

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Federation

Volume 44, Issue 4 January/February 2001

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Upcoming Events

RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, February 1, 2001 8:00 p.m.

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, March 1, 2001 8:00 p.m.

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

President's Message

by Jack Stillwell

"Nothing succeeds like Secession"

'Having failed in their plan to become a municipality, but finally getting a large turnout at a meeting, the RCA executive committee voted to secede from the United States and declare the lands within their boundaries as The Grand Duchy of Randolph.'

We can't deliver this door to door on plain white paper, but if we follow some anonymous member's lead and put a statement like this in every ECHO, I guess we'll keep drawing a crowd. And the December meeting really drew a crowd. (Kevin Kline describes the situation in his minutes for this issue, on page 3.) Suffice it to say that there was a huge misconception about what we were doing and how we were going about it. The executive committee is still discussing what this reaction actually signified, but maybe anything that gets a crowd out to discuss neighborhood politics is a good thing.

First let me clear the air about our intentions on this question of becoming a municipality. The charter of the Randolph Civic Association states that it exists, "...to stimulate interest in all community problems and improvements, and to endeavor to acquire all improvements that will better the general welfare of the community." We definitely did the first part by considering the second. Richard Zierdt's suggestion that we consider becoming our own tax district and municipality struck me from the beginning as being bold, creative and impossible to achieve. But I didn't tell NASA not to try to go to the moon either. Richard's thought was that anything that funneled more of our tax money into the community, promoted a town atmosphere like Garrett Park, and improved services ought to be considered. And that was the extent of it. Look into it and make a recommen-

(continued on page 3)

Renew Montgomery

by Richard Zierdt

Get Your Requests in Now

As discussed at the December RCA General Meeting, our neighborhood is scheduled for infrastructure renewal this spring. This is (y)our opportunity to get trees replaced, street lights repaired, signs replaced, sidewalks repaired, or anything else related to public maintenance.

(continued on page 6)

RCA Executive Committee for 2000-2001

OFFICERS

President Jack Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934

Vice President Matthew Shore

11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225

Secretary

Kevin Kline 4808 Randolph Road 301-230-1486

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt 4707 Coachway Drive 301-881-0283

Directors

Wilbur Van der Linden 11711 Ashley Drive 301-770-7235

Frank Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Echo Editor

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Echo Advertising

Mauro Biondo 11508 Monongahela Court 301-770-7590

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Patricia Longenecker 4703 Wyaconda Road 301-770-1927

Environment

Jack Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934

Cathy Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934

Education

Elinor Walker 12111 Galena Road 301-468-6335

Mobile Watch

John Polk 11216 Troy Road 301-984-8015

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Scout Leader, Troop 1083

Brian McGahey 11805 Timber Lane 301-770-7882

Cub Master, Pack 1081

George Gadbois 4718 Topping Road 301-770-5386

Scout Liaison

Frank Rossomondo 11611 Ashley Drive 301-770-7450

Family &

Community EducationJudy Fewell

5018 Macon Road 301-770-5540

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Scott Bailey, George Cantalupo, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA): Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964

 $email: {\it Councilmember. Denis@co.mo.md. us}$

Mr. Denis' aide: Tedi Osias

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive (all of RCA):

Douglas Duncan 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 State Legislative District 17 -

South of Randolph Road:

Senator: Jennie Forehand 301-858-3134 Delegates: Kumar Barve 301-858-3001 Michael Gordon 301-858-3519

Cheryl Kagan 301-858-3046

Maryland Legislative District 18 -

North of Randolph Road:

Senator: Christopher Van Hollen 301-858-3137

Delegates: Leon Billings 301-858-3028

Sharon Grosfeld 301-858-3028

Sharon Grosfeld 301-858-3028 John Hurson 301-858-3464

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

U.S.Congressional District 8 (all of RCA): Constance Morella 202-225-5341 email: rep.morella@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate (all of RCA):

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654 Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

Election Precincts:

4-08 South of Randolph Rd. Vote at Rockinghorse Center. 4-26 North of Randolph Rd. Vote at Montrose Baptist Church.

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

www.co.mo.md.us/services/elections



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$5.00 per year.

The Echo is the official publication of the Randolph Civic Association, Inc., 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 eewhite@erols.com.

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

dation to the membership. Next thing we knew, some-body put a flyer out, the phone lines are buzzing and the great conspiracy theory was snowballing. I heard of one neighbor who was planning to come back from Florida to vote against the great tax hike. Unfortunately, in my opinion, the municipality idea was voted down at the meeting. I didn't want a vote at all. I wanted to allow Richard to continue to give lots of his time to research the idea and present the full picture. In the real world, people pay big bucks for consultants to do that. The end result was that we de-motivated somebody that really pushes the organization. But, the majority ruled and we'll take them at their vote.

This is my reason for saying that anything that brings people to a meeting is a good thing. Your executive committee doesn't want to see taxes go up, services go down, or themselves as County politicians. We're just giving some of our time to talk, think and act on improving where we live. We don't have the authority or lack of integrity to push through a major initiative like becoming a municipality without major input from the membership. Our meetings are public and there's no secret handshake. Hopefully the folks who came to the meeting loaded for bear, recognized this and got to see some positive action too.

They got to hear two county reps talk about how our sidewalks are going to be fixed and other improvements happen under the Renew Montgomery Program. They got to hear a little about what is happening with our local schools. We talked about the Millard Property and steps being taken by Garrett Park that support our position. And we talked about the traffic calming efforts on Rocking Horse Road. We also discussed spelling. But mostly we talked about how things are okay the way they are and that anything that raises taxes is a bad thing. This is where I disagree, at least with the first part. I know every group has to fight complacency and the attraction of the status quo. I know we have residents that are happy with the way things are. But the reality is we can't stand still. Our schools have some of the lowest ratings in the county. Even if your kids are out of school and gone you can see the problems this causes. Traffic is terrible all around us and enforcement of traffic laws is worse. We have lots of absentee landlords with tenants who don't care about RCA-land. Outsiders use and abuse our parks and parking. It's not terrible but it can get worse. We can be a neighborhood on the way down or one on the way up. Maybe becoming a township is not the answer, but it is proactive thinking.

