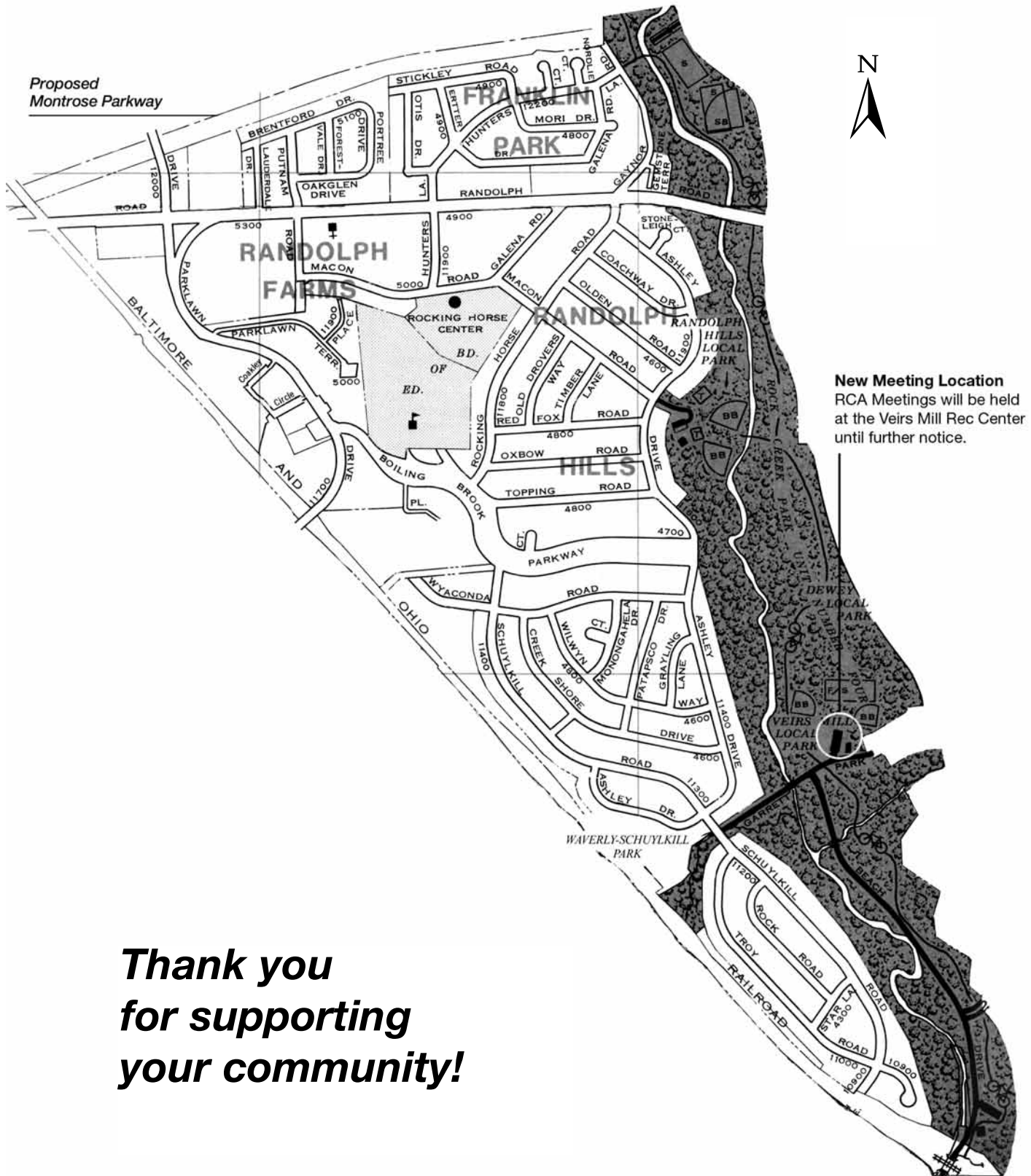
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The Echo publishes classified ads free for community members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes every effort to ensure the quality of goods or services offered.

**WANTED – BEDROOM CLOSET DOORS.** If anyone in Randolph Hills is renovating and getting rid of your original bedroom closet doors, I sure would appreciate having one set of closet doors. Measurement is 92" x 23 1/2". Please call 301-770-7928.

**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, 26 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

**Note to Contributors:**  
The deadline for the January/February issue of the Echo is Saturday, January 5th.

Have you seen the RCA's Web site at  
**[www.randolphcivic.org](http://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.



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

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

**Moses (Bubba) Hart** 301-230-2740

**Jennifer Moy** 240-672-4921

**Anthony Gadbois** 301-770-5386

**Gregory Gadbois** 301-770-5386



## 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	301-949-3010
(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	301-840-2454
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6200
Consumer Affairs	240-777-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	301-315-4000
Department of Natural Resources	800-442-0708
(wildlife nuisance problems)	
Disability Resources	240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	240-777-0744
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3600
(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Hours, etc.	240-777-0002
Telephone Reference	240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info.	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	240-773-5960
Emergencies only	240-773-5900
Licensing Dept.	240-773-5946
Motor Vehicle Administration	1-800-950-1682
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance	240-777-7700
(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)	
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out	toll free 1-877-737-2662
Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Post Office, Rollins Ave., Rockville	301-231-5973
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)	240-777-3986
RCA Hotline	301-881-2722
Recycling Info ( <a href="http://www.mcrecycles.org">www.mcrecycles.org</a> )	240-777-6400
Recreation Information	240-777-6804
School Information	301-279-3391
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)	240-777-4999
Street Light Out	240-777-2190
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623
(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)	
Transit Information Center ( <a href="http://www.dtwp.com">www.dtwp.com</a> )	240-777-7433
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Tree Maintenance (ask for county arborist)	240-777-7623
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-8000
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-6400

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

### *Neighborhood Home Sales Settled Since September 1, 2007*

<i>Address</i>	<i>List Price</i>	<i>Sold Price</i>	<i>DOM</i>	<i>Subsidy</i>	<i>Date Settled</i>
5209 Brentford Drive	\$460,000	\$430,000	245	\$0	24-Sep-07
4821 Creek Shore Drive	\$325,000	\$315,000	81	\$0	24-Sep-07
11300 Schuylkill Road	\$440,000	\$403,000	287	\$12,000	25-Sep-07

Currently, there are 22 listings on the market in Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park... the average list price is \$434,818 and the average number of days on the market is 108.

*Denise*  
**SZCZUR**  
301-452-5544



*"Professional Service with a Personal Touch!"*

**New Location**

Long and Foster Realtors

6000 Executive Boulevard, North Bethesda, MD 20852

(O) 301-468-0606 (C) 301-452-5544

Email: [denise.szczur@longandfoster.com](mailto:denise.szczur@longandfoster.com)

