

# The ECHO

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association*

Volume 53, Issue 3

December 2009

## Randolph Civic Association Listens to Members to Establish Priorities for 2010

*a message from the Randolph Civic Association*

At our November membership meeting the RCA Board asked residents what their priorities are for 2010. The feedback that was gathered at that meeting is being developed by the RCA Board into our priorities for 2010. During the month of December this list of priorities will be presented to our elected officials, government administrators and other important stakeholders. The priorities can be divided into three categories: Safety, Schools, and Revitalization. Please note that there was also a significant discussion regarding beautification of the neighborhood, but it was decided that beautification is more the responsibility of the Randolph Civic Foundation.

### Safety

At a recent meeting, it was brought up that the various neighborhoods that make up the RCA area once had a neighborhood watch, but in name only. An RCA priority for 2010 is resurrecting the neighborhood watch and making it better. Areas of focus will be improving security around Randolph Hills Local Park with more Park Police foot patrols, increasing MCPD patrols within the neighborhood itself. All of us, as neighbors, come in to play. We all have a vested interest in making our neighborhood a safe place to live, especially after a long, hard day at work. While the last thing we need to worry about is someone breaking into our homes or vehicles, our safety is some-

thing we cannot and should not take for granted. Crime does occur in our neighborhood every now and then, even though we may never hear about it. For example: across the county, there have been numerous accounts of GPS units being stolen from unlocked cars because they are left right out in the open for all to see. This type of action

is very simple for the thief, and yet it is also very easy to prevent. Often, our attitude is to think "this cannot happen to me". However, complacency is an entirely inadequate approach. Complacency is what thieves prey on. In 2010 let's strive to make our community a safer, more enjoyable place to call home. Any comments, ideas, and concerns can be emailed to [safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org). (Note: Please welcome David Matera as our new RCA Public Safety Committee chairman. He and his wife relocated

to the area from suburban Chicago seven years ago and have called Randolph Hills home for the past two years.)

### Schools

On November 19, The Montgomery County Board of Education approved a \$1.49 billion, six-year Capital Improvements Program. This CIP, as it is known, includes the construction of two new schools in the Clarksburg cluster and the expansion of ten others. Relevant and important to RCA-Land is that one (continued on page 6)

*At the November meeting the RCA solicited input from members on what it should be working toward in 2010. We heard three themes:*

- Safety: Better security in our parks and more patrols from MCPD.
- Schools: Keep fighting for increased school capacity and modernizations while strengthening our PTAs.
- Transportation and Revitalization: Continue pushing for the new MARC station, Bus Rapid Transit, and revitalized commercial centers.

## Upcoming Events

### **Special RCA Shopping Hours at Sam's Club**

December 13th, 2009 7:00am-10:00am

Sam's Club in Gaithersburg will be opening to RCA members ONLY from 7am-10am as a special benefit to RCA members. You MUST be an RCA member to get in and you can join the RCA onsite!

### **Santa Claus Visits RCA-Land**

December 20th, 2009 11:00am-4:00pm

Santa will once again be riding through (in order) Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park, and Montrose Park distributing candy canes!

## RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2009-2010

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Dan Hoffman  
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## President's Message

by Matthew Tifford, RCA President

We at RCA headquarters have been quite busy this fall. We've been testifying at Montgomery County Council and Montgomery County Public School Board hearings, running Yard Sales, and going door-to-door throughout the neighborhood. We arranged to have three members of the County Council to come to meetings and answer your questions, and we've met with them individually as well. We played an important role in getting funding for a new addition to Viers Mill Elementary School in the CIP (Capital Improvements Program), and it looks like we will also be successful in preserving our community's access to the MARC train for decades to come. A new Picnic Shelter for Randolph Hills Park is in the works, and there's a real possibility that we'll get a Dog Park there too.

With all we've packed in to the last few months, no one could blame us if we just patted ourselves on the back for a job well done and took a break until next September! But we're not going to do that. We have a lot more in store, and we think the coming months are going to be even more exciting. In this issue of the Echo, I think you'll find there's something for everyone. We have a huge beautification project along Boiling Brook. We have a special shopping event at Sam's Club. We have a revival of the Neighborhood Watch program this community has wanted and needed for so many years, and a new RCA Welcome Wagon group who have already begun greeting new residents. Especially intriguing is the prospect of our civic association taking part in the planning for White Flint Two and having a voice in the future shape of Loehmann's Plaza and Randolph Hills Shopping Center.