We're lucky to have people who give time to this organization and come up with these ideas. We need

more ideas. We need your reaction to ideas. And, if you object to something, bring your objections to the meeting or call an RCA officer to share them. We promise not to dump the tea in the harbor without your backing but we only hear from the folks we see. That's why any crowd is a great crowd. Democracy isn't always orderly. We won't always agree. But we exist to serve the majority opinion and we need your involvement. Just don't make me threaten to invade Bethesda to get your attention.

Minutes of the December RCA General Meeting

by Kevin Kline

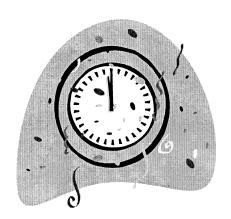
December 7, 2000

RCA President Jack Stillwell called the meeting to order and noted the huge turnout. He knew many were there to discuss the proposed municipality plan, but we had guest speakers from "Renew Montgomery." As a courtesy, the RCA allows guest speakers to go first, so they

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RCA Minutes

(continued from page 3)

don't have to sit through the rest of our local business. Before introducing the speakers, Jack condemned a flyer distributed door-to-door criticizing the RCA's Exec's review of becoming a municipality. The anonymous flyers made disparaging statements about the RCA Execs and about Richard Zierdt in particular, and suggested we are untruthful and have ulterior political motives.

The President introduced Sandy Kaiser and John DiGiovanni from Montgomery County's Department of Public Works and Transportation. For fifty minutes, Sandy and John discussed the Renew Montgomery Program, and the County's upcoming plans to re-vitalize our neighborhood. Repairing all of RCA-land curbs and sidewalks next spring will take two to three months. Trees that have to be cut down will be replanted next fall. RCA'ers were much interested in their trees. The speakers said a cursory review identified only a few trees that might have to come down. Affected homeowners will be consulted before any tree cutting. Street gutter repair will also be done next fall. Sandy also runs the Adopt-a-Highway Program, and will work with us in our efforts. Read more "Renew" details elsewhere in this Echo.

Next was the main event: the proposal for RCA-land to become a municipality. Many present were opposed to this idea, and a few got downright rude. Others were just interested in getting more information. President Jack Stillwell did a great job of keeping order. Jack emphasized that the Execs are only exploring the possibility of becoming a municipality. The process would take years. The process would also include a vote, whereby all registered voters within RCA-land boundaries would vote in a County-run election, on whether or not to become a municipality. Even if we were all in agreement, becoming a municipality would be a long shot at best.

Treasurer Richard Zierdt explained municipality pros and cons, and answered most questions. Richard was rudely accused of being politically motivated, of wanting the RCA to become a municipality so he could become mayor. Secretary Kevin Kline said that the RCA Execs were not committed one way or the other. Kevin was not in favor of becoming a municipality, but applauded Richard's efforts in discovering the facts, so we all could make an informed decision. Later, Richard Zierdt was given a round of applause for his untiring RCA volunteer work.

The contentious meeting continued. Then Secretary Kline made a motion: That the RCA reject the idea, and we never become a municipality. President Stillwell suggested that we should instead review the pros and cons, and should not be barred from at least gathering information and discussing the matter. Other RCA'ers agreed, that Richard or perhaps someone else should continue to review, long-range, the municipality possibility. After more discussion, the motion was amended: Passed by majority voice-vote: that the RCA reject at this time the proposal of becoming a municipality.

Other business was quickly attended to before the meeting ended. Pack 1081 Cub Master and long-time volunteer George Gadbois was nominated to the RCA Executive Committee: Passed by unanimous voice-vote: to seat George as an RCA Executive Committee member. George also tracks school affairs and reported that school meetings he has attended lead him to believe that Wheaton High School will become part of the "Downcounty Consortium" proposed by the County.



Don't forget to check out RCA's web site at http://www.randolphcivic.org

Designed by: Electric Web Avenue

To Contact Electric Web Avenue to design your business web site, call (301) 540-1106 or check out http://www.ElectricWebAvenue.com

Renew Montgomery

(continued from page 1)

Every home in RCA-land is 'entitled' to at least one tree in the right-of-way between the sidewalk and the street. If the tree in front of your house needs replacing or if it's not there at all, call the RCA hotline (301-881-2722) and let us know. We'll pass all reports on to John DiGiovanni, who is coordinating this project with the RCA.

Also, all utility poles may have a street light on it. If you'd like a light on a pole next to your home, you need the approval (signature) of three of the four homeowners closest to the pole. Call the RCA and we'll give you a form that can be used for this purpose, or use the form on the following page. If you'd like to get lights on other poles, say those along your street, use as many light petitions as you'd like. Montrose Park and the 3rd section of Randolph Hills have lights on every pole. How 'bout your neighborhood?

Renew Montgomery provides an excellent opportunity to get concrete work done while the contractor is in the neighborhood. While sidewalks are maintained by the County, the driveway apron (from the street to the sidewalk) is the responsibility of the homeowner. The County's contractor will replace this for the special price of \$25/sq.yard. You can also get your front walk – from the sidewalk to your front door – or driveway replaced. The cost for this is more expensive than the special \$25 price for the driveway apron, but it's still supposed to be a good deal. I don't know what concrete goes for these days, but we were told at the meeting that the contractor's price will be less than what it would cost if you called a contractor on your own. If you anticipate major concrete work you'd like to have done, save your nickels now for work this spring. Either the County will send out a mailing in the spring about the specific contractor, or the RCA will let you know, or both.

Now if we could only have public school renewal...



Comments on topics concerning the neighborhood?

