

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 54, Issue 4

January/February 2011

SNOW: What To Do

by Mark Nensel

So, have you bought your new snow shovel yet? Do you have rock salt or some variant so you can de-ice your sidewalk and front step? Do you have brushes and scrapers both inside your car, and in your house? There are so many things to remember when it comes time to cope with snow, ice, sleet, slush, lousy drivers, un-shoveled sidewalks, and stolen cleared parking spaces.

Certainly one thing, actually make it two things we all remember is the unforgettable Snowmageddon double-whammy of snowfalls we received in February of 2010. It was February 6th when the first mega-storm hit the region and dumped 26 inches of snow in RCA-land. The power went out in many homes in the region, for 16 hours or longer. On Wednesday February 10th the second mega-storm hit and we received another 10 inches. The federal government closed down for four days, Monday through Thursday.

It's true that Pepco has not, in one year, managed to 'underground' the entire region's power lines so they can ensure constant uninterrupted service. It is clear that undergrounding would be a vastly complex and costly enterprise; so much so that it will not likely happen anytime soon, if ever.

But Montgomery County has made a significant leap into high-tech storm management with the debut, this past December, of the MCDOT Storm Operations website: www5.montgomerycountymd.gov/snowmap, which features an interactive map that displays the progress of snow

plows throughout the county and indicates when emergency roads, primary neighborhood streets and neighborhood streets have been cleared.

"Following last year's record-breaking snowfalls, I asked all our departments to find ways to better communicate with residents during storms," said Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett. "After looking at commercial, online, map systems that track real-time status of snow plowing operations, our departments of Transportation and Technology Services decided that they could put together a far less expensive and more effective tool that

specifically meets Montgomery County's needs."

Each road category, whether an emergency/main route or a neighborhood street, is designated on the map by a different color. Snow Emergency streets are indicated in red. Primary Neighborhood roads are in blue. Smaller neighborhood roads are in brown. When a snowstorm begins, the road colors go faint. When the plows start moving, a yellow border highlighting a street indicates that plowing has begun. When the street color has return to a vibrant red, blue

or brown, the street has been plowed.

In RCA-land, the following streets are Snow Emergency Routes (they are prominently marked as such with red and white signs): Randolph Road, Parklawn Drive, Nicholson Lane, Boiling Brook Parkway, Schuylkill Road, Rocking Horse Road and Garrett Park Road. The Primary Neighborhood Roads are: Gaynor Road, and Hunters Lane (North of Randolph Road).

The map includes an icon that allows residents to see road views from any of the

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A screenshot from the new snow plow tracking system

Upcoming Events

RCA General Membership Meeting

February 3rd, 2010 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

RCA Executive Board Meeting

March 3rd, 2010 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

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President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

It's time to manage expectations. For about the past six months I have been serving on the Montgomery County Organizational Reform Commission, after having been appointed to the Commission by the County Council. The task of the Commission was to identify ways Montgomery County could save money by reorganizing or consolidating functions. I am one of eight Commissioners (four were appointed by the Council and four were appointed by the County Executive) who met on average twice a week to develop recommendations that could potentially save the County money.

During the course of this process we were briefed by virtually every department head in the County, from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Health and Human Services Director Uma Ahluwalia. We received information on the cuts they had already made and the outlook if forced to cut more. It's really not pretty. The recommendations the Commission will make at the end of January could save the County millions of dollars, but even when you assume the best of our recommendations, it only closes a small portion of the coming budget gap. Much attention is being paid to the compensation and benefits of County employees, but that was not within the scope of the Commission. Other groups (the Office of Legislative Oversight) were tasked with studying compensation and benefits and have released their report. Many people also fault the labor union influence in the County for our problems. Although they do hold significant influence, it would be unfair to place our current budget woes solely at their feet. Our current situation in Montgomery County is a result of many factors, not solely the decisions of one person or group. The County will need to change, grow and adapt to the current reality if we wish to maintain our current quality of life. Standing still is no longer an option, because we can no longer afford to pay for the level of service we have received in the past. So what does that mean for RCA-land?

Although we are

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RCA Telephone Number: (240)668-4722.

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

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

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

Neighborhood News in Brief

- **The Randolph Book Club is a neighborhood reading group that meets each month to discuss a book suggested by one of the members.** Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of each month; beginning at 8:00 pm. Members take turns hosting the meeting in their home or at a casual restaurant nearby. Books selected for discussion include fiction and non-fiction, classics and current literature. Books should be readily available from the library or in paperback at bookstores. Please see the Book List Database for our current reading list and meeting schedule. Join the Book Club Yahoo Group now! <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolph-bookclub>
- **This spring, the RCA will be moving forward with plans to begin replacing many of our neighborhood signs.** We will also be exploring the possibility of adding signs at entrances that do not currently have them. At the upcoming February RCA meeting, the RCA will present design ideas for the new signs. Please come out to help us select a design we can all be proud of!
- **Thank you to Kendra Fletcher for all her hard work and creativity in her role as the Echo advertising coordinator!** Unfortunately Kendra is having to step down from this role and we are searching for someone who can take on this responsibility. The role involves reaching out to potential new advertisers and coordinating with existing ones. Don't worry, there's no cold calling involved and the time commitment is reasonable. Please contact Dan Hoffman at dan@randolphcivic.org if you are interested.
- **Welcome Cindy Zelaya as the new chair of the membership committee! And a big thank you to John Kehoe for his years of service in this role!** John maintained our membership database and managed the logistics of processing hundreds of renewals each year. Thank you John. If you have any questions about membership please contact Cindy at (301)984-1006.

