

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 52, Issue 4 January/February 2009

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RCA General Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2009, 8:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: School Board Member Laura Berthiaume

RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, March 5, 2009, 8:00 p.m.

Meetings are held on the **first Thursday of every month at 8 p.m.**, except January, July, and August, at the Veirs Mill Rec Center, 4425 Garrett Park Road. Usually, we alternate between General and Executive meetings.

All are welcome at every meeting.

President's Message

by Matt Tifford, RCA President

Happy New Year! Exciting things have been happening. We are pushing forward with our lobbying efforts to get Rocking Horse Center re-opened as our elementary school. We've invited Laura Berthiaume, the newly elected school board member, to come speak and answer questions at the February meeting. Please come out to help show the school board your enthusiasm.

On another front, we have made great progress in setting in motion a revitalization of Randolph Hills Local Park. As of this writing, Parks has cleaned out the underbrush which made such an ideal hiding place for the vagrants who were living there. Through daily patrols, the police succeeded in driving them off, and we're going to make sure they don't come back! In addition, the police have reached out to the soccer organizations which rent the field to instruct them on how to be less disruptive to residents who live near the park, and to work with the police to prevent unlawful behavior.

While these things never seem to happen as quickly as we'd like, the playground is coming and will hopefully make its debut long before school is out. It looks like we will also be getting a covered picnic area. Thanks to the efforts of long-time resident Senator Frank Shore, they have

(continued on page 3)



RCA Special Guest – School Board Member Laura Berthiaume, February 5th

The RCA General Meeting at 8 pm, Thursday, February 5th, will host a special guest, the newly elected school board member Laura Berthiaume. As many know, the RCA has set education as a top priority in 2009 to ensure

our school choices are among the best in the County.

The first step to accelerate our goal is to garner support and resources from our local representatives. Laura Berthiaume, a fresh but extremely competent and regarded face on the school board, will be with the RCA to discuss the issues facing our school system, to hear from our residents, and to provide guidance and support to achieve our community goals. Laura, a practicing attorney in Rockville and resident of Montgomery County for over 25 years, brings with her a platform of change to: improve communication between the school system and those it serves, ensure exercise, nutrition and top rated facilities are in all of our schools, build a transparent school budget respecting local issues, and guarantee the next Superintendent selected by the School Board listens to YOUR concerns.

RCA Executive Committee for 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President Matt Tifford 11235 Ashley Drive

301-770-4377

Vice President

Dan Hoffman 4602 Wilwyn Way 301-938-7494

2nd Vice President

Chad Salganik 4818 Mori Drive 202-359-6158

Secretary

Angelee Marques 4704 Creek Shore Drive 301-984-7514

Treasurer

Lauren Lehman 12116 Otis Drive 240-221-3410

Directors

Kevin Kline 4808 Randolph Road 301-230-1486

Frank Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225

Matthew Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Eileen White 11225 Ashley Drive 301-984-2579

Echo Advertising

Kendra Fletcher 12109 Galena Road 703-863-0906

Membership

John Kehoe 4814 Red Fox Road 301-231-4933

Environment

Matt Tifford 11235 Ashley Drive 301-770-4377

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(continued)

Education

George Gadbois 4718 Topping Road 301-770-5386

Yard Sale Signs

Lorena Segura 4802 Macon Road 301-984-8727

Special Projects

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

RandolphCivic Webmaster

Karen Helfert 11429 Ashley Drive 301-468-0236

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Scout Leader, Troop 1083

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

Cub Master, Pack 1081

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

Scout Liaison

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

Scout Unit Commissioner

Mike Saunders 12107 Hunters Lane 301-468-9268

Brownie Leader, Troop 1028

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

Girl Scout Leader, Troop 2138

Deanne Marino 11129 Schuylkill Road 301-560-4840

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Kevin Kline, Matthew Shore, Eileen White, Richard Zierdt www.montgomerycivic.org

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA): Councilman: Roger Berliner 240-777-7828 email: Councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov Mr. Berliner's aides: Colleen Lauer, Cindy Gibson, Karen Williams, Rebecca Lord

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

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900 County Executive: Ike Leggett 240-777-2500 301-279-3000 Montgomery County Public Schools: School Board Offices: 301-279-3617 School System Information: 301-279-3391

School Board Member for District 3 (representing all of RCA):

301-320-7600 Ms. Patricia O'Neill

Maryland Legislative District 18 (representing all of RCA): Senator: Richard Madaleno 301-858-3137 Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181 Delegates: 301-858-3638 Al Carr Jeffrey Waldstreicher 301-858-3130

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

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

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

U.S. Senate:

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654 Benjamin Cardin 202-224-4524

Election Precinct:

04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 240-777-8500 751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20851 www.777vote.org

Maryland State Board of Elections: www.elections.state.md.us

Governor Martin O'Malley Office of the Governor

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-974-3591

governor@gov.state.md.us www.gov.state.md.us



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

President's Message

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already installed a water fountain. The proposed future rec center site will be unaffected.

We have been meeting with Park officials and Councilman Berliner to find ways to improve RHLP to make it more useful to RCA residents. What we have found is that Parks is very interested in finding ways to increase neighborhood use. Our proposal has been to remove one of the two baseball fields, and replace it with something residents would use. One of the ideas that has been put forward is a Dog Park. Please help us by weighing in on what you would like to see in our park. No promises, as the MNCPPC has the final word, but they are interested in hearing from us.