Call 301-881-2722 RCA Hotline – 24 hours

(More About) Renew Montgomery

by Kevin Kline

Great news! Next Spring the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation will re-build RCA-land sidewalks, curbs, and street gutters. What can you expect? This spring for two to three months our sidewalks and curbs will be repaired. For two to three days, there may be no parking in front of your house and a closed sidewalk as they work down each street. County flyers will be distributed door-to-door before work starts on your street. There will be a lot of jackhammer noise, dust, and big muddy cement trucks driving around RCA-land. Workers will pick a spot on nearby County land to use as a staging area, to park heavy equipment and store building materials, and jiffy johns. Bus stops will be upgraded, possibly with new signs, shelters, benches, and sidewalks.

The few RCA-land trees that are uprooting sidewalks will have to be cut down. Affected homeowners will be contacted and consulted. You can probably tell if the tree in front of your house is in danger. Cutting roots on one side of the tree will not kill it, so it will not be cut down. Cutting roots on two tree sides may kill the tree, and cutting on three sides certainly will. The County will remove the tree and stump down to the ground. All RCA-land trees will also be pruned. (Watch that they do not over-prune good trees!). Replacement trees will be planted next fall. Also next fall our street gutters and storm drains will be repaired (the street-part running below the curbs).

Interestingly, homeowners are responsible for their driveway "aprons," the cement between the curbs, leading from the street into their driveway – even though aprons are on County land! The contractor must offer you the County-negotiated price for replacing your apron, or to widen your entranceway (a wider apron plus new curbs): \$25 per square yard of cement. County Senior Engineer DiGiovanni says this is a great price. However, the contractor can charge you a higher price for work done on your property (e.g., a new driveway or sidewalk). DiGiovanni says you are likely to get a good price (buyer beware), because the contractor is already in RCA-land with his equipment and crew.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Douglas M. Duncan *County Executive*

Attention: Mr. Mike Crisen

PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL/NEW STREETLIGHT(S)

Mr. W. Scott Wainwright, Chief Division of Traffic and Parking Services Department of Public Works and Transportation 101 Monroe Street, 11th Floor Rockville, Maryland

Phone: 240-777-2164

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NOTE: Signatures of three of the four home owners closest to the pole required.

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- 4. After the vents are blown down we take a small tool call the aire sweep and insert it in the main duct runs. The aire sweep moves down the duct run each time air pressure is applied. This action sweeps grime, dirt and dust back to the vacuum hose hookup and into the portable vacuum system.
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Canick

Carawan ** Carroll, Shewmaker

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Jardine ****

Jones *

Kirschenmann * Lahr ** Laranjeira * Lindsey Logee * Mantz * Marshall **** Maschke Middleton ****

Moore ***

Namoradze-Ruhadze *

Nichols Patten ** Pearcy Phelps *** Reid Rice

Rossomondo ** Shaw

Sollway Sondermayer ** Souder *** Souder Stottlemyer ***

Swick * Tarello Tifford Tyler *

Vanderlinden Virtue *

Walker **** Walling * Ward ***

Weaver White. Biondo **

Wions Woitach * Wynn Zetti

Boiling Brook Court

Madison * Weiseman

Boiling Brook Parkway

Abelmann Amir & Beck Aposporos ** Bertran Bowles ** Brunetto * Cope Cregger Duarte Eggleston ** Evers Greening

Guie ** Haabera * Houser ** Kennedv * Kirwan Klain **

Lee *

Mendes * Osborne Robinson * Roche Roesch Sanmartin

Santoro

Schwartz

Brentford Drive

Basiliko Brocca Collins ** Coral Mayen McCabe * Mulguin Rosenstein Savage ** Strock * Trainor Uston

Weber

Coachway Drive

Aboulnaga Cavenaugh ** Freideman Gilliand Gobleck ** Hunsicker ** Jones ** Kellv * Lalos ***

Larew & Lentz **

Morillas Pasola ** Strobell * Tedder Young Zierdt ****

Creek Shore Drive

Alderson Bonner Boyarsky * Bray ** Burroughs ** Casciano * Christian ** Colgain Couture ** Dempewolf Dick *

Diethrich ** Falcon Gouveia

Harmon

King * Kormeluk

Leary Lepre *

Lewis Madsen

Marella * Marquis ***

Mock ** Navecky ***

Ramsev Scappa

Sheng Shutta **

Snvder * Stone

Tao Tringuero *

Warren Weeks **

Williams Ziese **

Creek Shore Place

Burns * Linthicum

Ertter Drive

Biederman **** Cogdell Del fierro Hilty *** Jackson ** Kopyto ***

I ane * Lim Marr

Men Olson *** Pometto * Portocarrero *

Preston Rabinovitz * Samari

Taylor * Turner ** Vatter *

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Paid Members 2000-2001

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Forestvale Drive

Arora *
Durgavich
Gzirian
Sullivan *
VanBrunt **

Galena Road

Bowdren, III ****
Chow
Craft *
Gitzen
Jones
Kotzalas
Nix

Gaynor Road

Bartholome **
Lacey **
Linares
Linares ****
Preston
Scherf & Cooper *

Gemstone Terrace

Brennan Brown ** Jordan Troy **

Grayling Lane

Calderone Gorske * Joyner ** Leffler *** Monninger * Nicro * Ventura

Hunters Court

Bledsoe Grossman Pitcher Woo

Hunters Lane

Albert
Alfonzo **
Alvarez **
Balinas *
Brown, Jr. **
Buonomo
Campbell
Chism
Correia *

Gehlhar Gjullin **** Guthrie Houseknecht **Jenkins** Kwan Lee * Lim Lin Linthicum McKane Mena Miller Moeller Morlando * Perez Plaza Rezapkin **** Rodriguez Saah

Lauderdale Drive

Saunders **

Sienkiewicz

Teachum *

Walters *

Whitman

Shiflett

Singh

Lee McClung * Roh Schwartz Senko * Stockslager ** Wilson * Zayas **

Macon Road

Alota-Tordil * Brandler * Bucher ** Cassel Clowers * Fewell ** Flandrau ** Gaunaurd ** Goodman Graf **** Kroos * Lawson Marshall McDuffee Melville Mohan **

