

# The ECHO

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association*

Volume 56, Issue 4

January/February 2013

## It's Block Party Time!

*By Matt Tifford*

A new year has dawned. Springtime and summer are just a few months away, and it's never too early to start planning your year. Have you ever thought that you would love to have a Block Party, but have been intimidated by the prospect of planning such a big event? If so, we have put together a handy guide to help! The good news is that once you get one under your belt, these really aren't hard to put together. Like most things worth doing, the hardest part is doing it the first time since every step of the way is new and full of uncertainty. Hopefully, this guide will help make that first journey an easy one.

**Organize your group.** The first thing you will want to do is organize a core group of at least four households. Of course, you certainly could pull it off with fewer people, but we want this to be easy, right? So, your first task is to chat up your neighbors. As the planning progresses and word spreads, your group will likely grow. I highly recommend that this core group consist of folks who use e-mail on a daily basis. That doesn't mean that non e-mail users can't help out, but they probably shouldn't be part of the core planning group. Phone calling back and forth between multiple people takes a lot of time. If you have a few people who really want to do a block party, but are too busy to spend lots of time on the phone, then the speed and efficiency of e-mail is a real must.

**Apply for RCF Sponsorship and a County Permit.** Go to [Randolphcivicfoundation.org](http://Randolphcivicfoundation.org) and click on the "Block Party Info" link in the bottom left-hand corner. You will find links for both the RCF Sponsorship Form and the County Permit Application. Print out both applications, fill them out, and then follow the submission instructions on each application. Once you have heard back both from the county and the RCF, you are ready to go.

**Prepare a Party Tracker.** Now we get to the good stuff: The Block Party Tracker. This simple spreadsheet is

the key to turning a huge stressful event into an easy, well-coordinated group effort. Plan on starting at least 6 weeks ahead. It may take up to two weeks to get your county permit and confirmation of RCF sponsorship may take as much as three to four weeks if you mail your application (e-mailed applications turn over much quicker). So in the meantime, you should go ahead and get your core planning group started. Agree to e-mail the Block Party Tracker spreadsheet around until you have brainstormed a good outline of all the party elements that will be listed on the spreadsheet, and until all the tasks to make those elements happen have been claimed. Your group will want to plan regular weekly e-mails (maybe every Sunday night) so you don't end up feeling like you are nagging everyone to do their assigned jobs. On the website, once again under "Block Party Info", you will find a link to download the Excel spreadsheet titled "Block Party Template". You can use this sample tracker as a template and then send it around in your weekly e-mail. Have people view the tracker and then e-mail you their ideas and task signups. Don't let them edit the Tracker themselves though, only one person should be in charge of updating it or things will get very confusing! Each week when your group reads the updated tracker, they will be reminded of the tasks they have signed up for, and will be motivated to sign up for tasks that haven't yet been claimed. They also may be inspired to chime in with new party elements that could be added to the list.

**Plan your budget.** Make sure to discuss a party budget with your fellow organizers. The RCF Sponsorship will cover up to \$150 of non-alcohol expenses, but costs can easily exceed that amount depending on how fancy you make the party. For example, a small moonbounce rental will eat up that \$150 all by itself. One way to deal with this problem is to plan on soliciting all attendees to chip in but also have the core group pledge to cover any excess costs equally. You will probably cover all your costs from attendees' donations, but if their

*(continued on page 14)*

## Upcoming Events

### **RCA General Membership Meeting**

February 7th, 2013 8:00pm-9:30pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

**Guest Presenter: Wheaton High School Principal, Kevin Lowndes; Special Topic: Neighborhood Priorities for 2013**

### **RCA Executive Committee Meeting**

March 7th, 2013 8:00pm-9:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

## RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2012-2013

### OFFICERS

President  
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4818 Mori Drive  
301-275-2874  
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Mara Greengrass  
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Lorena Moyer  
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301-938-7494

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Nick Kriesle  
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301-770-0119

## President's Message

by Chad Salganik, RCA President

Happy New Year, neighbors. The holiday season has now passed, but not without a couple RCA traditions that make our neighborhood special. Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 1083 for arranging to have Santa cruise through the neighborhood on the fire truck. And thank you to Christiana Drapkin for organizing and leading the Holiday Carolers. My youngest son and I were personally serenaded by a group of festive revelers, which was impressive. These are but a few of the things that make our neighborhood a wonderful and unique place to live.