Do you have a quick bite of news you'd like to share with the neighborhood? Please feel free to submit a few sentences to info@randolphcivic.org by the deadlines posted on page 7 of this issue. Thank you!



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Local Wildlife Photo Exhibit Features Randolph Hills Subjects

by Mark Nensel

Vickie Baily is a local photographer and resident of neighboring community Garrett Park. She currently has an exhibit of photographs of local wildlife on display at the Penn Place Gallery in the center of Garrett Park. Included in the exhibit are photographs of 68 birds. There are also foxes, raccoons, deer, rabbits, chipmunks, turtles, frogs, and snakes. The photos were taken in and around Garrett Park, Rock Creek Park, Randolph Hills Local Park and Lake Bernard Frank.

The show is the result of a year-long private bio-search. "I was already taking daily walks in and around Garrett Park" said Baily. "I decided to start carrying my camera with its telephoto lens to see what I could see."

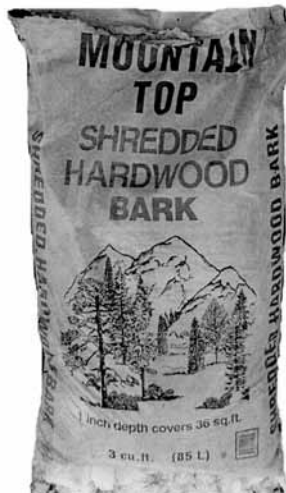
The 57-year-old mother and step-mother insists she was a normal citizen when she began this process, not a birder, or naturalist. "I had gotten discouraged ... because of all the TV programs that make it sound like it's already too late for us to save the wildlife," Baily says. "I wanted to see for myself what was out there."

Baily declares her "greatest hope from this exhibit is to show that even as an amateur naturalist, it is possible to see a tremendous amount". The Penn Place Gallery is at 4600 Waverly Avenue, Garrett Park, MD 20896. See www.garrettpark-md.gov for more information. The exhibit runs through February 5th.



This photo of a Great Blue Heron was taken near the Garrett Park Road bridge over Rock Creek.

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Community Fixtures:

Local Eateries

by Christiana Drapkin

Have you noticed how Randolph Hills is surrounded by a surprising array of great eateries? There are authentic Korean restaurants and an amazing Asian supermarket at Veirs Mill & Randolph Road. Rockville Pike has oodles of choices, from the newly relocated Silver Diner to the 5-month-old Agaiinn Tavern -- a big and well-designed place with live music on Wednesday evenings, a diverse young clientele, and true surprises on the menu (pork jowls appetizer!). There's Addie's, and there's the Black Market Bistro in Garrett Park, both part of the inspired quartet of restaurants run by Jeff and Barbara Black.

Even on a budget, we've got Amina Thai, their Italian neighbor Il Pinito, the Vietnamese Hoa Binh "Pho" restaurant, the Lusitania Café, and the Far East Restaurant. I'm sure you all have your favorites. We invite you to weigh in with your own write-up in the next Echo -- send us a couple of your hot picks, from quick-bites-on-the-run places to a reservations-only evening out.

Here are two from me, a devoted foodie. I'm always curious about diverse ethnic cuisines. I'm more inclined to the healthy side of things, but I won't shy away from an awesome churrascaria plate if the mood strikes.

Right here in our Randolph Hills Shopping Center I had a quite unexpected dining adventure at Mem Sahib, an Indian restaurant right next to the Kosher Mart. Our first attempt to dine there was a strike-out: car after car pulled up in front of the restaurant, disgorging dressed-to-kill diners. Gentlemen in suit and ties, snazzy shoes, sleek haircuts, dazzling smiles, Raybans, escorting ladies in coiffures, silk dresses, saris, designer heels, baubles, bangles, and beads. IT was quite the fashion promenade. As it turned out, the whole restaurant was reserved for a birthday party. We snuck a glance at the beautifully decorated place, and breathed in enticing aromas. We resolved to come back another day.

The following weekend we made a reservation and dressed up for a real date. The evening dinner is not a la carte, but an elaborate prix-fixe affair. We were seated on a low banquette. Our waiter coaxed us to hold our hands over a lovely-looking bowl, and then poured rose-water to cleanse our hands. After this welcome ablution, we ordered wine, and then sat back to let course after course of the Indian feast be revealed.

We were not prepared for the non-stop Bollywood music videos, but we quickly got into the spirit of it all. During a lull between courses, we sat back and watched some of the hilarious goings-on. After the fourth music video, we could discern the two or three recurring themes. Boy meets group of girls. Girls dance and tease, lead girl makes eyes at boy. Bunch of boys get their main guy back to romp and dance through the streets of Bombay / a Raja palace / the beach. Group of girls dance more, and then everyone dances together. Aunties interject, bring about

order and decorum. Main boy charms aunties, who then all get into the groove. Main boy and main girl start dancing together, and then the entire family, friends, chickens and monkeys join in for the big finale. It's irresistible and it's fun.

Around nine o'clock, two Indian musicians struck up the band, and a belly dancer emerged, all veils and sequins, sporting a turban with candles perched on top for the famous fire dance. Oh, we loved it! After the first couple of numbers, the belly dancer invited diners, young and old, men, women and children, to get up and get funky. All that dancing and belly-shaking really helped; the exercise was the only way to make some room for dessert.