Orenstein
Peppin
Reyes
Rojas *
Rukus
Santorocco
Sawyer **
Sonnenberg **
Stevens
Stillwell **
Tigert **
Tolson
Vaughan
Wickum

Monongahela Court

Biondo ** Flores * Riegel

Monongahela Drive

Bonanno Chrisafis Fishman **** Graham * Hash Loyd Mitchell Nightingale * Raymond ** Wong

Mori Drive

Ardillo
Chang
Conversano ***
Costello
Cote-Colisson
Harley *
Hughes
Jones
Keefe
Lavin ***
Levy **
Robinson *
Schumacher

Nordlie Drive

Bruder *
Smith *
Sonetirot ***

Oakglen Drive

Fernandez McGuire ** Tekovic

Old Drovers Way

Franks **

Green Kaplan Ricker Saah Smith ** Wright ****

Olden Road

Abdeslem * Brown ** Daly Del Priore * Ensor Garstka *** Goheen Hahn * Knight ** Lynd * Nottingham Payne * Phillips * Richards Robertson * Simmons ***

Otis Drive

Abdeslem *
Brown
Goode ****
Marino
Planzos *
Rippy

Oxbow Road

Andrykovitch Babcock Beckmann Beltz Beltz Charuhas Cominos * Creswell * Donaldson Gorczyca ** Gribble * Joseph ** Kessler King ** Manis * Marsden Morais * Poole Schotthoefer Speer **Talbott** Van Wicklin *** Watts Watts **

Patapsco Drive

Allen

Andrews *

Cordani ***

Cotter

D'shen ****

Donahoe

Faircloth *

Kaschak *

Lewis

Olsavsky ***

Reed, M.D., M.P.H.

Turner *

VanBilliard

Portree Drive

Howard

Kriedeman & Werner *

Lopez & Wood ****

Martin **

McGovern

Milihram *

Zmudzka

Putnam Road

Block *

Levy **

Williams *

Randolph Road

Adorian **

Aker **

Andreas Vassilas *

Borro

Diamantidis

Flick, D.D.S. *

Hart

Kline ****

Lamas *

Stevens *

Williams

Red Fox Road

Beaver ***

Bvrne **

Cannon **

Close

Divel *

Gagne

Gibbins **

Haggerty *

Kehoe *

Minor ***

Palsgrove

Quinton

Ward

Rock Road

Bogumill *** Chubb

Duncan

Gideon **

Koval

Libert **

Matteson Montgomery

Nitsios

Scaldaferri

Spofford *

Trump ****

Urciolo

Zang

Zimmerman

Rocking Horse Road

Bailev **

Beach

Branagan

Buddle **

Burke

Burns

Demma

Erzen ****

Evans **

Few

Frontin **

Hawes

Hubbell

Kemp ***

Keohavong

Lam

Layaou **

Mahony

Murphy

Pena *

Purcell

Trautvetter Wharen

Winfield

Schuylkill Road

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Baith *

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(continued from page 11)

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Lunsford

Miller

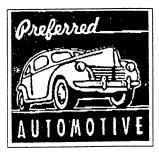
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Rodrigues *
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Star Lane

Hill Lester ** Santos

Stickley Road

Bergh **
Blockowicz
Grady
Jones *
Lee **
Moore
Papini **
Smith *
Vasquez
Webster **

Stoneleigh Court

Kaplowitz ** Lamphier ** Watson Wright *

Timber Lane

Booth Church ** Fletcher ** Maylie ** McGahey Rayos Sutton Whitney * Wisor *

Topping Road

Amorim * Campbell Cano ** Collins Costantino * Dorsett Dorsette ** Gadbois ** Hartnell * Hite * Johnson McGhee Mistrik Mulcahy Palmer, Jr. Rawcliffe ' Ruiz Santos Schlosser ** Strott * Tennyson

Tsangaroulis **

Tweedie

Wahler **
Williams **

Troy Road Allison *

Arvis
Boblick *
Bradley & Stark ***
Castle *
Castro
Chandler
Corfman *
Driggers *
Ferrario
Fogelson ***
Goodman *
Grattan
Green **
Harrison *

Henkle & Coyne **** Holt ** Hoppenjans * Ingraham ** Jackson Kehm King Klinger Kloubec Kuster Lazell Lemmerman Lolcama Loop Marsden Mason *

Mills **
Monninger **
Moores
Myers *
Nolan
Saur *
Senter *
Shore
Simmons *
Simonds
Skelton, Castaneira *

Wilwyn Way

Bowles *
Cayosa
Dennis **
Dodd **
Downey
Fischer **
Holder **
Hrozencik
Hummel
Keilholtz **

Leeson Mazurek McKenna McMahon Miyake Mosquera Muck * Nelson Neudorfer Preston Ray Santos Shapiro Sisman Thompson West Whitford Yani *

Wyaconda Road

Zaal

Alkire Bauroth Brizendine * Dommel Galeano * Lee * Longenecker Mangalmurti * Mauney

Scannell ***

Schneider Smith *** Trapani *** Utterback Woo Yeager *

Associate RCA Members out of town:

Blubery Ridge Court O'Shaughnessy

Jaystone Drive Sonnenfeldt

Jerrold Place Bailey ***

Moss Rock Drive Epstein *

NW 132 Avenue Biss *

P.O. Box 2449 92382 Morris *

TOTAL PAID **MEMBERS: 677**

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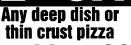
Open: Sun - Thurs 11am - 10pm Fri & Sat 11am - 11pm * \$8.50 minimum Delivery order * * *



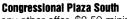
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Congressional Plaza South Not valid with any other offer, \$8.50 minimum delivery







Not valid with any other offer, \$8.50 minimum delivery

Treasurer's Report

by Richard Zierdt

As of January 7, 2001, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$8,136.70. Nothing else to report this month.