So, don't miss out on all the fun! If you haven't sent in your membership yet, please don't forget to send it in. And, if you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities in the community, you can visit the RCA website, call in to the Hotline, or join the RCA Yahoo Group.

**RCA Telephone Number: (240)668-4722.**

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

**Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.**

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

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

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

## Neighborhood News in Brief

- **The RCA Volunteer Corps had another great, last minute, turnout at the County Council Town Hall** on November 18th. About a dozen RCA Vols showed up, at the event which had about two hundred people in attendance. To stay informed of all the latest RCA-Land news and opportunities to contribute, make sure you visit [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) regularly and join our RCA Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>
- **Thank you to the newly revitalized RCA Welcome Wagon!** They made their first batch of visits in November and delivered baked goodies and a welcome letter from the neighborhood to about 10 of our newest neighbors. If you'd like to help with the Welcome Wagon, email Alison Dewey at [sabaly@hotmail.com](mailto:sabaly@hotmail.com). The next round of 'new neighbor' visits will be in late January/early February.
- **We will no longer be publishing the Treasurer's Report in the Echo.** This will help us keep the Echo to 16 pages on a more regular basis and thus keep the cost of printing down. The Treasurer's Report will still be publicly available on the RCA website, [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org).
- **Montrose Christian School has a basketball program for children ages 4-11.** You can email Coach Davis for a copy of the enrollment form. The fee is \$100.00 the program is every Saturday, December 5, 2009 to February 20, 2010, 8:00AM – 11:00 AM. Montrose Christian School Gym is located at: 5100 Randolph Road, Rockville, MD 20852. For more information, contact Coach Anthony Davis at (301) 770-5335 x 248 or [adavis@montrosecatholic.org](mailto:adavis@montrosecatholic.org)
- **The membership drive is now complete, but it's never too late to send in your dues if you have forgotten.** As of when the Echo went to print we were approaching the 500 paid member mark. To compare this to last membership year, we peaked at 494 in February. So we are on pace to exceed that and reverse a trend of declining membership over the past several years. Keep talking to your friends and neighbors about RCA. **Get involved and improve your community! To join the RCA go to [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) and click on 'Membership' to join online or print out a membership form. If you choose to mail in your dues, they can be mailed to The Randolph Civic Association, P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD 20852**

**Do you have a quick bite of news you'd like to share with the neighborhood? Please feel free to submit a few sentences to [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) by the deadlines posted on page 15 of this issue. Thank you!**

## Christmas Caroling

Mondays, December 7, 14, 21

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Right here, in our Neighborhood. Join us for great fun for young and old!

There's more to holiday cheer than piped-in music at the mall. Come and make this Holiday Season extra special with our own down-home neighborhood holiday sing-a-long! Let's meet on the three Mondays in December (12/7, 12/14, 12/21), from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. and sing some familiar, or even unfamiliar, tunes. This won't take great skill, just a fun spirit and creative attitude. Bring your kids, bring the neighbors. Bring your friends or out-of town guests. And bring a flashlight, so you can read the extra verses you may have forgotten. If you can read music, by all means, sing the harmonies. If you want to sing along with the melody, that's just as well. Just get your warm hat, scarf and mittens out and remember to wear them. The more, the merrier.

If you can't carry a tune in a bucket, maybe you'll be on the lookout for our merry band and have cookies, hot cider, or cocoa ready for us. Get in touch, and we can see whether our route will come by your house.

Of course, our "little" neighborhood is too large for us to cover it all in one night, on foot, and without getting hoarse. Each Monday, we'd like to cover a different area of Randolph Hills, and we're in the process of deciding where to go. We'd love to pay a visit to the houses of some of our elderly or homebound neighbors, who might appreciate being serenaded from their front lawn (no further intrusion or obligation). So, we'd like to have your participation, support, and input, to bring our good cheer to our neighbors.