Since the last Echo, there have been new developments on projects slated for White Flint. First, on November 19th, Archstone presented their early concepts for the Montouri property at Nebel St and Old Georgetown Road, the wooded lot across from Harris Teeter. Their plan calls for a five or six story residential building with approximately 250 units. Construction could begin in the next couple of years. Days after the presentation, Archstone was purchased by two other development companies, so this particular project's status remains unclear.

Next, on December 10th, Federal Realty Investment Trust presented their vision for Pike & Rose at their Phase 2 Site Plan and Preliminary Plan Amendment Pre-Submission Meeting. The first phase is currently under construction at Mid-Pike Plaza. Phase 2 could start early next year, with the first sub-phase wrapping up in 2016. Phase 2 includes a hotel, residential, retail, and park space.

Lastly, on January 14th, Foulger-Pratt and Promark presented their plans for East Village at North Bethesda Gateway. This property sits at the intersection of Nicholson Lane and Huff Court, next to White Flint Mall. The development includes two six-story residential buildings with a total of 640 units, and features retail space at the ground level. The developers hope to break ground by the end of next year.

For more information on these projects and to stay up to date with White Flint development, I recommend you point your web browser at the recently re-launched Friends of White Flint website, <http://www.whiteflint.org>. They've been doing a tremendous job keeping track of all the development news.

**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, and Randolph Farms. Deadline for submission of articles varies; the next deadline is noted in each issue. If you would like to send an article in for consideration, please email the article to [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org).

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

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

# Helping Randolph Area Sellers

*Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park, and Montrose Park Sales*

## Last 10 Randolph Civic Area Home Sales

Status	Address	Beds	Baths	Listed	Sold	Sold Date	Seller Help
Sold	4905 Randolph Rd	3	2	\$389,900	\$389,000	1/4/2013	\$0
Sold	4802 Oxbow Rd	3	1	\$265,000	\$270,000	12/21/2012	\$0
Sold	11808 Timber Ln	3	2	\$359,900	\$359,900	12/14/2012	\$12,500
Sold	4813 Wilwyn Way	3	2	\$365,000	\$365,000	12/13/2012	\$5,000
Sold	11401 Ashley Dr	3	2	\$414,900	\$400,000	11/17/2012	\$0
Sold	11009 Troy Rd	3	1.5	\$339,000	\$327,500	11/12/2012	\$0
Sold	4806 Wyaconda Rd	3	2	\$374,900	\$375,000	11/8/2012	\$2,500
Sold	12106 Otis Dr	3	2	\$300,000	\$312,500	11/6/2012	\$0
Sold	4813 Mori Dr	3	2	\$424,900	\$404,000	11/5/2012	\$1,500
Sold	12128 Gaynor Rd	4	2	\$439,900	\$439,900	11/1/2012	\$5,000

## Just Sold (Chris Mann Real Estate Co.)

**4802 Oxbow Rd**

**3BR 1BA**

**List Price: \$265,000**

**Sold Price: \$270,000**



**This home sold** in 7 days. We received 5 offers. Through negotiating I was able to get the price up from our initial offer of \$250,000 up to \$270,000, \$5,000 over list price.

We also negotiated no home inspection and selected an all cash buyer. This home was in bad condition and in need of full renovation. Over a week, we provided enough time for all those interested to see it. We had 20 unique showings.

Through high traffic and by creating a competitive environment we delivered the maximum price. I will do this for you as well. **The sellers were thrilled.**

**I am happy to talk with you about your home sale.**

**(240) 497-0408**

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**Considering a short sale?** I am an expert. I am happy to answer your questions.

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## Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Call for nominations!** It's that time of year again, and we could use some more volunteers to help us run this great organization. This is the official call for nominations as required by our by-laws. All Board positions are up for election except for two Director positions held by Matt Tifford and Mara Greengrass. Please let us know if you are interested. Nominations must be received by any Board member before the RCA meeting on March 1st or can be sent to [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto: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.
- **The RCF is planning a Stream Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 6 from 9 am to 12 noon.** This will be done in conjunction with the local Boy Scouts. We have a lot of litter in our streams and throughout our neighborhood so please lend a hand. More details will be provided in the next Echo and on the list-serve in March.

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## More Ways to Care for Your Community

by Brian McGahey

The Randolph Lions Club is a fun loving group of people who enjoy serving their community. We are especially interested in serving youth in the community, sight and blindness issues and meeting other community needs. We are local volunteers that are part of an international organization. In our community we sponsor Cub Scout Pack 1081, buy eyeglasses for needy people, collect used eyeglasses for international redistribution, support the Lions camp for deaf and blind children and adults and support Lions projects for vision research. Our meetings are a fun social time.

If these ways of caring for your community interest you, or if you just want to learn more, contact Ray Mitchell at 301-770-7750 or Brian McGahey at 301-770-7882. Currently we meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Ambrosia Restaurant at the Giant Flagship shopping center, 12015 Rockville Pike.

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## December General Meeting Minutes

by Jason Ott

1. Call to order: 8:05 PM
2. Old Business
  - The pedestrian refuge is installed and the crosswalk has been painted on Randolph Road. It seems to be slowing traffic down closer to the speed limit. There has been a concern expressed about west-bound traffic trying to turn left onto Hunters Lane.
  - Amber Tedesco had a conversation about getting pedestrian crosswalks painted on streets around Viers Mill crossed by children on the way to school. The principal is supportive. A formal request will be placed with Montgomery County. RCA, in addition to other groups, filed a request for an additional crossing guard around Viers Mill. We are awaiting a response.
  - Membership in RCA is approaching 390 families. Forms are still being received, and we are on pace to surpass last year's membership. Residents are appreciative of the reminder notes and calls.
3. Standard Business
  - Chad Salganik and Dan Hoffman reported on the White Flint Development. Federal Realty is showing their proposal for Pike and Rose at 7 PM on Monday, December 10th. Also, the wooded property on Nebel Street has a proposal to be developed. RCA will try to monitor planning for storm runoff mediation for Boiling Brook. North Bethesda Market 2 (the extension of the Whole Foods building) will be built out towards Nicholson by JBG. Finally, Europe Autocars on Nicholson will be developed into The Citadel. Things are developing and changing all around us. Stay informed by going to [www.whiteflint.org](http://www.whiteflint.org), which will work as an information hub for all of these projects.
4. New Business
  - Matt Tifford reported on an issue with parents at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School dropping off children at the median. Parents seem to be ignoring the school's procedures, creating traffic and safety concerns. The school seems hesitant to change, improve, or enforce their policy. Matt will write a letter requesting that the school improve their procedure.
  - Parts of RCA-land have been redistricted for police services. Homes north of Randolph Road remain in District 1. Dount of Randolph falls into District 2 (Bethesda). An implementation plan will be developed to help officers transition.
  - Christiana Drapkin reminded everyone that there are two more Mondays of caroling in RCA.
5. Committee Reports
  - Nick Kreisle provided the Treasurer's Report and reported that all RCA Membership checks have been deposited. Advertising revenues are up this year, which will cover the increase in membership recruitment costs.
  - Dan Hoffman gave an update on the Echo. There is discussion about increasing the number of pages in the Echo. The current distribution of pages and what articles people like were discussed.