Mem Sahib also offers buffet lunches, which might be a more economical first encounter with the restaurant. Their kitchen turns out such a variety of tasty dishes that one visit will surely not suffice. Mem Sahib Indian Cuisine, 4840 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 468-0098 <http://www.memsahibrestaurant.com/rockville.php>

My other pick, for breakfast or lunch on the go, just a couple of doors down from Mem Sahib, is Goldberg's New York Bagels. As a relocated Brooklynite, I know my bagels, as do Goldberg's many devoted customers. Often while waiting in line to be served at the counter, customers engage in spirited discussions, always agreeing that Goldberg's kosher bagels are just as good as the ones on Thirteenth Avenue in Brooklyn. "It's the Brooklyn water," one lady states, "the Bensonhurst bagels still have an edge." But I can't tell the difference in the H2O particulars. I'm just thrilled to have fine kosher bagels right here in our neighborhood. Goldberg's kosher bagels have a perfect density; they're chewy, tangy, fresh out of the oven, and they're mostly gone by 2 p.m. Don't forget the lox and cream cheese, the kippered salmon; and check out the containers of ready-made matzo-ball soup and other treats.

Diners can eat in at Goldberg's basic cafeteria-style tables. In December, I was thrilled to see that they had traditional latkes -- the homemade potato pancakes which are a staple of Hanukkah festivities. Goldberg's also caters. Check out their party platters and the rest of the kosher menu. And keep in mind that they observe the Sabbath: they close early on Friday afternoon through Saturday. But come Sunday morning, Goldberg's re-opens, and the bagels are fresh and warm. Goldberg's New York Bagels, 4824 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville, MD, 20852, (301) 816-9229, <http://goldbergsbagels.net/>

[Editor's Note: In the future The Echo will attempt to include more reviews for specific restaurants in or around RCA-land. If you're interested in writing one please contact Mark Nensel at marknensel@yahoo.com for guidelines. In order to submit you must be an RCA member and have no formal or informal affiliation with the restaurant you are reviewing. Reviews will be accepted at the discretion of the editor.]

President's Message

(continued from page 2)

one of the largest, most active, civic associations in the County, we are still only a very small wedge of a very big, diverse County. Managing the needs of our rural areas to the north around the agricultural reserve, the more urban areas down county, the commercial hubs, industrial zones, and sprawling suburban neighborhoods is a challenge. If you've ever driven up to Damascus, you'll understand. The needs of one area are not the needs of another. RCA-land is a very interesting case study in this. Consider the following factors facing RCA-land:

- We border a massive park, an industrial zone, an aging arterial (Randolph Road), and an area about to undergo significant redevelopment (White Flint)
- We have access to mass transit (Ride-On, MARC, and Metro)
- We are a sprawling collection of aging single family homes in various states of repair
- We need infrastructure improvements in almost all areas (schools, roads, energy, and transit just to name a few)
- We are very diverse. When considering that statement do not limit your thinking to skin color. We have a balance of blue and white collar workers. We have a strong mix of young professionals, families, and retirees.

How is this different than any other Montgomery County neighborhood? Many neighborhoods are much more homogeneous in one or all of those areas I just mentioned. As a result, just managing this civic association is a challenge. Because of our diversity, County leaders have begun to look more at RCA as an indicator and sounding board for new ideas.

Consider a recent guest contribution in the Echo from Rollin Stanley, Director of the Montgomery County Planning Department [Echo Volume 54, Issue 2 – November 2010]. In the article Mr. Stanley posits that the County must change and grow if it wants to pay for all the things it is accustomed to having. On this there is little argument. The question is, how will we adapt to meet the need? The recommendations of that Commission I mentioned earlier are helpful, but a drop in the bucket compared to the real need.

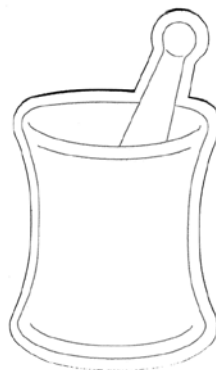
The answer may be found in something that, at first glance, appears very boring and mundane: the rewrite of the County zoning code. The last time it was rewritten was 1977 and consists of 1,300 pages. Over 30 years later, times have changed and the need has changed. The zoning code guides how the county is developed and grows. It can also either power or inhibit the economic engine of the County. The Planning Board has brought in outside consultants for a fresh look at our code. They

have provided a first draft that I urge you to take a look at (it's available at www.zoningmontgomery.org). If you do, I want you to think about the concepts in it. Then I want you to remember three things:

1. These are just tools in a tool box. What may not work in RCA-land, may be just what is needed in other neighborhoods in our big, diverse County.
2. Don't be afraid. True, the tools may not be used properly each and every time, but this is where groups like RCA are important. Stay active and help us make common good decisions for the neighborhood. However, we can't let fear dictate our decisions.
3. The next twenty years will not be like the last twenty and we can't change that. If your vision for the future looks a lot like what we have now, then you may be disappointed. There is a difference between protecting our quality of life and protecting the status quo.

Two percent of the County is zoned for commercial or mixed used. That's right, only TWO PERCENT. Add another 48% that is set aside for parks and the agricultural reserve, and 50% that is zoned single family residential and you have our County. That doesn't leave us much room for new jobs, new businesses, and as a result, new tax revenue. You may have noticed that I never really answered the question, "What does this mean for RCA-land"?

It means we are going to change and need to plan and engage now for the future. County leaders want to know what we think, and in turn the RCA needs to know what you think. Our next RCA meeting (Thursday, February 3rd at 8:00pm) will focus on our neighborhood priorities. Show up, get informed and get involved.