Contact Christiana Drapkin on the RCA listserve, at [chdrapkin@aol.com](mailto:chdrapkin@aol.com), or at (301) 770-7940. You can join in on any or all of the above dates.



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# Minutes of the November RCA Meeting

*Steve Feehan, RCA Secretary*

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm by RCA President Matthew Tifford. Matt announced that there was a change to the speakers for this meeting. Councilmember Valerie Ervin had planned on attending but could not. Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg attended instead. Councilmember George Leventhal was on the agenda and spoke first.

Councilmember Leventhal spoke positively regarding White Flint and commented on the good job RCA has done in representing the community. He also pointed out the impressive showing we had at the Council hearings on White Flint. He pointed out that a large part of the County is preserved via the agricultural reserve and a third is reserved for parks. So it is important to develop the remaining land wisely. Councilmember Leventhal then took questions regarding Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) - which he did not make a commitment on but pointed out his support for the Purple Line and transit in general.

Councilmember Trachtenberg, arriving late, then made some brief remarks. She complimented us on our grassroots activism and pointed out that she too lives in North Bethesda, within the White Flint Sector. She voiced support for the infrastructure occurring earlier in the Plan and acknowledged our concerns regarding school capacity.

Questions were then taken by the Councilmembers. RCA Director Kevin Kline pointed out the amount of effort RCA put into the Sector Plan. RCA VP Dan Hoffman then acknowledged the passing of Planning Board Commissioner Jean Cryor. Jean Cryor was a strong advocate for our community and our efforts to re-open Rocking Horse Elementary. She will be missed very much by not only the RCA, but the entire County.

More questions were taken regarding: when the Plan would be approved (early next year), when the new MARC station would be built (unknown - there are many variables and stakeholders), how would the Plan be financed (this issue is still being decided by the County Executive), bike friendly amenities (they are currently required by County zoning laws), and the Countycouncil Presidency (neither spoke at length, but RCA VP Dan Hoffman pointed out that the RCA supports Roger Berliner as Council President).

Regarding the School site, there was an intense dialog between RCA members and Councilmember Leventhal. The Councilmember was blunt, but accurate: there would be no school in Randolph Hills any time soon if we depend solely on the Sector Plan to bring us one. Some RCA members were not pleased with this answer and did not feel as though

Councilmember Leventhal fully understood the question they were posing. They made the point that we need a school now, but both Councilmembers pointed out that an issue such as this is a matter for the Board of Education.

Several other issues were brought to the attention of the Councilmembers including the lack of street lights and signs around the Viers Mill Recreation Center. There was then a brief break prior to the beginning of the next part of the meeting.

After the break, a discussion was held regarding the priorities for the coming year. Those points are captured in the article on the front page of this Echo. The points gathered will be discussed further and finalized at the December Executive Board meeting. In short, the primary themes that were gathered were:

- Safety: Improve safety in the park, increase the foot patrols in the park, increase MCPD patrols in the neighborhood, get a police sub-station closer to RCA-Land, improve enforcement of County code limiting the number of people who can live in a home
- Transportation/Revitalization: Make areas surrounding Randolph Hills more pedestrian friendly (especially Randolph Road and the walk to White Flint), continue pushing for the new MARC station, mitigate cut-through traffic, consider a traffic light or other alternatives for the intersection of Rocking Horse and Boiling Brook, assist in the redevelopment of the Randolph Hills Shopping Center, bring a farmers market to the neighborhood, hold more community events (like Community Day)
- Schools and Education: keep pushing for additional school capacity and Rocking Horse, keep pushing for modernizations at Wheaton High and Garrett Park Elementary, strengthen our PTAs

Following the discussion the meeting minutes from the prior meeting were approved as was the Treasurer's report. It was pointed out that we had been charged additional fees by our bank (Suntrust) for the volume of checks being deposited. There was talk of changing banks and the meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm. Attendance: 36

(Note: The minutes of the October Executive Board meeting will be made available online)



## Sam's Club Christmas Exclusive

# RCA OPEN HOUSE



Are you an Active RCA Member? We have an exclusive incentive for you: Sign-up today for a Sam's Club Membership; or Renew your existing membership and receive a \$10.00 Gift

Also, we will open on December, 13 2009 from 7am to 10am exclusively to RCA active members to do their Christmas shopping.