In response to a steady stream of complaints from residents, we have requested a traffic study in the neighborhood. In particular, they are studying speeding on Ashley between Rocking Horse and Schuylkill, and poor signage at Boiling Brook Parkway and Rocking Horse. We hope to convince the county to add more striped crosswalks and other traffic calming measures in order to improve pedestrian safety.

We apologize to those members who have had difficulty with their Sam's Club memberships. We've been assured by Sam's that this will not happen again. In this issue you will find information that should help if you do experience a problem.

Hope to see you at the meeting on February 5th. It's a great chance to meet your neighbors. If you haven't done so already, please send in your \$10 to join the RCA. We need your support! Thanks to the generosity of Sam's Club, we had cookies at our meeting in December. Lord willing, there will be more goodies in February.

RCA Moves Forward in Planning a Community Engagement Strategy

by Dan Hoffman

At the RCA meeting in December a draft strategy was presented to membership outlining activities the RCA would undertake in the coming year in order to increase membership and community involvement. For the past several years RCA membership and member engagement have been in decline. From a high of approximately 700 members in 2000, RCA membership now stands at about 500. In order for the RCA to meet the challenges and realize the opportunities that will be presented in the coming years, a new annual strategy is being developed and implemented in order to increase our membership and the ability of the RCA to field volunteers as needed. The strategy outlines the following three goals:

- Increase the total number of paying members to 700
- Increase average general meeting attendance to 40
- Track and increase the current number of RCA volunteers

To accomplish these goals the RCA is seeking volunteers to help write articles, plan events and act as block captains. If you are interested in helping please contact Dan Hoffman at danhoffman123@aol.com. ■

RCA Addresses Recent Spike in Crime

by Dan Hoffman

Over the holidays RCA-land saw a rash of car breakins and a handful of home invasions. The RCA has asked the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) to address this matter and is urging all residents to report ANY criminal activity to the police department. It is important that the police are informed of all break-ins, even if the dollar value of items stolen is very small. This will allow MCPD to accurately track and monitor crime in the area.

In early 2008 the RCA sought to re-establish a Neighborhood Watch group in the area, but the initiative did not have enough volunteer support to move forward. The RCA is again making a call to all residents to volunteer in some way. The Neighborhood Watch is an important aspect to any community, especially during challenging economic times, when crime normally increases.

On an individual level, please keep the following points in mind:

- Never leave valuables in your car if possible and never in view
- Park under a street light if possible
- Do not hide keys on your vehicle
- Install a "tapered" door lock (one without a head; available at most auto parts stores)
- If you must keep electronics in your car, record the serial number
- And of course, lock the doors and do not leave windows ajar

If your car is broken into:

- Do not touch the vehicle
- · Make a list of any missing items
- Contact the MCPD to make a report. A report may be taken over the phone or an officer may be dispatched.

Again, the RCA wants to support a culture of prevention to proactively address this situation in the neighborhood. This will require more involvement from our residents and better communication. If you are interested in volunteering, please attend the next civic association meeting in February or email Dan Hoffman at danhoffman123@aol.com.

Minutes of the December RCA General Meeting

State Delegate Waldstreicher Discusses Legislative Priorities; RCA Plans New Outreach Campaign

by Angelee Marques, RCA Secretary

December 4, 2008

The meeting began at 8pm with President Matt Tifford welcoming all in attendance and setting the agenda for the evening. Turnout for the meeting was strong with 22 neighbors, plus the Executive Committee in attendance. Matt Tifford had delivered on his *Echo* promise—there was an abundance of cookies for everyone to enjoy (A Special Thank You to SAMs Club for donating the cookies)!

The topics to be discussed were:

- 1. Treasurer's Report
- 2. November Executive Board Meeting Minutes Approval
- 3. Randolph Hills Park Improvements Update
- 4. Guest Speaker District 18 Delegate, Jeff Waldstreicher
- 5. Committee Reports
- 6. Old Business
- 7. New Business
- 8. Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF) Update

1. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lauren Lehman provided a report on the finances of the RCA. No significant changes had occurred in the RCA Fund, with the balance holding at \$12,387. A Transfer of funds to the Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF) for RCA payments in excess of the \$10 Membership Fee would be needed in the near future.

Don't forget to make good on one of your New Year's Resolutions – if you have not already paid your \$10 RCA Membership Fee, please do so by completing the RCA Membership Form on the RCA website: www.randolphcivic.org/membership or by contacting Membership Chair John Kehoe at 301-231-4933.

2. Approval of the November RCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Matt Tifford raised the motion for approval of the minutes; the group unanimously approved.

3. Randolph Hills Park Improvements - Update

Karen Helfert, a member of the RCA Environment Committee, and Dan Hoffman, RCA Vice President, provided the audience with an update of the Randolph Hills Park (11805 Ashley Drive) improvements in progress. Karen had met that morning (Dec 4th) in the park with the Contractor hired to do the improvements, Mark Almond, where he had showed her the work done to date and discussed future plans. Improvements already made were: clearing of vines and weeds in and around the park and creek area, spraying of "Round-up" to prevent further weed growth, removal of the recreation center and leveling of the area in preparation for the new playground, and preparation work for closing off utility lines to the playground bed. Mr. Almond was awaiting Pepco workers to complete the removal of utilities to allow his crew to install the playground equipment.