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December Executive Board Meeting Minutes

by Christiana Drapkin

Attending Officers: Dan Hoffman, President; Chad Salganik, Vice President; David Matera, 2d Vice President; Christiana Drapkin, Secretary; Attending Committee Members: George Gadbois, Karen Helfert, and Matt Tifford)

Meeting called to order by Dan Hoffman at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting APPROVED by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report – to be postponed until next meeting

New Business:

Winter Event. RCA is planning a Community Day, possible date Thursday, February 24, 2011, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (This date is to be confirmed or changed, and the main organizer to be designated.) The table tennis club Jolla is a potential location. RESOLVED by unanimous voice vote: that RCA donate \$100 to the event for snacks and decorations. *[RCA Note: Subsequent investigation found this date to be unsuitable. Event planning is on hold and we will reassess feasibility at the next meeting.]*

Membership Renewals: Cindy Zelaya is updating our membership count, which is now 500+. There are still about 50 members from last year who have not yet renewed. RCA will organize a short, focused telephone outreach campaign, to boost the renewals, and to encourage more renewals, especially in areas, where we've had sparse renewal rates.

The Waverly-Schuylkill Park has won an environmental design award! Congratulations! Informational signs will be added to the park.

County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): We're discussing what RCA's priority should be in this year's round of suggestions that can be allocated from the CIP planning and budget process. In past years, recreation center repairs, or the building of a skate park (in other communities) were among projects that were supported. RCA usually weighed in on issues like schools, safety, neighborhood revitalization and beautification. Some ideas discussed for this upcoming year: improve the blighted stretch from Parklawn and Boiling Brook Parkway toward Ashley, where railings crossing Boiling Brook are broken and unsafe; accommodating a buffer between the industrial-zoned properties on the corner of Schuylkill and Boiling Brook Pkwy, and the Schuylkill houses; a skate board park. Other overall traffic-calming issues were discussed, the Rocking Horse Road traffic flow, safety, beautification, as well as revitalization. We want to set up another meeting with Ken Hartman and the traffic planner, who had given us some good ideas at last summer's meeting.

RCA is following closely the White Flint I implementa-

tion phase, waiting to see how the financing and development falls into place. We want to be ready to be a part of the next step, the White Flint II planning process, together with other neighborhoods and county officials.

Railway Quiet Zone: the railroad stretch by Kensington had been implemented as a "Quiet Zone", with a federally regulated reduction of train whistles blowing. Our Garrett Park public pedestrian crossing was discussed, with possible efforts of a safety upgrade.

At our February meeting we want to devise a work plan with our list of priorities, among them: Code enforcement: housing code; permitting services; some ordinances are softer than they should be, some enforcement measures regarding violations seem ineffective, with insufficient follow-up; addressing Housing and Community Affairs; Large vehicle resolution / commercial vehicle resolution were passed, they need to be enforced; Montrose East: state transportation plans are in place, but not yet the funding; Arbor review: what trees are being cut down? Are replacement trees being scheduled? Skate park: could be a nice asset to the neighborhood, supporting physical activity.

Old Business:

The bridge leading to the Randolph Hills playground had some erosion damage. Park maintenance crews came and did some repairs: they shored up the downstream banks with rocks and boulders, removed some dead trees and vines that were impeding water flow during heavy rain on the upstream side of the bridge. Thank you.

Neighborhood Watch: Dave Matera reported that officer Prather is ready to schedule training for our neighborhood watch. Activities are usually slower in the winter months, but Dave hopes more neighbors will volunteer and sign up for our neighborhood watch to make it viable and effective.

PEPCO: Some residents have reported old, frayed street wires that might not have been upgraded in decades. This is a safety issue and fire hazard and one of the points to be addressed at upcoming PEPCO hearings.

Education: George Gadbois gave an overview on the Wheaton HS modernization, where there is an ongoing down-county consortium roundtable discussion the design, student flow and interaction of the schools to be combined. A formalized version of their deliberations should be ready after their 12/16/10 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2010-2011 Issue year are:

March 2011	February 18th
April 2011	March 11th
May 2011	April 15th
June/July/Aug 2011	May 20th

SNOW: What to Do

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County's nearly 200 traffic cameras. Information about the location of bus stops and Metro stations is also provided. The online map system enables residents to report an intersection that needs additional sand or salt. Residents can also report a missed unplowed street, or a damaged mailbox.

Remember that many roads in the County are not cleared by the County's Department of Transportation (MCDOT). All of the County's State-maintained, numbered roads, such as Veirs Mill Rd (MD Route 586), Georgia Avenue (MD Route 97), Rockville Pike (MD Route 355), and Strathmore Ave / Knowles Ave (MD Rte 547) are cleared by the Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA). For more information on current "real-time" operations of Maryland's highway system, visit the MSHA's Coordinated Highways Action Response Team (CHART) site: <http://www.traffic.md.gov/>.

During a snowfall, it is MCDOT's intent to salt and sand nearly 1,000 lane miles of primary (arterial roads connecting subdivisions or business districts) and secondary roads (main collector streets through subdivisions) and keep them in "bare pavement" condition. This ensures that in case of an emergency every County resident is within one-half mile of a cleared road. As snow accumulations reach three inches, plowing operations begin and all attention remains focused on keeping primary roads clear to ensure emergency access.