VENUE: Sam's Club #6653

610 North Frederick Avenue.

Gaithersburg, MD 20878



## eValues for our Plus Members

eValues is a new program that gives additional savings (discounts) on products and services to our premium (Plus) members weekly.

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(For Business Members Only)

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7:0am—10:0am    7:0am—9:30pm

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10:am—8:30pm    9:30am—8:30pm    10:0am—6:0pm

For further information contact:

Membership/Marketing Department  
Sam's Club #6653  
610 North Frederick Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Md 20877  
Tel: (301) 216—2550/1112  
Fax: (301) 216—2584

## RCA Priorities for 2010

(continued from page 1)

of these expansions is to our own Viers Mill Elementary School. Viers Mill will receive a permanent classroom addition to accommodate student capacity and reduce or eliminate the need for portable classrooms. Also included is the modernization of several schools, one of them being Wheaton High School. Wheaton is one of RCA-Land's community high schools along with Walter Johnson, and one of five that those in the Downcounty Consortium service area may choose.

While Wheaton eagerly anticipates a modernized facility by 2016, Walter Johnson is winding down with their recent modernization. Their final phases (3 and 4) are being worked on this year and are scheduled for completion next August. These phases include upgrades to the gym and auditorium as well as 18 additional classrooms. For Wheaton - if all plans stay on track - their facility modernization design study will start next spring, with construction to begin after the 2011/2012 school year.

Garrett Park ES continues their modernization progress. Their preliminary design plans were accepted by the BOE last April and construction is scheduled to begin next July. Students will be subsequently housed in the Grosvenor Holding School until construction is complete in January of 2012. The status of Rocking Horse Center being reopened as an elementary school is still under consideration. RCA priorities for the coming year will be ensuring that our elementary schools get the additional capacity they need, making

sure needed modernizations stay on track, and improving communication with our PTAs, MCPS, and the Board of Education.

## **Transportation and Revitalization**

Several other topics were brought up that - when combined - could best be described as 'revitalization' aspects for our neighborhood. From a transportation perspective, the most important goals cited are: a new and more accessible MARC station; a pedestrian-friendly Randolph Road; and more direct and safe paths to White Flint and the Metro. Increased communication and dialog with local businesses will also be critical. Nowhere else is this more evident than in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center. A second step to the White Flint Sector Plan, currently referred to as 'White Flint Two', will address: Randolph Hills Shopping Center; the industrial properties between Parklawn Drive and the railroad tracks; several properties along Randolph Road; and several small parcels on the western side of White Flint. Facilitating and advancing White Flint Two will help speed the revitalization of Randolph Hills Shopping Center and the development of the MARC station. It will also plan for better linkages between our community and the new White Flint. Plus it could provide a means for getting improvements to Randolph Road that would make it safer and more pedestrian-friendly.

*(The following people contributed to this article: David Matera - Safety Committee Chair, George Gadbois - Education Committee Chair, and Dan Hoffman - RCA Vice-President.)*

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# Boiling Brook Landscaping to Come!

by Karen Helfert

It is often believed that government will not respond to citizen complaints. We are pleased to report that the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MC DOT) has responded in a spectacular and positive manner to our complaints about the ugliness and safety hazards associated with the channeling of Boiling Brook Creek. MC DOT heard our concerns and has developed a plan to help minimize the "look" of the channel banks by installing extensive landscaping along both banks. The DOT met with Matt Tifford and Karen Helfert at the site to show us their plans and asked for suggestions and feedback.



*A stretch of Boiling Brook now.*



*A stretch of Boiling Brook after planting.*



*A stretch of Boiling Brook now.*



*A stretch of Boiling Brook after planting.*

Their plan has two goals: 1) to mask the ugly stone "boxes" (known as 'gabions') and 2) to discourage people from approaching the creek banks where the height of the gabions creates a hazard for potential falls. The landscaping plan includes a variety of shrubs and small trees -- many with a blooming season, others will bear fruit, and many others are evergreen. MC DOT will nurture and maintain the plants for a year and by then the plants should be well established.