			Checking Register 00 through 01/07/2001		
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 11/10/200	0		6,714.73
11/14	626	Postmaster	annual P.O. box fee	-64.00	6,650.73
11/16	E-xfr	Bell Atlantic	Oct 22 phone	-20.47	6,630.26
11/18	627	SAM's Club	SAM's acco mmbrshp	-165.00	6,465.26
11/20	628	Mrs. Joseph Mull	advertising refund	-90.00	6,375.26
11/21		RCAssociation	membershp, donations	772.00	7,147.26
11/21	629	Quick Printing	December ECHO printing	-787.50	6,359.76
11/27		RCAssociation		1,025.00	7,384.76
		inc:advertising	Loehmann's Plaza 72	20.00	
			membershp, donations 30	5.00	
12/18	E-xfr	Bell Atlantic	Nov 22 phone bill	-20.46	7,364.30
		BALANCE 01/07/200	1		7,364.30

			Checking Register		
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		Balance 11/10/2000	0		691.62
11/16		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	741.62
11/30		interest	Suntrust70%	0.37	741.99
12/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	791.99
12/29		interest	Suntrust70%	0.41	792.40
		BALANCE 01/07/20	001		792.40

	Total RCA+RCF cash assets	8,136.70
1		

Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

November 11, 2000 to January 7, 2001



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.

2000-11-14 (Tue) 1:14 pm Anonymous. Please do something about the trucks parked too close to the stop sign at the corner of Grayling and Ashley. It is very difficult to see around these trucks because Grayling Lane curves as it intersects with Ashley. Someone is going to get hurt. No Parking signs should be installed. There's going to be a head-on collision. Please - we've reported about this before, but no one does anything about it. [Richard Zierdt here. The RCA has done something about it. We've inspected the intersection, and in our judgement, the trucks are probably too close to the stop sign legally (we believe traffic code says vehicles must be parked 25 feet away), but not enough to cause a problem. Nearby neighbors concur. We are not policing this intersection every day, so there may be times when there is a dangerous situation. It would help if the caller would leave a contact number so we can follow up on this, or call any RCA officer listed on page 2 of every ECHO. Also, caller can the police directly (301-279-8000).]

2000-11-15 (Wed) 5:05 pm Patapsco Drive. Calling about a flyer caller received on caller's front door about the civic area becoming a municipality. This flyer complains about the actions of Mr. Richard Zierdt. Caller is very disturbed about this. The writer who took all the trouble to write this didn't identify himself. You would think that if a person had so much to say he would sign his name and identify himself. This is an important topic. [Not all of RCA received this flyer.]

2000-11-16 (Thu) Patapsco Drive. Strictly against the idea of a township. We got too many people telling us what to do. We've got the White House telling Maryland what to do; Annapolis telling the Montgomery County what to do; now we'd have the County telling the township what to do, and then the township telling us what to do. Will try to attend the RCA meeting (December 7) and vote this thing down.

2000-11-16 (Thu) 8:45 pm Anonymous. Caller wonders if there's a correlation between increased traffic on Rockinghorse Road and the opening of the Smith School. Has there been a traffic study of this? It seems like traffic is heavier in the morning because of the school. [A neighbor on Rockinghorse did one himself. RCA has voiced its concerns to the County. More to come.]

2000-11-26 (or 12-3) (Sun) Schuylkill Road. Caller has been in this area 33 years. Has been following the article on municipality. Is strongly against the RCA becoming a municipality and will definitely try to make the December 7th meeting. Agrees w/Jack Stillwell. We've got so many transients in this area that it would not be good for our community to have this. We would start out with a mayor, and if it wasn't a paid position then it soon would be later. Then we'd have an executive board. Then we'd have to pay for our own trash pick up. We have so much change in personnel in our area, only certain people would be stuck with the liability of supporting a municipality. Caller will vote against municipality when it comes up for referendum, if it ever does.

2000-12-04 (Mon) 9:37 pm Wants to sign petition regarding traffic on Rockinghorse Road. [At this point, it's not necessary as the RCA has the County's attention. There is more to come, but not by copy deadline for this ECHO.]



RCA Hotline

(continued from page 15)

2000-12-08 (Fri) 9:35 am Randolph Hills, 2nd or 3rd section. Can one neighbor call another neighbor about parking in front of that neighbor's home? Caller's home is occupied by another person who gets home late at night when parking is limited on the street. Caller is being harassed by a neighbor in front of whose home the car is parked. What can be done? [Montgomery County parking code states that a car can be parked in any legal place on the street for up to 24 hours. Thereafter, it must be moved unless it is in front of owner's home. Caller's occupant is probably legally parked, but if it annoys the neighbor, why not choose other spots, at least some of the time?]

2000-12-10 (Sun) 12:02 pm Anonymous. Please do something about the commercial vehicles parked at the bottom of Grayling Lane. They are blocking the stop sign and you can't tell what's coming down the street or up the street with all the [parked] cars. Please someone do something about this. Let's try to enforce these laws. This is the only street that has a curve on it.

2000-12-18 (Mon) 11:41 am Anonymous RCA resident. Van parked at 4xxx Boiling Brook Parkway for a very long time has expired tags and there's a mess on top of the vehicle. What can caller do? Please leave answer in ECHO. [Call one of the numbers listed on page 19. If van is in the street, call the police non-emergency number. If on private property, call the abandoned car number.]

2000-12-21 (Thu) 10:32 pm Ideas for March or May RCA meeting: Can we invite the former governor and current comptroller, William Donald Schaffer? [We'll look into it. Do you think he'll come?]