Once the snow stops falling and major roads are clear, crews then turn their attention to snow removal from more than 4,100 lane miles of neighborhood streets. MCDOT emphasizes that their goal is to make these streets passable, but not clear them to bare pavement.

MCDOT general guidelines for snow removal are: it takes about 16 hours following the end of a three-inch snowfall to plow or treat every County road once. After a 10-inch snowfall, major and primary County roads should be cleared and neighborhood streets made passable within 24 to 36 hours. Snow removal will continue until all streets have been treated at least once. After a 15-inch snowfall, crews should complete their work in about 36 to 48 hours. After a 24-inch snowfall, crews should complete the work in about 48 to 60 hours. MCDOT's workforce consists of 200 employees with 175 pieces of snow removal equipment. They also employ 180 contractors with 225 pieces of equipment.

Yet coping with the snow does not solely involve County and State agencies. The rest of it lies with all of us, individually, and as neighbors, to keep our community operating and passable. In fact it is County law: all residential, multi-family and commercial property owners must clear their public sidewalks within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm. The law requires a written warning about a violation before allowing a \$50 civil fine if, within 24 hours after the warning, the situation is not corrected.

Additionally, the Montgomery County Commission for People with Disabilities reminds residents that those indi-

viduals who use walkers, wheelchairs, baby strollers, etc., need 36-inch wide sidewalks. So take a bit of extra effort and clear more than just the width of a shovel. And if certain neighbors are unable to shovel their walks due to health reasons, help them and your neighborhood out by shoveling their walk for them.

The Montgomery County website www.montgomerycountymd.gov features quick links to Winter Storm information, as well as the above-referenced Montgo County snowmap. Links to the local power companies (Allegheny, BG&E, and Pepco) are also offered (Pepco's site is: www.pepco.com/home), as well as links to Montgomery County Public Schools for information regarding school delays and closings (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency).

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RCF NEWS

RCF President's Message

by Matt Tifford

Although it seems like a long way off, Spring is coming and the RCF is looking forward to sprucing up our sign areas. Thanks to your donations, we will be working on funding new masonry signs, and improved plantings at the sites. There are quite a few signs, and a lot of legwork will be required for each one, so we will be looking for volunteers to help spearhead specific sign areas. Volunteers will need to help raise more funds for each sign, and work on obtaining permits and coordinating with sign companies. If you are excited about the prospect of improving a sign (perhaps one that you walk or drive by everyday) please consider joining the effort. Let's all work together to beautify our community!

RCF Executive Committee for 2010-2011

OFFICERS

President

Matt Tifford
11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

Vice President

Lindsay Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-775-9807

Secretary

Bob Walker
11813 Ashley Drive
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Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Directors

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Karen Helfert
11429 Ashley Drive
301-468-0236

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

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

www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org - Phone: 240-389-4723

Help Make our Community a Safer Place Become a RCA Block Captain



The RCA Safety Committee is reviving the neighborhood watch program. The goal of the program is to make our community a safer place and to increase communication regarding safety issues and other neighborhood concerns.

Becoming a Block Captain simply means joining the RCA Safety Committee email listserve and keeping an eye out for safety issues on your street.

Email safety@randolphcivic.org for more information and to learn how you can help.

News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Tania Bingcang

Happy New Year!!! Girl Scout Troop 1028 ended 2010 with so many fun-filled activities and welcomed 2011 with exciting plans for the kids. The year starts with a strong pull on Cookie Sales! Troop coordinators have started gathering parents and their daughters to pick up the Cookie Forms and start sales as soon as possible. Our service unit held a rally on Saturday, Jan. 8 to kick off the Cookie Selling for this year.

Flashback 2010: The Brownies worked on the Eat Right Stay Healthy theme. They made a calcium rich snack called Sweet-za (just like pizza but it's on a waffle topped with fruits like strawberries, blueberries & mangoes). They learned the food pyramid, and participated in fun exercises like dancing. Early December, the girls made lovely vases from used glass bottles and decorated them with a variety of colored tissue paper. With the holidays approaching, they had the opportunity to participate in caroling with the Cub scouts at the Randolph Hills Nursing Home Center. In preparation for this event, the girls made greeting cards to give to the elderly.

The girls truly had a blast! Again, we send our sincerest "Thank You" to G.S. Troop 1028's parent coordinators who have dedicated their time and effort in continually supporting our girls. Here's to 2011, to another year of fun and bondingcheers!

PLANNING ON SELLING YOUR HOME?

KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING TO BUY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Why not choose someone who knows your neighborhood personally?

My Grandparents were original owners in Randolph Hills. They purchased their home on Topping Rd. in 1955, where I spent extensive amounts of time growing up. Sadly, it was sold in 2009 as part of my Grandmother's estate.

Put my extensive knowledge of your neighborhood to work for you! Contact me today.

COREY GAQUIN



3410 N. High St, Olney, MD 20832
Office: 301-924-8200 Direct: 301-938-6223
Corey_Gaquin@verizon.net

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Venture Crew 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

Venture Crew activities went into semi-hibernation in December, as youth members and adult advisors took a break from school and/or work and spent some time relaxing with their families.

That's not to say nothing was happening, though. There were some planning meetings to discuss matters large and small, and the Crew showed it continues to settle into a routine of self-directed operations as it matures. (Venture Crew self-governance is modeled on small businesses, and the youth members learn useful leadership and organization skills. It's more work than other scouting entities, and the potential rewards are greater, too.) Among the items discussed was a planned High Adventure excursion involving a week of sailing on the Chesapeake this coming summer.