MC DOT will begin planting almost immediately - before winter sets in - so watch for the new installations.

*(Editor Note: Thank you to Karen for spearheading this effort. This project will continue to be monitored by RCF volunteers and any community feedback or comments are welcome.)*

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## RCA Holiday Shopping Event

by Matthew Tifford

The RCA is proud to announce a great membership benefit we've been able to arrange for paid RCA members. Since taking on the job of RCA President, I have sought to find ways bring more value to your RCA membership.

Now don't get me wrong. I have always believed that membership in RCA has value well beyond the \$10 fee. There are numerous benefits that we all enjoy, but they tend to be things that we take for granted, or of which we are only marginally aware. If we get beefed-up police patrols, or if vagrants are expelled from the park, or even if we improve our access to local politicians, how many people are aware of these developments, beyond the fact that they read about it in this newsletter?

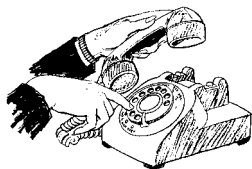
This month, however, we have arranged a benefit that we feel our members will really appreciate. As described in their advertisement in this issue, on December 13th, Sam's Club will open their store for three hours exclusively for RCA members. While other shoppers will have to arrive later, fight for parking, and wait in long lines, we will be able to do our holiday shopping in a pleasant, peaceful and stress-free environment! You will, of course, have to be a paid member of both Sam's and the RCA. If you haven't yet sent in your RCA membership form, but would like to participate in this event, just bring your form and payment with you and we can get you signed up right when you walk in the door. Hope to see you there!

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## The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received October 13th  
2009- November 28th 2009



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

10-13-09 (Tues) at 1:12pm. Emailed message to Info@RandolphCivic.org. Not anonymous. I am a resident of Randolph Hills, and I am seeing the neighborhood deteriorate in the last year. What I have noticed while walking is that the yards are not as nicely kept as they have in the past, is this a sign of the recession or is it an I don't care attitude, together with cars continuing to be parked not only on the apron thus blocking the sidewalks, but also on the grass in front of homes and on the easement between the street and the sidewalk, it really looks junky, not to mention the junk cars parked all over the neighborhood, it is starting to look like an open air garage. Is there something the association can do about it? is there an ordinance or something that could be enforced. *(The RCA has recently voted to support several new changes to the County code that would strengthen enforcement of zoning violations. The new changes to the code would also enforce limits on how long construction projects in residential areas can take, limit the parking of heavy commercial vehicles in residential areas, and limit how much of a front yard can be paved.)*

10-29-09 (Thurs) at 12:06pm. Not anonymous. Caller read in the newspaper that someone needed a seamstress. Caller lives across from Loehmann's Plaza and can be reached at 301-770-3031.

10-30-09 (Fri) at 5:25pm. Anonymous. Caller think the RCA should print all the messages except the ones that are obscene but any other messages might be of public interest. For example, an 86-year old neighbor being seen on the back of a Harley would constitute community news. Caller also sees someone complained anonymously about a neighbor's loud and disruptive parties but didn't say where the party was. Caller hasn't been to a party in a long time – maybe the rest of us would like to show up and see a

good party. Instead of being anonymous why not tell us where it is? Caller would only stay until midnight because that's a good decent hour to leave. Caller has been a resident here for 50 years. It's my neighborhood. It's not your neighborhood, it's our neighborhood. And our neighborhood is my neighborhood. If the RCA edits these messages, then it is not the RCA hotline. It is the editor's hotline. So, do not edit out certain messages. *(Hotline calls are edited in cases of obscenities or redundancy. This call was not edited.)*