Dan Hoffman reminded the audience of the reasons for the improvement project – the playground equipment was in disrepair and the park flora and fauna was overgrown and not adequately maintained. As a result of the park's deterioration, the area had become home to a group of 5-10 vagrants who camped out in the overgrown brush. The park improvement plan would not only beautify the area and provide our families with safe recreation equipment, but it would also make the area visible to park police, improving the safety of the park and our neighborhood.

4. Guest Speaker - District 18 Delegate, Jeff Waldstreicher

Guest Speaker District 18 (our district) Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher was introduced to the audience by Matt Tifford and took the floor at 8:15 pm. Delegate Waldstreicher introduced himself as our neighbor as he resides in Rock Creek Palisades, the next neighborhood down Beach Drive, and faithfully reads each Echo. He also was pleased to be with us on a night where he did not have to compete with the "Dog Poop Lady" as the last time he spoke at our meeting, a representative from Dogtopia preceded him and got a lot of fun attention (Thanks to Dogtopia, RCA now has dog waste bags installed in our parks: www.dogdaycare.com/whiteflint/)!

Waldstreicher began by speaking about the Budget Crisis and how the situation of less state money and more needs continues to heighten. To handle this, he has proposed that the state prioritize funds to those services he sees as "critical" - education and environmental protection - while continuing to fund, although in smaller subsidies, the remainder of state needs. He sees education as essential to our communities and wants to ensure class size and portable classrooms continue to be reduced while our teachers continue to be paid competitive salaries ensuring the best for our children. Environmental protection, his other priority, is equally important to Maryland as our storied coastline, the Chesapeake Bay, continues to degrade due to excessive farming. In particular, poultry farming has been allowed to pervade and pollute the Bay; Delegate Waldstreicher would like to see enforcement of the poultry industry and also look at

ways to fund alternative energies. Another topic of particular importance to Waldstreicher, as he sits on the Judiciary Committee, is the improvement of communication in the judiciary system to ensure State agencies and court rulings are continually aware of each others actions.

He closed his review by opening up the floor to questions from the audience: (Questions and Responses have been paraphrased)

Q: We would like lights on the path on Garrett Park Road to and from the parks and have contacted Montgomery County Parks but have been told the Road is not theirs.

Waldstreicher: Any road with a number is a state road. Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner should be able to help us; we can always contact him with such questions and even if he cannot directly assist, he can point us to the appropriate resource.

Q: With the Budget Crisis, should we still ask the State for things we want in this budget year even if those things are for future years?

Waldstreicher: Yes, the State plans things way in advance; the best approach is to get things in as soon as possible even if services are not rendered for the distant future.

Q: We are one of the few associations that supports the Montrose Parkway project yet the Montrose Gap *(crossing of railroad tracks not yet approved)* is still in limbo – what is the status?

Waldstreicher: Montrose West (west side of train tracks) has been funded for design and engineering but not yet for building. However, this is a very positive sign as once something is funded for design, is almost inevitably goes to build.

Q: Election Judges in Montgomery County must be in place all day during an election, versus allowing shifts of workers. This greatly deters people from volunteering; why is this rule in place?

Waldstreicher: He is not sure of a remedy at this point, but as Maryland just passed the allowance of early voting, we should all take advantage of this in future elections.

Q: I had always thought of education as more of a County issue versus State – How does the Delegate role fit into this? **Waldstreicher:** The State gives a chunk of money to the County to use.

Q: I have heard of a proposal for a Marc Train Station in our neighborhood – can you speak more about this and who makes these decisions?

Waldstreicher: I do not have direct influence over these decisions but once your neighborhood is in agreement on what they would like to support, I am happy to be your ally in lobbying appropriate parties.

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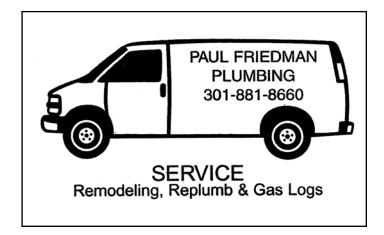
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December RCA General Meeting Minutes

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Deferral to RCA Execs Dan Hoffman and Matt Tifford to discuss locations – Two potential locations are proposed by the White Flint Sector Plan (Plan guiding development of North Bethesda Town Center, White Flint Metro and surrounding areas): Wyaconda Road (warehouse area adjacent to our neighborhood Wyaconda Rd) and a location further north on the tracks. The RCA supports a station at the end of Wyaconda Road as this would allow RCA'ers to walk to the station.

Q: We are lobbying for our Rocking Horse Center to be reopened as an elementary school to accommodate growth due to the White Flint Sector Plan (WFSP) yet the WFSP does not even acknowledge this due to politics with school boundaries – how should we approach this?

Waldstreicher: To be effective, you need to form an ally on the School Board as they make the school opening and closing decisions and can help press your goals.

Q: The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is in place yet the health of the Bay continues to decline. Why is this and what can be done to give the Foundation more influence?