The Crew participated in the fire truck ride with Santa, too. As senior elves, Crew members took the

morning shift (along with some older Boy Scouts) for delivering candy canes to local residents.

Also in December, the Crew redesigned and reconstructed the famous chariot/sled that was ridden to victory in last year's Klondike Derby. If you've forgotten, the Klondike is a midwinter campout. The crew competes in outdoors, camping, and first-aid skills against other crews and scout troops. Odds-makers say Crew 1083 is the favorite to repeat as the 2011 winner.

Come to think of it, December was a pretty busy month, after all. Coming events include a curling outing and skiing/snowboarding. This group is definitely an all-season outfit!

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



As senior elves pose for a group portrait, a slogan is born.

Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster

The Troop 1083 family would like to extend its gratitude to the many friends and neighbors who supported us during our successful Christmas tree sale in November and December. It's always nice to see the familiar faces of our repeat customers, to meet new customers, and to greet old friends who stop by just to say hello. We truly appreciate the support we receive from the community!

If you were in the neighborhood on December 19th, chances are pretty good you heard the sirens of St. Nick's fire truck. (Every year on the Sunday before Christmas, Santa gives the North Pole toy shop elves the day off, so he can visit his friends in RCA-land one last time before his big night). If you heard Santa's sirens, I bet you saw him too! Santa's other elves, the scouts of Troop 1083 and the Webelos Scouts of Packs 1081 and 493, were on hand to give out candy canes to all the good boys and girls in the neighborhood.

That same evening, after Santa flew back to the North Pole, the Troop enjoyed its annual post-fire truck ride Holiday Party. In Troop 1083 tradition, the potluck meal was spectacular. As the Troop grows, the party gets bigger and bigger every year!

In January the scouts will be putting their winter weather preparation and scout skills to work at the Klondike Derby campout at Little Bennett State Park, and in February they will enjoy the annual skiing/snowboarding trip to Ski Liberty in Pennsylvania.

Just a reminder, the Troop is now accepting mulch orders for (free!) delivery in mid-March. There's an order form in this issue of the ECHO. Don't let it slip your mind – order today!

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

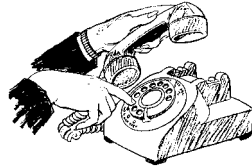


A Santa sighting in RCA-Land

The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received November 23rd
2010 through January 9th, 2011



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

12-10-10 (Fri) at 9:58am. Not Anonymous. Caller is from 120xx Galena and this is the third time since September that caller has not received an Echo. Caller would sure like to get one. *[RCA Note: We passed your message along to the Scouts and hope your Echo was received promptly.]*

12-18-10 (Sat) at 12:41pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is calling from 119xx Ashley Drive and wants to publicly thank her neighbor, Ben. After he finished shoveling his sidewalk, he continued all the way up the road in front of the park at the foot of Coachway and shoveled all that out too. I know that people who walk dogs and get home by walking really appreciate it. It was really nice of him to do that for us. Thank you! *[RCA Note: What a great message - our community is as vibrant as we make it! It's also a reminder that, as the weather turns cold and snowy, we should all be good neighbors by checking on folks around us and either offering or asking for help when it's needed.]*

12-28-10 (Tues) at 11:06am via info@randolphcivic.org. From Vickie Bailly. "I just sent an announcement for your calendar, but I'd be happy to give more information if you have a place to post something longer. I'm a local photographer who set herself the task of seeing how many birds and animals she could photograph in a year. Many of the pictures were shot here in Garrett Park (where I live, and where the show is being hung) but many others were shot in nearby Rock Creek Park (i.e. Randolph Hills Park!) and a few of them were shot at Lake Bernard Frank, an easy bike-ride up the paved trail. I have a sort of press release I could send you if you'd be at all interested. Thanks! *[RCA Note: See article on Page 4]*

12-29-10 (Wed) at 7:36am via info@randolphcivic.org. Not Anonymous. "Just wanted to report that our car was broken into and the GPS and other small items were taken. We are located on Boiling Brook Pkwy.

Happened Christmas."

12-30-10 (Thurs) at 11:23am. Not Anonymous. 46xx Coachway. Wanted to let the Civic Association know that one of our original homeowners in the Randolph Hills section died on December 26th. There will be a viewing at Pumphry's on Sunday and the burial at St. Jude's Catholic Church on Viers Mill Road on Monday. There will also be an obituary in the Washington Post.

01-01-11 (Sat) at 10:06am. Not Anonymous. Someone stole caller's trash cans last night. Caller had three - one was a medium blue color, one a dark green with a tan top and the other was a short brown one with no top. Caller's address was painted on both the cans and the tops. The address is 119xx Ashley Drive. To be honest, caller doesn't think caller will ever get them back but wanted to let RCA know this had happened. Happy New Year!

01-04-11 (Tues) at 1:48pm. Anonymous. Caller is a resident of Franklin Park and wants to report excessive speeding on Hunter's Lane and Ertter Drive. These drivers need to be mindful that there are children walking to school and to their bus stops. It's a major concern of many. *[RCA Note: Please obey speed limits in RCA-land. Our streets can be curvy and congested with parked cars, limiting visibility and throughways. Excessive speeding is an avoidable hazard]*

Neighborhood Watch Update

Several burglaries occurred on Rocking Horse Road over the past year and RCA has been in contact with MCPD about these crimes. We are pleased to report that four arrests have been made in connection with some of these break-ins towards the end of the calendar year. We are still gathering information from MCPD and this is all we can report at the time of this publication. MCPD will send a representative to the meeting on February 3rd to provide us with a more in-depth report.