2000-12-22 (Fri) 1:22 pm There appears to be an excessive number of people living at a home on Topping Road. What can be done about it? *[Call housing code enforcement (see phone list on page 19). This may be a zoning violation, but County staff will be able to advise.]*

2000-12-28 (Thu) 11:26 am Scott Harris, reporter with the Gazette Newspapers, calling about the idea of the RCA becoming a municipality and writing an informational article about it. Caller knows that the RCA voted it down at its December meeting; caller is looking for comments: 301-280-3004. [Richard Zierdt here. Mr. Harris and I talked about the issue. Mr. Harris is looking for reasons against the idea, so I gave his name/number to two RCAers who I knew were opposed to becoming a municipality. If anyone would like to call Mr. Harris,

particularly those opposed to becoming a municipality, feel free to call him.]

2001-01-03 (Wed) 11:43 am Anonymous. Last year, there was discussion about possibly arranging for Costco (Price Club) memberships through the RCA similar to the way it is done with SAMs Club. What became of that? [There were some negotiations with Costco, but the price reduction in multiple memberships was not worth the effort. Such memberships through the RCA would have been a few dollars less than buying them as an individual, but not enough to make it worthwhile for the RCA to buy the memberships and manage the accounts. In contrast, SAMs membership through the RCA is, in most cases, less than half than what can be purchased individually. In the meantime, We will always look at ways to leverage RCA membership where we can.]

2001-01-03 (Thu) 1:15 pm Anonymous. Please tell us in the ECHO what we can do to remove the cars at the bottom of Grayling Lane at Ashley Drive. The snow plows could not get through. We have children that ride bikes in this area – someone is going to get hurt. [See note of November 14 above. Caller's point is well taken.]

2001-01-04 (Fri) 7:26 pm Anonymous. In favor of the idea of a "pop-out" mailer inside the ECHO that residents can mail in when important issues warrant it (such as our schools). Mass mailings are not as effective as individual letters, but they are effective at raising the issue. Comment lines can be provided so that senders can personalize them.

Attention SENIORS!

Is anybody interested in having the Randolph Hills Recreation Center open the 1st Thursday of each month from 1-4 p.m. to come and have a cup of coffee or tea, meet up with old friends and make new ones? If you have a favorite game bring it with you and maybe we can find you a partner. Or if you so choose, just relax and talk.

I am thinking of just a gathering place, where people can walk if they don't drive and get together. You can come and go as you like. But we need to know how much interest there is out there. So please let us know by, either by calling Pat Longenecker, 301-770-1927 or the RCA hotline, 301-881-2722.

We would not meet when school is closed for bad weather. And of course, we leave it up to you whether you feel it is safe to go out.

I would be glad to hear any comments from you in how to make this program more enjoyable for all.

Anonymous Articles

by Richard Zierdt

The RCA received in December – and has received in the past – an anonymous letter from someone probably living the RCA area.

This writer complained about how the extra street lights the RCA requested and had installed last year now create light pollution, and in particular, shine into bedrooms at night, against the writer's wishes (since a petition must be signed by nearby residents).

The writer is against becoming a municipality, and against the speed humps.

Also, since only a "half-dozen" residents keep the RCA going, this shows there is no support for the organization. The writer feels things are done around here without the proper input from every resident.

What is it about all the anonymity within our neighborhood? The above is not the first nameless letter the RCA has received, and we get lots of anonymous phone calls on the hotline as well. I don't get it. By now, everyone should realize the RCA never identifies anyone who calls on the hotline, unless it is obvious that it's pertinent (such as a county official). What are people afraid of?

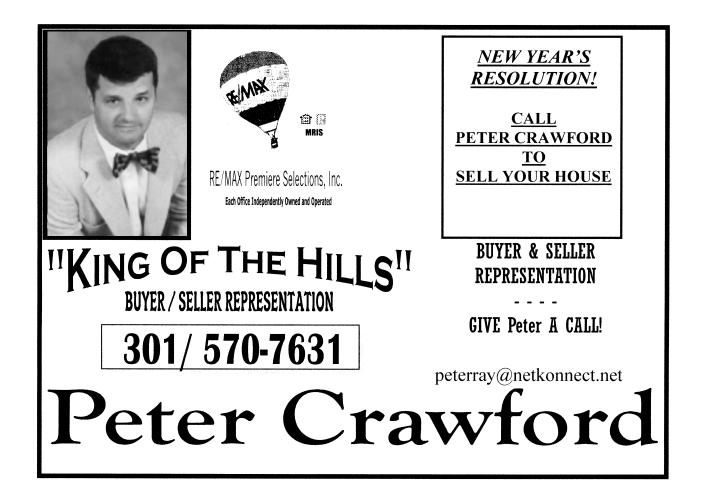
Contrast this with the volunteers listed on page 2 of every ECHO. Name, address, and phone numbers. Who's hiding?

I have no idea who the above letter writer is. But because it remains unknown, the problem the writer describes can never be resolved, such as re-aiming the street light, and/or lowering the wattage, and/or moving it, or taking it out altogether. As for the process to install a street light, three of the four residents adjacent to an utility pole must agree to a light before it can be installed. The requirement does not require unanimity – 75% will do.

As for the speed humps, this was mentioned in virtually every ECHO for over a year before they were installed. Not everyone agreed with them, but everyone should have been aware of the issue. (I don't like them either, but I feel they are necessary.)

Regarding support for the RCA, its membership has never been higher. I guess the RCA's doing something right.

I urge all residents to leave their name and number when they contact the RCA. If there's a problem to be solved, it's the best way to do it.



In Appreciation

by Pat Longenecker

After attending the December 7th RCA General Meeting, I would like to express my appreciation for Richard Zierdt's work and the work of the RCA Executive Committee. Richard gives a lot of his time in dealing with the RCA business. He is our treasurer and chief person who runs interference for the RCA. Richard is the only person who goes and gets the SAMs membership cards and delivers them personally to the individual's door. He takes up the slack when someone is not volunteering. Richard writes most of the articles for the Echo. He goes to meetings to keep us abreast of current happenings and devotes an enormous amount of time in other RCA activities. Richard also helps out with the scouts. Also, another burdensome job is to answer the RCA hotline. I am sure he would love to have a volunteer to log in the calls.