Waldstreicher: This requires leadership from the State. In the past, targets for improvement were not put in place as the State is reluctant to clamp down on people doing the wrong thing, in particular poultry farmers that severely pollute the Bay. Our new Attorney General, Doug Gansler, is starting to fight these battles and I strongly support this.

In closing, Delegate Waldstreicher reminded the audience and Executive Board to keep him and his Aide, Ellen Townsend, abreast of our community issues to allow him to help where possible. *The Audience gave Waldstreicher a pleased round of applause*.

5. Old Business:

A. By-Laws Revision Approval

Dan Hoffman presented the overview of changes in the revised RCA By-Laws (document that sets forth the rules of engagement for the association) and the reason for the revision: to make the By-Laws accountable for fiscal status, to define actions more clearly, such as voting rules, and to define the roles of the Executive Board. He asked for a vote to either approve wholly or if not approved, to not address line items today, but to send them back to the committee for further review. A motion to approve was presented and passed by unanimous voice vote. Please Note the By-Laws can be found on the RCA website: www.randolphcivic.org.

B. Budget

Kevin Kline, Budget Committee, presented a vote to approve the RCA Budget. The budget was published in the previous *Echo* and handed out to the audience. A question arose on whether we are now positive in cash flow with a resounding YES as response. The budget was approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. Website

Karen Helfert, Webmaster, raised a discussion on revisions to the RCA Website. She plans to make several needed revisions and opened up to the community to make suggestions for improvement. She also urged the audience to join the RCA listserv if not already, as it allows for effective and efficient community communication and forms unity within the neighborhood. Matt Tifford also stressed the importance of the listserv; as an example he noted the recent issues with the Sam's Club membership and by using the list serv he could easily send updates. Matt Tifford is now in charge of the Sam's Club membership program.

To join the RCA listserv, simply go to the RCA Website and follow the instructions provided: www.randolphcivic.org/listserv/

6. New Business:

A. Membership Drive

Dan Hoffman introduced a plan for a Membership Drive across Spring 2009 to increase membership and involvement in the RCA. Dan provided a brief outline of why an increase in membership is important: membership has been declining over the past five years, there has been great turnover in the neighborhood with a number of new families entering and a number of longstanding neighbors losing touch with the RCA, and we would like to harness the ideas and energy of the entire community. A Membership Drive would not only help involvement with the RCA but it also would allow the RCA to learn more about its neighbors, the ideas and issues important to each.

Dan stressed that we are at an important crossroad in our community with a number of large scale development plans occurring around us; we need to ensure our neighborhoods are fairly represented and development is done in our best interest. He relayed the points discussed earlier in the meeting – a new Marc Station, a new Elementary School, and the improvement of our parks – as essential issues for us to come together and have a strong, united voice representing our interests. The more people involved, the louder a voice, and influence, we can bring to the community at large.

To accomplish this, Dan provided the audience with a document forming a six month plan to start with organization of a team of volunteers, division of the neighborhood into sections and assignment of each section to volunteers. Volunteers would then go door to door to meet and speak to our neighbors, providing information on the RCA, its goals and benefits, and providing our neighbors with a point of contact for questions.

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December RCA General Meeting Minutes

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Dan Hoffman will be the main point of contact for the Membership Drive. If you are interested in helping with the Membership Drive or the RCA in general, please reach out to Dan or any of the RCA Executive Committee Members – contact information can always be found on page 2 of the *Echo* or on the RCA website: www.randolphcivic.org.

B. Beach Drive Bike Path Bridge

George Gadbois, RCF President, provided an update on the bridge on the bike path along Beach Drive that has been closed for some time. He was told by Parks that the bridge will be up and running in Spring 2009.

C. Field Regeneration

George Gadbois noted that he has spoken with Parks about replacing the Field Regeneration Signs in our parks (fields need to be relatively unused during the dormant months of December 1 - March 15 to allow for regrowth of the grasses). He urges everyone to be proactive with our parks; if you see someone using the fields during the regrowth period, please contact Park Police.

D. Traffic Study

A question on whether it would be useful to study traffic in the neighborhood arose; Matt Tifford relayed that a traffic study was currently underway to determine if more speed deterrents should be installed around the neighborhood.

8. Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF) - Update

George Gadbois, RCF President, provided a brief update on the RCF status. The RCF board will meet in the coming months and determine a set meeting schedule moving forward. The application for 501c3 tax exempt status has been approved and should be in place shortly. He also wanted to relay the importance of dedicated RCF space in the *Echo* to allow the RCF to communicate updates to the neighborhood.

The meeting closed with the introduction of Lee Woodruff from Top Hat Homes as available for answering questions regarding the top level addition project they have completed on Ashley Drive. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm. ■



RCA Treasurer's Report by Lauren Lehman, CFA, RCA Treasurer

Our current balance is 9,089.57; however we will soon be making a transfer of greater than \$3,000 to Randolph Civic Foundation. This will leave us with a tight budget for 2009. If you have not yet paid your RCA dues, please do so! Contact our chair of membership, John Kehoe, and make your commitment to RCA official.