Call for Nominations

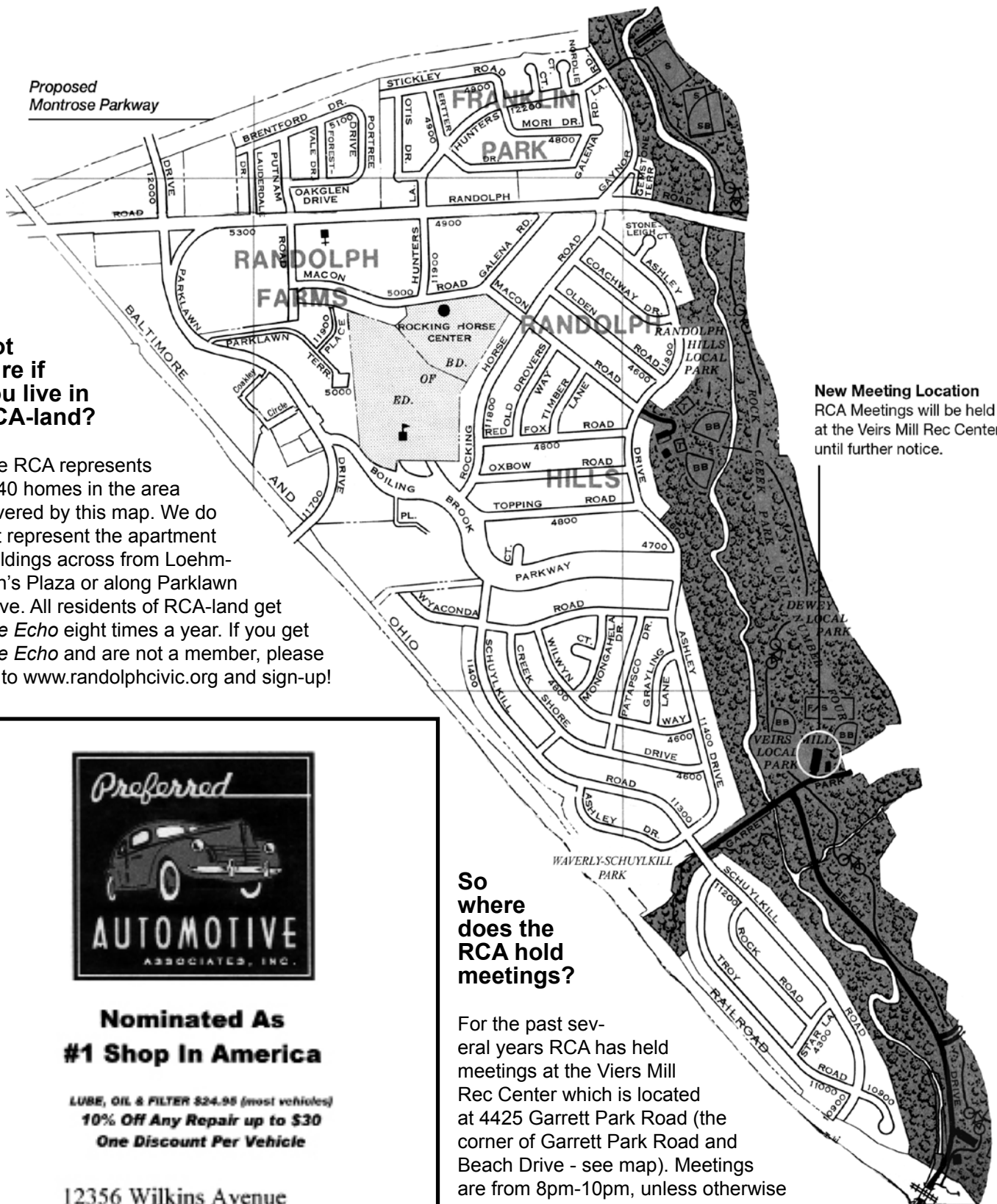
It's that time of year again, and we could use some more volunteers to help us run this great organization. We will make the official call for nominations at the general membership meeting on February 3rd. All Board positions are up for election except the two Director positions held by Karen Helfert and Brian Hooker. Per a change to the by-laws last year, the Treasurer elected from this slate will serve a 3-year term. Please let us know if you are interested. Nominations must be received by any Board member before the RCA meeting on March 3rd or can be sent to info@randolphcivic.org. The slate of candidates will be approved by the Board at the March meeting and the membership vote will occur at the April meeting.

Loehmann's Plaza

5200 – 5290 Randolph Road, Rockville MD



Boston Market	(301) 984-0990
Care Cleaners	(301) 816-2092
Chuck E. Cheese	(301) 468-2491
Congressional Bank	(301) 984-6000
Dollar Tree	(301) 231-6097
Hair Systems	(301) 881-0338
Lifestyle Spa	(301) 468-9770
Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
Royal Martial Arts	(301) 770-1007
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-4672
West Marine	(301) 230-0945



Not sure if you live in RCA-land?

The RCA represents 1340 homes in the area covered by this map. We do not represent the apartment buildings across from Loehmann's Plaza or along Parklawn Drive. All residents of RCA-land get *The Echo* eight times a year. If you get *The Echo* and are not a member, please go to www.randolphcivic.org and sign-up!

New Meeting Location
RCA Meetings will be held at the Veirs Mill Rec Center until further notice.



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www.preferredautomotive.com

So where does the RCA hold meetings?

For the past several years RCA has held meetings at the Veirs Mill Rec Center which is located at 4425 Garrett Park Road (the corner of Garrett Park Road and Beach Drive - see map). Meetings are from 8pm-10pm, unless otherwise noted in *The Echo*, and held on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings are not held during the summer and are optional in January. The next meeting is February 3rd and we will have an update from MCPD along with a discussion of our work plan for the coming year.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

WATERCOLOR CLASSES. Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, friendly classes for adults. No experience necessary. Patient teacher works with each student individually. 30 years experience. Call Martha Seigel 301-946-5388.

Yardwork Service Available. Contact Greg Gadbois if you need assistance with chores such as leaf raking, lawn cutting or snow shovelling. Call 240-499-5337.

"Meals on Wheels Rockville" is in need of drivers and visitors daily. The duty takes about 1.5 hours, one day a week, two days a month or an occasional substitute duty. If you can help serve the elderly, infirm, or incapacitated people in our neighborhood to have a hot meal and a cold meal delivered daily five days a week, please call Meals on Wheels at 301-340-1559 for more information or to volunteer.

Join Your Neighbors Online



The RCA Yahoo Group is a great resource for keeping up with happenings in RCA land. Need a recommendation for a local handyman? Looking for a babysitter or dog walker? Want to learn more about local activities? Have an idea to improve our neighborhood?

Get in on the conversation at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>



Important Websites

Randolph Civic Association	http://randolphcivic.org
Montgomery County	www.montgomerycountymd.gov
Montgomery County Parks	www.montgomeryparks.org
Montgomery County Schools	www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
Washington Metro Area Transit Authority	www.wmata.com



Important Phone Numbers

Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	240-773-6070
Park Police: Emergency	301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)</i>	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	240-773-6411
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6260
Consumer Affairs and Protection	240-777-3636
Crisis Center Hotline (24 hours)	240-777-4000
Department of Natural Resources	877-463-6497
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Services	240-777-3000
Fire Marshall (Non-Emergency)	240-777-2457
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3785
<i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Locations, Accounts, Etc.	240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus (wmata.com)	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society (Non-Emer)	240-773-5960
Montgomery County Humane Society (Emer)	240-773-5900
Motor Vehicle Admin (mva.maryland.gov)	800-950-1682
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Report Power Outages	877-737-2662
PEPCO: Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Pollution Complaint (Dumping, Noise, Burning)	240-777-7700
Post Office: Rollins Ave, Rockville	301-231-5973
Montgomery County Public Schools K-12	301-309-6277
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept)	240-777-1245
RCA Hotline	240-668-4722
Recreation Classes	240-777-6870
Recycling Info	240-777-6410
Senior Programs (55+)	240-777-4925
Street Light Out	240-777-6000
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Tree Maintenance	240-777-6000
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-4001
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-7700

If any of these websites or phone numbers are incorrect, please email info@randolphcivic.org or call the RCA Hotline at 240-668-4722.



Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park 2010 Market Review!



Randolph Hills	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Average List Price	\$429,402	\$443,736	\$433,882	\$353,967	\$313,250	\$329,885
Average Sale Price	\$433,028	\$441,028	\$424,703	\$339,295	\$306,915	\$326,282
Lowest Sale Price	\$350,000	\$368,000	\$315,000	\$220,000	\$219,900	\$225,018
Highest Sale Price	\$510,000	\$505,000	\$519,000	\$437,000	\$370,000	\$400,000
Average # Days on Mkt	19	64	89	95	61	41
Sales per Year	47	58	29	25	30	33



Franklin Park	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Average List Price	\$459,507	\$458,686	\$452,684	\$374,500	\$358,700	\$369,417
Average Sale Price	\$457,536	\$454,000	\$448,129	\$366,000	\$358,725	\$360,833
Lowest Sale Price	\$400,000	\$425,000	\$430,000	\$333,000	\$335,000	\$345,000
Highest Sale Price	\$545,000	\$522,000	\$465,000	\$399,000	\$400,000	\$370,000
Average # Days on Mkt	22	80	105	102	25	35
Sales per Year	14	7	7	2	4	3

Montrose Park	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Average List Price	\$435,967	\$499,000	\$486,600	\$404,475	\$365,667	-
Average Sale Price	\$437,333	\$489,000	\$460,000	\$370,000	\$362,333	-
Lowest Sale Price	\$420,000	\$489,000	\$430,000	\$350,000	\$302,000	-
Highest Sale Price	\$450,000	\$489,000	\$479,000	\$415,000	\$395,000	-
Average # Days on Mkt	7	16	103	29	10	-
Sales per Year	3	2	3	4	3	0

Randolph Farms	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Average List Price	\$574,778	\$520,580	\$550,000	\$435,267	\$266,633	\$329,000
Average Sale Price	\$571,000	\$527,160	\$535,000	\$423,967	\$271,633	\$328,667
Lowest Sale Price	\$435,000	\$405,000	\$535,000	\$395,000	\$245,000	\$247,000
Highest Sale Price	\$716,000	\$695,900	\$535,000	\$469,000	\$319,900	\$370,000
Average # Days on Mkt	27	47	104	171	110	21
Sales per Year	5	5	1	3	3	3


Denise
Szczur
301-452-5544



 *Happy New Year!* 

Long and Foster Realtors
6000 Executive Boulevard, North Bethesda, Md 20852
(O) 301-468-0606 (C) 301-452-5544

email: Denise.Szczur@lnf.com



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