10-30-09 (Fri) at 7:41pm. Anonymous. Caller is a resident of RCA and lives on Ashley Drive. Caller has a couple of comments. Caller didn't know that the yard sale was being held on the 28th and would have liked to know. Caller saw the sign at Safeway but there was no date listed. Caller just saw the date in the Echo for the first time and it's obviously too late. Caller is also all for the dog park in Randolph Hills. Caller currently goes to the one in Wheaton, which is a bit of a drive. Caller would very much like to have one in the neighborhood and wants to know what caller can do to help with that. Caller's third comment is more of a suggestion. When we revitalize our neighborhood, caller would like to do something about the excess parking in front of the Food Stop and old Amazing Savings building. We don't need nearly that much parking and the space could be used as green space or for a park. Thank you. *(Thank you for the call. We try to schedule Echo dates so that they compliment RCA/RCF events as much as possible, but this is difficult given the lag time between when it goes to print and when it gets delivered to your door. Please visit the website frequently and join the RCA Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/> to get the most up-to-date RCA news. As for revitalizing Randolph Hills Shopping Center, this has been labeled an RCA priority for 2010. If you'd like to get involved, please attend an upcoming RCA meeting.)*

11-12-09 (Thu) at 11:20am. Not Anonymous. Caller is a resident of Randolph Hills and has questions about placing a classified ad in the Echo. Caller wants to know how often the Echo goes out, to how many households it is delivered, what the process is for submitting a classified and the prices. *(If anyone has questions about Echo advertising, please contact our Echo advertising coordinator, Kendra Fletcher, at (703)863-0906.)*

11-12-09 (Thu) at 11:30am. Not Anonymous. Caller is calling regarding the H1N1 flu vaccine. Caller heard we were having it at our center and would like a call back. *(On November 12th, H1N1 flu vaccines were distributed at the Rocking Horse Road Center in our neighborhood. Caller must*

*(continued on page 9)*



## RCA Hotline

(continued from page 8)

have confused the RCA hotline with the number to this public schools facility).

11-19-09 (Thu) at 2:12pm. Not Anonymous. Caller would like the RCA's address so caller can send a membership check. ***(It's never too late to send in your membership dues! Go to [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) and click on 'Membership' to join online or print out a membership form. If you choose to mail in your dues, they can be mailed to The Randolph Civic Association, P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD 20852)***

11-19-09 (Thu) at 5:43pm. Not Anonymous. Caller lives in Randolph Hills and wants to say that caller is against Pops Bingo World. Seven nights a week is way too much. Maybe once a month or even every Thursday, but every night – no. Caller is absolutely and totally against it. Thank you. *(The RCA was approached about this initially over the past summer and voted against supporting Pop's Bingo World as a tenant in the shopping center. The owner of the shopping center, Alan Kronstadt, has said he would not lease space to Pop's Bingo World if the RCA did not favor it. He has held to his word and there is currently no plan for the bingo parlor.)*

11-19-09 (Thu) at 5:55pm. Not Anonymous. Caller lives in Randolph Hills and would rather not have the bingo parlor in the neighborhood. (See above)

## Support Your Local Boy Scouts

### Troop 1083 Selling Christmas Trees



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

Saturday and Sunday

December 5 & 6

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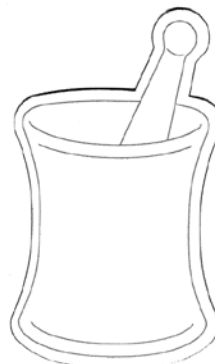
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## RCF NEWS

### President's Message

by Chad Salganik, Interim RCF President

The Randolph Civic Foundation would like to thank Karen Helfert for her service as President. Karen recently stepped down, but not before bootstrapping a new effort to improve the condition of our neighborhood signs. The effort is under way and donations are coming in. If you have any thoughts or comments regarding our neighborhood signs, please email [info@randolphcivicfoundation.org](mailto:info@randolphcivicfoundation.org). We'd love to hear from you.

In addition, Karen has worked to improve the landscaping around Boiling Brook. Her efforts have paid off, as the Montgomery County Department of Transportation will be taking corrective action. Be sure to see her article in this month's Echo.

A reminder that Santa Claus will be rolling through RCA-land on a fire truck on December 20th. Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 1083 for continuing this neighborhood tradition.

Finally, with the office of President vacant, the board will meet to elect a new President to fulfill the remainder of the term. More information will be posted on the Foundation's website <http://www.randolphcivicfoundation.org>.