RCA Checking Register 11/24/2008 through 12/17/2008						
Date	Date Num Payee Memo Amount					
		BALANCE 11/	24/08		13,278.47	
11/24/08	dep	inc:dues		266.00	13,278.47	
11/13/08	21440	Deposit slip pr	inting	-37.25	13,241.22	
11/17/08	1071	Refund of Sam	ns Club & RCA Membership	-45.00	13,196.22	
11/17/08	1072	flower bulbs		-473.10	12,723.12	
11/20/08	1073	Echo:Printing		-1,325.00	11,398.12	
12/01/08	1074	Refund of Sam	ns Club Membership	-35.00	11,363.12	
11/05/08	-	return of depo	sited item and fee	-20.00	11,343.12	
11/07/08	dep	inc:dues		204.00	11,547.12	
11/12/08	dep	inc:dues		394.00	11,941.12	
12/02/08	1075	PO Box fee the	rough 11/30/09	-112.00	11,829.12	
12/21/08	1076	Sams Club Me	emberships	-2,680.00	9,149.12	
12/21/08	1077	Santa's Candy	Canes	-89.55	9,059.57	
12/17/08	dep	Advertising Inc	come	30.00	9,089.57	
	•	BALANCE 12/	17/08		9,089.57	

Sam's Club News

by Matt Tifford

On November 12th, Sam's Club instituted a new system for our group membership. Most members were assigned new account numbers. This means your old card probably no longer works, and will be rejected at the register. If you have not been to Sam's Club since November 12th, please go to the Gaithersburg Store membership desk for your new card before you shop. Give them your name, and tell them that you are with the Randolph Civic Association.

We apologize if this seems overly complicated, this is the way their system works; we have no control over it. The good news is that we won't have to do all this in the future; account numbers will not have to be changed ever again.

All members should go to the Gaithersburg Sam's only to get their new cards; once you have your new card you will be able to shop at any Sam's location. Please ask for Coach Patrick, Coach Habib, or Coach Ron if you experience difficulty. Unfortunately, we did not find out about this problem in time to publish in the December *Echo*. We regret any inconvenience you may have experienced.

NEW MEMBERS:

If you signed up for a NEW Sam's Club membership this year, your accounts are active. You should be able to go to Sam's and get your new card at the membership desk. ■



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The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

Calls Received November 14, 2008 to January 10, 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 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.

Below is a transcription of voicemail messages left on the RCA Hotline (301-881-2722) from November 14, 2008 to January 10, 2009. The Executive Board of the Randolph Civic Association reserves the right to edit the transcriptions for length and content but will not alter the essence or intention of the call.

Since the RCA Hotline is now using VoiceStick instead of Verizon, incoming telephone numbers now appear since caller ID is an included option with no way to turn it off. If you wish your number to be private when you call, enter *67 before dialing 301-881-2722 for your number to remain anonymous.

11-29-08 (Sat) at 4:13 pm Anonymous. Caller just received his *Echo* and is responding to a complaint regarding *Echo* delivery in mailboxes. Caller has received the last two issues in caller's mailbox but would prefer them to be left on top of the mailbox or at the foot of the door. Caller appreciates both the privacy of the mailbox and delivery of the *Echo*. Caller is also concerned about the drive-by shootings reported.

12-01-08 (Mon) at 4:36 pm Anonymous. Caller believes motorcyclists might be motivated by higher gas prices. Caller lives one block off Randolph Road and also hears them but knows that the speed cameras will get them.

12-02-08 (Tues) at 8:16 pm Anonymous. Caller read a mention in the *Echo* of a drive-by shooting on Wyaconda. Caller wishes to put rumors to rest as there was no shooting. A car window was broken out and four tires were punctured. The crime was not believed to be anonymous and police were called and are investigating.

12-06-08 (Sat) at 11:54 pm Not Anonymous. Caller would like more information on the Contractor Fair.

12-29-08 (Mon) at 5:23 pm. Not Anonymous. Two cars were broken into last night, including caller's, at the corner of

Ertter Drive and Hunter's Lane. Caller lost a few things, including a change purse, and caller's car was left a mess. Caller wanted others to know.

01-06-09 (Tue) at 9:52 am Anonymous. 11900 block of Rocking Horse Road. Caller's neighbor's house was broken into on Tuesday, December 30, 2008. Camera, iPod, cash, jewelry, was stolen. Caller just wants the neighborhood to know about it, and warn that people are casing houses in the neighborhood to try and rob them. Keep your eyes out and report any suspicious activity to the County police [301-279-8000]. Neighbors should be sure all their windows are locked and secured so they can't be either broken or kicked in. So there may need to be a new locking mechanism installed on their basement windows. Thank you so much. [The house was entered through a basement window – in broad daylight.] ■

Visit the RCA's Web site at www.randolphcivic.org

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Randolph Civic Association Paid Members for 2008-2009

by John Kehoe

Our membership count includes 473 households so far in this drive. The RCA budget has been very tight the last few years; please show your support by sending in your dues now! Stars by a member's name indicate the extra contribution amount given above the RCA's \$10 basic membership dues:

Ashley Tarello Hunsicker*** Pometto Heim Portocarrero**** Amaya Tifford** Javier** Houseknecht** Tincknell*** Jones** Astner*** Preston Kopyto** Kelly Austin Uren Rabinovitz Kwan Lalos*** Behram Virtue Family* Turner** Laquerre* Biondo & White** Wiacek Strobell Lee** Wvnn*** Linthicum** Bloomquist** Tedder **Forestvale** Zierdt**** MacWilliams*** **Boston** Zetti Durgavich Bradlev Roh Moeller Breon*** **Boiling Brook Creek Shore** Sullivan* Morlando* Perez** Brown, Sr.** Abelmann Brown Canick** Burns*** Applegarth, III** Rezapkin** Galena Churchill**** Bowdren*** Saunders*** Cregger** Casciano** Clarke** Dempewolf** Duarte Craft Teachum* Cline & Pillers-Cline**** Eggleston*** Fletcher** Dick Tremonti Cummings* Evers Diethrich** Jones Woo Dellasanta** Graffenberg* Flaherty** Kotzalas** Dikel*** Greening Gouveia Nix Lauderdale Drapkin** Kim** Hagberg* Harmon Remennik* Dziekonski Houser, III** Johnson-Weider* Walker** Lopez Evangelista** Kennedy** King** Schwartz* Senko**** Fagley Klain** Kormeluk Gaynor Hammersley*** Long Lepre* Adorian** Stockslager** Heffelfinger*** Mendes** Linares**** Wilson* Madsen Helfert** Marella** Osborne Preston Marques**** Hoffeld** Roche** Scherf** Macon Howard, M.D. Roesch Mock** Tungcod*** Amemiya Gaunaurd*** Hudgins*** Sanmartin Monahan** Ingberg*** Santoro Ramsev*** Gemstone Hooker Jardine** Stone Scappa** Brennan** Kroos** Jones*** Weisemann** Sheng Stewart Marshall Shutta** Troy*** Keller Wollenweber Moyer Stone Orenstein Laranjeira* Logee** **Brentford** Peppin Tao Grayling Marshall**** Calderone**** Reves Basiliko Tringuero Joyner** Martin Coral Watson Roberts Leffler** Mapes**** Middleton Ziese** Rukus Moore*** Mayen Whitaker Santorocco Namoradze-Ruhadze*** Mulauin **Ertter** Scott Bozzo*** Nichols Rosenstein **Hunters** Sonnenberg** Cogdell** Ojha Savage** Alfonzo* Stevens** Paysen Strock*** Del Fierro** Brown, Jr.** Stillwell**** Phelps** Uston Jackson*** Buonomo **Tigert** Prock** Weber* Tolson*** Kopyto* Campbell Rankin Correia Lim Vissari Feng*** Scala Coachway Luong Souder*** Gehlhar* Monongahela Burke* Marr Souder*** Martinez*** Ghirlando**** Freideman Biondo** Darrah** Stephenson Gobleck*** Olson** Guthrie**

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Marsden Noury Speer Tessier** Watts Watts*7

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Artola de Saldana*** Bogumill Chubb** Gideon** Karyadi Katz Koval

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RCF NEWS

President's Pen

by George Gadbois, RCF President

Happy 2009 to all! I open my message with fantastic news. The Randolph Civic Foundation has officially received notification and documentation from the IRS that we are now a bona fide 501(c)3 organization! Although this was the anticipated result, we received it much sooner that what we were told to expect. Thanks to help from our counsel, Mr. Steve Katz; he made sure all possible pitfalls were addressed, and consequently avoided a lengthy back and forth question and answer dialog between the IRS, Mr. Katz and the RCF. This was truly a "red letter" day. Thanks also goes out to Richard Zierdt for being instrumental in securing our counsel.

What does this mean? It means all donations you make to the RCF are tax deductible. Our EIN number is

26-0869458. We are classified as a "public charity" according to the IRS. A copy of the letter from the IRS with other information will be found on the RCF website: www.randolphcivicfoundation.org. Donations received by the RCF will be directed to other non-profit entities such as our Scout groups and other benefactors that are in line with our mission. Funds will also be used to "rent" space in the *Echo* for reporting RCF news and activities, as well as to defray incidental expenses. The officers and board of directors will approve all transactions. Input from the general RCF membership is welcomed and encouraged. We are investigating the ability to accept member-directed donations and anticipate that it will be permissible. Donation forms can be found on the website.

A board meeting was held on January 8 to discuss the budget, bylaws, our section in the *Echo*, the RCF website, meetings and other matters. Minutes of that meeting will be published in March. ■

RCF Treasurer's Report by Richard Zierdt, RCF Treasurer

As of January 10, 2009, RCF assets totaled \$4132.49. The RCF will donate \$1000 to the girl and boy youth groups it supports by June 30. Also, the RCF will pay for the portion of the *Echo* that it uses. ■

RCA Checking Register 08/31/2008 through 01/10/2009					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 08/29/20	08		621.43
09/26	1004	U.S. Treasury	501(c)(3) application	-300.00	321.43
10/10		Donation	Anonymous	1000.00	1321.43
10/21	1005	Steven M. Katz	Attorney - legal services	-616.00	705.43
01/08		Donation	Donations from You via RCA	3427.06	4132.49
		BALANCE 01/10/20	09		4132.49

RCF Executive Committee for 2008-2009						
OFFICERS President George Gadbois 4718 Topping Road 301-770-5386	Secretary Matt Tifford 11235 Ashley Drive 301-770-4377	Directors Mike Saunders 12107 Hunters Lane 301-468-9268	Dan Hoffman 4602 Wilwyn Way 301-938-7494	The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community.		
Vice President Chad Salganik 4818 Mori Drive 202-359-6158	Treasurer Richard Zierdt 4707 Coachway Drive 301-881-0283	Karen Helfert 11429 Ashley Drive 301-468-0236		RCF Web site: www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org Phone: 301-881-2722		

News from Pack 1081

by Don Gibbons



November and December are always busy months for Pack 1081 Cub Scouts. On Saturday, November 8th, along with Troop 1083 Boy Scouts, Scout leaders, many parents, and the following Cub Scouts from our Pack collected dozens of full milk crates of nonperishable food for the Manna Food Bank: Nathan Skirvin, David Ghuniam, Nathaniel Harley, Adrian Streed, Galen Gibbons, Emmett Gideos, Wolfie Woolard, Thomas Alder, Danny Hernandez, Sebastian Jardine, Mark Kimball, Pedro Cerriteno, Devon Parker, Mateo Streed and Matthew Kimball.

Since our last *Echo* column, the scouts have been working hard and have earned many advancement awards as follows: Tigers Nathan **Skirvin** was presented the beltloop for Citizenship. Wolves earned Sports and Academic Beltloops and Pins as follows: Daniel Hernandez, Galen Gibbons, Thomas Alder, Nathaniel Harley and David Ghuniam were presented with Citizenship beltloop. Earning the Bowling beltloop were Nathaniel Harley, Galen Gibbons, Thomas Alder and David Ghuniam. Galen Gibbons also earned the beltloop in Computers, while Nathaniel Harley earned BB Shooting and Archery.

In our Bear den, Mark Kimball earned the Computers Academic pin. For the Webelos I den, Devon Parker and Sebastian Jardine earned the Bowling beltloop and the Citizen Webelos Activity pin. Webelos II Scouts earned awards as follows: Cameron Lett, Matthew Kimball, and Mateo Streed were awarded the Webelos Activity pin for Craftsman. Matthew Kimball also earned the Academic pin for Computers. The Presidential Fitness Challenge Participant Award was presented to

Damien Raber, David Ghuniam,
Jordan Pitts, Devon Parker, and
Adrian Streed. The Presidential
Fitness Challenge National Award was
earned by Thomas Adler, Galen
Gibbons, Wolfie Woolard, Sebastian
Jardine, Kevin Sahonero and Mateo
Streed. The Presidential Fitness
Challenge Presidential Award was
earned by Nathaniel Harley and
Matthew Kimball.

On Sunday November 23rd , the following Scouts took part in an outing to the White Oak Duckpin Bowling Lanes where they learned

about strikes, spares and open frames: Devon Parker, Sebastian Jardine, Galen Gibbons, Thomas Alder, Cameron Lett, Wolfie Woolard and Nathaniel Harley.

On Sunday, December 7th, the Pack sang holiday carols for the seniors at the Randolph Hills Nursing Center. On December 13th, the pack went to Mt. Vernon to lay an all-natural hand-made wreath complete with fresh pine cuttings, pine cones, and holly. The scouts that went to Mt. Vernon included **Thomas Alder**, **Nathaniel Harley**, **Adrian Streed**,

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Matthew Kimball, Sebastian Jardine, Mark Kimball, Jordan Pitts and Mateo Streed.

Our Holiday Pack Meeting took place on Thursday, December 17th. This fun-filled annual event featured music, crafts, caroling, decorations and a somewhat expected visit from Santa himself, who had gifts for all the kids. On the following Sunday, December 21st, our Webelos II scouts helped Santa hand out candy canes with the Troop 1083 Boy Scouts on a fire truck ride through the Randolph Hills neighborhood. After the Holiday break, several boys and parents will spend some time designing, cutting, filing and sanding Pinewood Derby cars at a couple of upcoming afternoon work-shop sessions. At press time, the Pack is looking forward to the Webelos Klondike Derby on Saturday, January 24th and the Pinewood Derby event on Saturday, January 31st . Happy New Year to all our readers! If you are interested in learning more about the Cub Scout program for your 1st – 5th grade son, please stop by Viers Mill ES any Monday evening. It's never too late to join! Please visit our website location for more Pack 1081 news and pictures: http://www.pack1081.org. ■

Keep in touch with your neighbors!

Join the RCA Yahoo Group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/



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News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Leora Hernandez

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

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time! And we thank you in advance for supporting not only our troop but all Girl Scouts when you purchase them. We have already started taking orders and should start delivering cookies sometime mid-February. The sale ends at the last week of March.

The cookies this year will be Dos-Si-Dos, Samoas, Lemon Chalets, Tagalongs, New – Dulce-de-Leche, Sugar Free Chocolate Chip, Thin Mints, and Trefoils. The cost is \$3.50 per box, the same as last year. If your New Year's Resolution is to cut out sweets, you can still help the Girl Scouts out by buying our boxes to donate to the Troop's Gift of Caring choice. Our troop has yet to decide who we will be donating our gifts to but in the past we have sent them overseas to the military troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. The troops greatly appreciate a little taste from home.

We will be selling Girl Scout cookies at Safeway Loehmann's Plaza sometime in February or March but we do not have the date and time yet. Feel free to call me, Leora Hernandez, at 301-933-0460, if by some chance you didn't get your Girl Scout Cookie fix and I will arrange for one of the girls in our troop to take care of you.