Also, Eileen White, our Editor has taken on a mammoth volunteering task, and is commended for the manner in which she handles the work for the Echo. Anybody who can criticize her for inconsistencies in the spelling of street names has too much time on their hands.

Hooray for all the work Mauro Biondo has done in obtaining the advertising revenue for the Echo, which I may say is not an easy task. Also, he sends the Echo to former residents who would like to keep in touch with the RCA and delivers Echos to those that call to tell us they have been overlooked. Also, thanks to Jack Stillwell, for handling the meetings in such a professional manner. Without him, Matt Shore, Kevin Kline and others, the meeting might have gotten very heated.

All the RCA Committees serve without pay and spend a great deal of their personal time in administering duties of the RCA. Instead of putting them down for something not done, give them a hand for the wonderful tasks they are performing.

If anybody has an hour or so during the year, there are some jobs that could be done and take the pressure off the committee – putting up the signs for the yard sale,

ELLIOTT C. FLICK, D.D.S.

4618 Randolph Road Rockville, Maryland 20852 (301) 770-7369

Dentist



Se habla español

putting up the signs for the picnic, etc., maybe pulling weeds every once in awhile, or helping organize the first delivery of the Echo (4-6 hours a year), or delivering the Echo to those who have been overlooked.

In the future, to the person who thought it was necessary to give his/her opinion through a flyer on selected streets, it would be more helpful if you would just write an article for the Echo and use your name to voice your opinion. Maybe it would not be so hurtful if you were not anonymous.

Zoning News

- The County Planning Board approved a Special Zoning Exception for a drive-through Wendy's restaurant that will be built at 5001 Nicholson Lane. It's on Nicholson, just over (west of) the bridge over the railroad tracks, on the north side of the street. This tiny treed area is so small, only a drive-through can fit! The RCA complained that the County made that decision without consulting RCA-land, the nearest neighborhood.
- The County plans on adding a second left-turn lane from Parklawn onto Randolph Rd traveling west.
- A 158,709 sq. ft. Home Depot is planned, on Bou Ave, near Chapman Ave., off Rockville Pike. The RCA intends to speak in opposition of this huge project.
- A 60,000 sq. ft. office building is planned, set back from the intersection of Randolph Road and Rockville Pike, in the southeast quadrant.
- A new Maryland State Highway Administration program allows valid "attractions" to appear on state highway signs. Kensington was approved for a Beltway/495 sign. The new sign will soon be erected near the Connecticut Avenue exit for Kensington, with the words "antique row" and "historic district". The state charges an annual fee of \$525 to \$1,000 for these signs.
- This spring the County will widen the intersection at East Jefferson and Montrose Rd.

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~ Will Rogers

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Wheaton High School News

by Marilyn Couture, WHS PTSA Treasurer

Here are some of the things that have been going on with the Wheaton High students. As many of you know, the Arundel Mills Mall opened in November just in time for Christmas shopping. What you may not have known was that the brightly decorated umbrellas on display were done by students from area schools. It was actually a contest called the Umbrella Art Sculpture contest and the Wheaton High students that participated won 1st place for most creative use of materials for their umbrella entitled "Let's Go to the Beach." Congratulations students!

If you happened to do any shopping at the Giant food store in the Aspen Hill shopping center during the Christmas holidays you may have noticed the beautifully decorated windows. These decorations were done by the Wheaton High students. Good job!

Wheaton High recognizes their students' achievements through a communication process called Celebrate Success. Following is what was posted in the school for the month of September:



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Each month we celebrate the success of the Wheaton staff and students by publicizing their academic success. Please read this notice carefully, share the information with all of your students and post it in your classroom or office. Thank you.

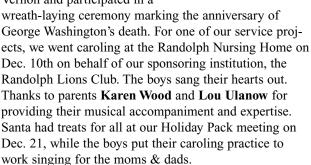
- Columbia Union College's chemistry department announced that Rosemary Monyei participated in the Project SEED Program. Project SEED is a program designed to place economically disadvantaged students in academic, industrial, and government laboratories to conduct scientific research during the summer months.
- 2. The 2000-2001 Montgomery College Scholarship winners are:
 - a. Academic Potential Scholarship: Flor Zeballos
 - b. Academic Specialty Scholarships:
 Tina Cheung, Jorge Mejia-Martinez,
 Catrina Sullivan, Sabrina Wong
 - Montgomery Scholars : Honors Program Tim Tao
 - d. M.C. Renewable Scholarship Rosalba Diaz
- 3. The College Board recognized our students who earned AP Scholar Awards on the basis of their outstanding academic performance. The three students are: Michael Fassbach, Dariush Samari, and Christopher Twomey. This award is granted to students who receive an average of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams on full-year courses.
- 4. The College Board recognized a student as the AP Scholar with honor. The student is Anna Burrows.
- The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recognized Bryan E. Twomey as a Commended Student in the 2001 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Commended students are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for entry to the Merit Program.

News from Pack 1081

by Doneby Smith

Pack 1081 had a busy holiday season. We made a trip to Mt. Vernon and participated in a



For November, our Tiger Cubs earned the "Prepare For Emergencies" Tiger Paw: Alan Costas, AJ Taylor, Gregory Gadbois, Jaccen Shairer, Jake Blakely, Josh Hart, Kyle Arey, Milton Fleming, Dwayne Remillard and Tommy Shaw. A big thanks to a couple of fine Kensington Fire Department volunteers for discussing safety with the boys and allowing them to tour the rescue vehicle. The Webelos 1 boys earned their "Scientist" Activity Pin: Anthony Gadbois, Galen Miley, John Pitkin, Larry Souder, Moses Hart, Oneal Summers and Tommy Rivas.