It's worth repeating last year's seasonal educational and safety note to please take particular care during this joyous season to consume spirits responsibly, keep those live indoor Christmas trees watered, watch your electrical loads when in plugging in decorative lighting, and drive carefully in the coming wintry weather.

Have a happy and safe holiday with family and friends and let's all look forward to a more prosperous and fulfilling new year.

### RCF Executive Committee for 2009-2010

<b>OFFICERS</b>	4707 Coachway Drive 301-881-0283
<b>President</b>	
<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Directors</b>
Chad Salganik	Mike Saunders
4818 Mori Drive	12107 Hunters Lane
202-359-6158	301-468-9268
<b>Secretary</b>	Dan Hoffman
Matt Tifford	4602 Wilwyn Way
11235 Ashley Drive	301-938-7494
301-770-4377	George Gadbois
<b>Treasurer</b>	4718 Topping Road
Richard Zierdt	301-770-5386

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

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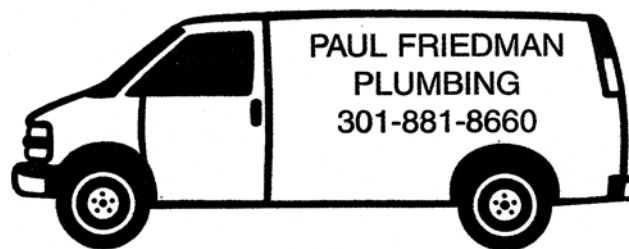
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## Troop 1083 News

*By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster*

Santa Claus is coming to town on Sunday, December 20th for his annual fire truck ride through RCA-Land. Santa will begin his ride around 11:00 am in the Troy Road section. Next, Santa will proceed to the areas south of Boiling Brook. Santa will continue in the areas north of Boiling Brook, until he reaches Timber Lane. At this point, Santa and his helpers will stop for a cookie break around 1:30 pm.

After the break, Santa will continue to traverse the remaining areas north of Boiling Brook and then make his way to the Rocking Horse Center region, finishing in Westminster, Franklin Park, and Montrose Park at about 4:00 pm.



*New wood chips mark the path of the Waverly-Schuylkill nature Trail*

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 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!

Troop 1083 activities in November focused on community service. On November 7, not one but two scouts, Kyle Blakely and John Pitkin, conducted their Eagle Scout service projects.

In the morning, Kyle directed his work crew in the installation of five sturdy, handsome benches he and his crew had constructed several weekends earlier. When you are in Rock Creek Park near Dewey and Randolph, follow Dewey Road (or the hiker-biker trail) north to the basketball court, and you'll see four of the benches; cross the footbridge and you'll see

the fifth.

In the afternoon, John directed the extension of a nature trail in a wooded section of Waverly-Schuylkill Park, which lies between Ashley Road and the Garrett Park MARC train station. John and his work crew established over 700 feet of new trail, and built a split-rail fence to go along with other improvements to a picnic area encircled by the new trail. Both boys showed outstanding skill and worked very hard in planning, coordinating, and executing their projects.

On November 14, Troop 1083 teamed with Girl Scout Troop 1028, Cub Scout Pack 1081, and Venture Crew 1083 for one of scouting's signature community service events, the annual Scouting for Food drive. Scouts and Venturers went door-to-door and collected non-perishable food items donated by RCA-Land and Holiday Park residents.

Each year, your food donations are delivered to the Washington Area Food Bank, where they are distributed to those in need. Sincere thanks to the many generous food donors!

Troop 1083's annual 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 28 and 29
- December 5 and 6
- December 12 and 13
- December 19 and 20 (if needed)

Free delivery to Randolph Hills area! All trees are \$50. Selections include Fraser Fir, Douglas Fir, Canaan Fir, Concolor Fir, Balsam Fir and Table Tops (Table Tops will be priced accordingly).

In addition, Venture Crew 1083 will be selling fresh Christmas Wreaths and will have hot chocolate, hot cider and snacks available at the tree lot.

If you are a boy who has finished the 5th grade, you can join Boy Scout Troop 1083. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org).

***For more information about getting your son involved with Boy Scout Troop 1083, contact Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048 or visit [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org)***

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## News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Rosi Muehlstedt

Troop 1028 is a combined troop featuring Daisies, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts. This fall we have been working on two badges -- Aerospace and Dance.

The first step in earning Aerospace badges involved learning to make stargazers. This was a fun project that taught us familiarity with different constellations. Then we learned the mechanics of how kites work and proceeded to make our own. We had fun trying them out! Additionally, we learned how to make two different types of paper airplanes that really flew quite well. We will conclude our Aerospace badge requirements in December with a presentation of our own research on NASA.

Our second effort this fall has been to earn a Dance badge. In October, we all gathered together for a Zumba Dance party and learned how to do the moves from several excellent instructors. During our last meeting we had a Hip-Hop dance teacher for an hour! She really got us moving.

This past month we joined the Boy Scouts in going door to door in RCA land with the Scouting for Food event. We send out a BIG THANK-YOU to all of you who opened your pantries and gave to the Manna food bank! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

For more information about Troop 1028 contact Rosi Muehlstedt at 240-603-1847 or [rosi.muehlstedt@watson-wyatt.com](mailto:rosi.muehlstedt@watson-wyatt.com)



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## News from Venture Crew 1083

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

Venture Crew 1083 is now in its third year of operation. This past summer, crew members Emily Grundy, Adair Irish, Olivia Kibbe, Scott Talbott, Megan Weeks, Jenn Wood, and Andy Wood -- along with advisors Lauren Barrows and Ken Wood -- experienced the high adventure trip of a lifetime at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. During a twelve-day trek, the crew camped, hiked, climbed mountains, and lived out of their backpacks in landscapes more rugged and beautiful than many people ever have the opportunity to see. Completing the trek is an enormous challenge, for the group and for each individual -- and the rewards defy description.

Venture Crew activities are generally but not necessarily outdoors-themed, and are tailored to the interests of older youth. The crew members themselves determine the program. But that doesn't really give you much to go on, does it? Here are some of the things the crew has already done, or are tentatively planning for the near future, or are ideas being kicked around for later on:

- indoor rock climbing
- curling (the winter Olympic sport)
- tree house camping
- going to a Broadway play
- horseback riding
- a canoe trip
- returning to Philmont one day!

Other times the crew might get together for shorter-notice, closer-to-home activities like bowling, skating, movies, and playing pool.

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 21. Crew meetings are every second Monday night, from 6:30-7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Why not join us? Bring a like-minded friend so you'll already know someone else at the meeting! For more information (including which Mondays we're meeting on), contact crew advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755.



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Thursday: 12:00 - 12:50, 3:00 - 3:50

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## CLASSIFIEDS

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

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### Note to Contributors:

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

January/February 2010.....	January 8th
March 2010.....	February 12th
April 2010.....	March 8th
May 2010.....	April 9th
June/July/Aug 2010.....	May 3rd

### Remember!

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

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4801 Boiling Brook Pkwy	\$296,000	\$296,000	14	\$13,000	08-Oct-09
4822 Mori Drive	\$399,900	\$400,000	6	\$0	08-Oct-09
11116 Schuylkill	\$260,000	\$268,000	15	\$0	26-Oct-09
4607 Coachway Drive	\$289,900	\$297,500	7	\$0	29-Oct-09
4810 Mori Drive	\$349,900	\$349,900	8	\$6,200	30 -Oct-09
4806 Topping Road	\$329,900	\$329,000	6	\$5,000	04 -Nov-09

<u>Denise's recent sales:</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>		<u>Sold Price</u>
11304 Ashley Drive, N. Bethesda	\$340,000	3906 Underwood Street, Chevy Chase	\$915,000
10911 Troy Road, N. Bethesda	\$370,000	13133 Brandon Way, Gaithersburg	\$670,000
1427 Schuylkill Road, N. Bethesda	\$365,000	4148 Mount Olney Lane, Olney	\$430,000
4607 Coachway Drive, N. Bethesda	\$297,500	9206 Shelton Street, Bethesda	\$600,000
10500 Rockville Pike, N. Bethesda	\$265,000	24 Courthouse Square, Rockville	\$235,000



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