Activities:

In November the troop participated for the first time in the Downtown Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade. It was a super cold and windy day and the girls were exceedingly wonderfully patient as we waited two hours to start. They enjoyed throwing candy out to the crowds of spectators as they passed by. The highlight for them was getting their picture taken with Ms. Maryland at a local restaurant afterwards.

In December we celebrated the girls' accomplishments with a pot luck dinner and performed an investiture ceremony to welcome in the new girls. All of the girls rededicated themselves to living by the Girl Scout Law and Promise.

In January we went to the Young Chef's Academy to cook up some sloppy joes, brownie soup and stuffed baked apples. Those of us parents who stayed had to endure the great smells coming from the kitchen while they sampled their work. The girls left with an enthusiasm about cooking. I can't speak for the other girls but my own daughter made sloppy joes and the baked apples for the family the next evening with great pride.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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 is not responsible for the quality of goods or services offered.

WATERCOLOR CLASSES. Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, informal classes for adults. All levels welcome, including complete beginners. Held in teacher's Victorian home. Martha Seigel, MFA, the American University, 27 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

When visiting or calling our advertisers, please mention the ECHO. Thank you for supporting your community!

Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2008-2009 Issue year are:

March 2009 February 6
April 2009 March 6
May 2009 April 3
June/July/August 2009 May 8



Fall Leaves and Winter Snow: Here's Your Help

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

Moses (Bubba) Hart 301-230-2740

Jennifer Moy 240-672-4921

Anthony Gadbois 301-770-5386

Gregory Gadbois 301-770-5386

David Santos 301-468-1756

Noelle Valenta 301-816-0293

(also available for babysitting and petsitting)

Important Phone Numbers	
Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)240-773	
Park Police	
(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	7-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)301-840)-2454
Animal Control	3-5960
Building Permits	7-6200
Consumer Affairs	7-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	5-4000
Department of Natural Resources800-442 (wildlife nuisance problems)	2-0708
Disability Resources	7-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	7-0744
Housing Code Violations	7-3600
Large Item Pick-up240-777	7-6410
Libraries: Hours, etc	
Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info202-63	7-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	3-5900
Motor Vehicle Administration)-1682
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance240-777 (noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor	
Parking Tickets	3-0113
Parks: Information & Permits301-495	5-2525
PEPCO: Power Out	
Post Office, Rollins Ave., Rockville301-23	1-5973
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)	7-3986
RCA Hotline	1-2722
Recycling Info (www.mcrecycles.org)240-777	7-6400
Recreation Information	7-6804
School Information	9-3391
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)240-777	7-4999
Street Light Out (metal poles)	7-2190
Street Light Out (wooden poles)	2-3432
Transportation (Highway Services)240-777 (to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti,	
Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)240-77	7-7433
Trash Collection	7-6410
Tree Maintenance (ask for county arborist)240-777	7-7623
Voter Registration	7-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	6-8000
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	

Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park 2008 Market Review!



Randolph Hills	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Average List Price	\$288,133	\$343,071	\$429,402	\$443,736	\$433,882	\$353,967
Average Sale Price	\$288,102	\$344,496	\$433,028	\$441,028	\$424,703	\$339,295
Lowest Sale Price	\$225,000	\$289,900	\$350,000	\$368,000	\$315,000	\$220,000
Highest Sale Price	\$359,900	\$410,000	\$510,000	\$505,000	\$519,000	\$437,000
Average # Days on Mkt.	28	17	19	64	89	95
Sales per Year	65	60	47	58	29	25
Franklin Park	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Average List Price	\$309,580	\$398,553	\$459,507	\$458,686	\$452,684	\$374,500
Average Sale Price	\$304,100	\$396,626	\$457,536	\$454,000	\$448,129	\$366,000
Lowest Sale Price	\$290,000	\$318,500	\$400,000	\$425,000	\$430,000	\$333,000
Highest Sale Price	\$325,000	\$480,000	\$545,000	\$522,000	\$465,000	\$399,000
Average # Days on Mkt.	29	30	22	80	105	102
Sales per Year	5	15	14	7	7	2
Montrose Park	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Average List Price	\$314,254	\$415,087	\$435,967	\$499,000	\$486,600	\$404,475
Average Sale Price	\$321,000	\$414,437	\$437,333	\$489,000	\$460,000	\$370,000
Lowest Sale Price	\$310,000	\$380,000	\$420,000	\$489,000	\$430,000	\$350,000
Highest Sale Price	\$332,000	\$441,000	\$450,000	\$489,000	\$479,000	\$415,000
Average # Days on Mkt.	21	22	7	16	103	29
Sales per Year	2	8	3	2	3	4
Randolph Farms	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Average List Price	-	\$440,600	\$574,778	\$520,580	\$550,000	\$435,267
Average Sale Price	=	\$444,211	\$571,000	\$527,160	\$535,000	\$423,967
Lowest Sale Price		\$359,900	\$435,000	\$405,000	\$535,000	\$395,000
Highest Sale Price	-	\$527,427	\$716,000	\$695,900	\$535,000	\$469,000
Average # Days on Mkt.	=	52	27	47	104	171
Sales per Year	_	6	5	5	1	3





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