In December, these Tiger scouts earned the "Making Your Own" Paw: Kyle Arey, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart, Dwayne Remillard, Alex AJ Taylor, and Diego Vallejas. Our Webelos 1 and 2 Scouts earned their "Artist" Pins: Anthony Gadbois, Moses Hart, Larry Souder, Tommy Rivas, Miguel Manzano, Galen Miley, John Pitkin, Oneal Summers, Frederick Aglugub, Mark Bushong, Russell Cando, Edward Huggins, Matthew Ulanow, and Andy Wood. The patches for the President's Challenge from our September Fitness Day finally arrived. Diego Vallejas, Josh Hart, Patrick Souder, Robbie Smith, Johnny Hilderbrand, Galen Miley, and Moses Hart all received the National Award.

January's focus is our Pinewood Derby, a race of wooden model cars that the boys design themselves. After weeks of preparation, including 2 workshop sessions in our Cubmaster's garage and trial runs the evening before, the big day arrived on Saturday, Jan. 20. Dozens of cars of all colors and styles zoomed down our speed ramp, while computers kept score and judges inspected each car for originality, finish, and style. For February, our indoor "outing" was skating. As usual, zipping along at top speed alternated with "sitting down on the job."

Enjoy this time between the hectic holidays and the bustle of Spring! And don't forget to visit our website at http://hometown.aol.com//jph3190/1081.html



Less than a decade ago, tree pruning was done in late November. Now, however, university arborists concluded that fall pruning contributed to winter dieback of pruned limbs. Nowadays, late winter (February) pruning has become the accepted practice of arborists nationwide.

Spray shovels with WD-40 (a silicon spray) so snow slides off. Use a broom to knock heavy snow from evergreens and shrubs so their shape will not become distorted. Do not walk on frozen grass during winter; living grass cells are destroyed with every step you take, unless there is at least three inches of snow.

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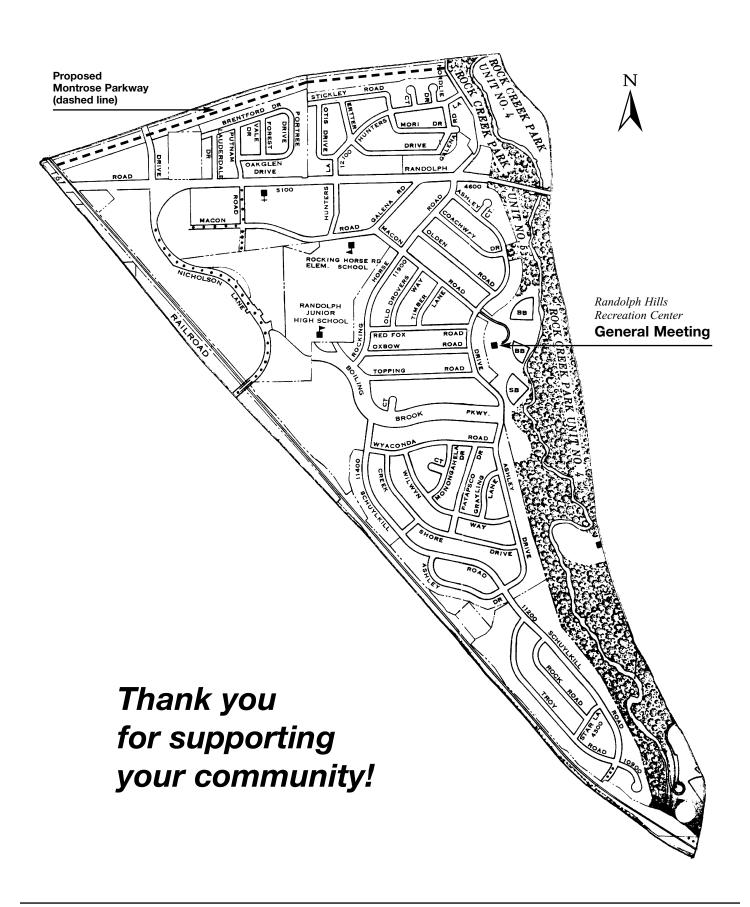
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The Echo publishes classified ads free for community members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes every effort to ensure the quality of goods or services offered.

FOR SALE. Dark pine dresser with mirror, 57 1/2" long x 20" wide, \$150.00. Fruitwood Buffet, 2 piece – bottom is 72" long x 19" wide; top is 64" long x 12 1/2" wide, \$500.00. Call 301-770-7456.

Did You Get Your Echo?

In the event you do not receive your copy of The Echo, please call the RCA hotline (301-881-2722)

and one will be delivered to you.

The next Echo will be the March 2001 issue. Look for it in early March.

RCA Meetings

RCA meetings are held the first Thursday of every month

(except January, July and August) at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center at 8:00 p.m. 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.

Note to Contributors: The deadline for the March 2001 issue of The Echo is February 2.

Important Phone Numbers



Police: Non-Emergency
Westminster, Randolph Farms: #308; Randolph Hills 1st & 2nd sections #308; Randolph Hills 3rd section: #309)
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station) 301-279-1591
Police: Emergency
Abandoned Cars (on private property)240-777-3600
Animal Control
Building Permits
Consumer Affairs
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)
Department of Natural Resources800-442-0708 (wildlife nuisance problems)
Disability Resources
Fire Non-Emergency
Housing Code Violations240-777-3600
(use this number for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)
Large Item Pick-up
Libraries: Hours, etc
Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info
Montgomery County Humane Society .301-279-1823 Emergencies only .301-279-1694 Volunteer Info .301-279-1026 Licensing Dept. .301-279-1249
Motor Vehicle Administration301-948-3177
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance240-777-7700
(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil) Parking Violations
Parks: Information & Permits301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out
Emergency/Life Threatening202-872-3432
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)
RCA Hotline
Recycling Info (www.mcrecycles.org)
Recreation Information
School Information
Senior Citizens
Street Light Out
Transportation
Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)240-777-7433
Trash Collection
Tree Maintenance
Voter Registration
Water and Sewer (WSSC)
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints