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• George Gadbois provided an update on the program changes at Wheaton High School. He is representing RCA on the Wheaton Advisory Committee, which includes stakeholders from Wheaton and Silver Spring. They are looking at the vision for the program and the Project Based Approach. The proposed building will have minor adjustments in design to meet the needs of the Project Based Approach.

6. RCA Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.



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Karen Wood has over 25 years of experience teaching piano to adults and children. She earned a Bachelor of Music with major in Piano and minor in Voice, and guides her students by standards of the National Guild of Piano Teachers.



## Important Websites

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



## 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 <i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)</i>	301-949-3010
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 <i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	877-463-6497
Disability Services	240-777-3000
Fire Marshall (Non-Emergency)	240-777-2457
Housing Code Violations <i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc)</i>	240-777-3785
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Locations, Accounts, Etc.	240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus ( <a href="http://wmata.com">wmata.com</a> )	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society (Non-Emer)	240-773-5960
Montgomery County Humane Society (Emer)	240-773-5900
Motor Vehicle Admin ( <a href="http://mva.maryland.gov">mva.maryland.gov</a> )	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) <i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	240-777-7623
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](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) or call the RCA Hotline at 240-668-4722.*

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### Note to Echo Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2012-2013 Issue year are:

March 2013.....	February 15th
April 2013.....	March 1st
May 2013.....	April 12th
June/July/Aug 2013 .....	May 24th



## Sheba Taste Sensations

*Restaurant Review by Mark Nensel*

The first thing one has to understand about Ethiopian food, even before one enters Sheba Ethiopian restaurant, at 5071 Nicholson Lane – practically on RCA-Land's doorstep – is: this is a meal you eat with your fingers. More precisely, this is food you eat with a modest piece of injera bread folded around a morsel of aromatic and savory meat or vegetable. It could be beef, collard greens, chicken, lentils, shrimp, eggplant, lamb, or tilapia – simmered and coated in an exotic sauce, flavorful and sometimes spicy hot.

This is something new for our area, something different, exotic, African. It is a welcome addition to our neighborhood, in that it offers an opportunity to try unusual tastes, textures, and methods of eating. Sheba is a recently opened restaurant residing in the location of the former Il Pinito Italian restaurant, up on Nicholson Lane just before it meets Nebel Street.

The Washington DC metropolitan area is home to numerous Ethiopian restaurants, among them Dukem on U St in D.C.; Meskerem in Adams Morgan; Zed's in Georgetown; Langano in Silver Spring. But Sheba is the first in our area.

It is an inviting, clean and contemporary restaurant, with ethnic decorative touches - colorful artwork, native furnishings. The sweet white honey wine Sheba Tej is available and recommended to complement the variety of tasty Ethiopian mainstays – Tibs Key Wot (beef cubes in spicy Berbere sauce); Menchet Abish Alich (ground beef in turmeric sauce); Doro Tibs (chicken and spinach in traditional spices), or the unusual but delicious Doro Wot (generous chicken leg in a spicy sauce served with a hard-boiled egg. Really.) Vegetarian plates and Vegan plates abound as well – the always-tasty and healthful Gomen (collard greens and carrots); Shiro Wot (seasoned chickpeas in a creamy sauce); Key Misir (lentils slow-cooked in Berbere sauce).

The fun and pleasure in Ethiopian food is getting a bit of everything, all in one large platter, and utilizing torn pieces of the floppy, soft and spongy injera bread -- which looks like a large cloth napkin that you can eat – to scoop up pieces of a serving and pop in your mouth, or in your date's mouth. Ethiopian dining can be the beginning of a very enjoyable and romantic evening, as it is fun to share different dishes' taste sensations with your dining partner.

Sheba makes it easy to try out its different dishes, in the form of 5 different samplers, which are served on (and soak into) a large platter of the sourdough injera bread, accompanied by additional injera breads for utensil use. There are three meat samplers, a vegan sampler, and a vegetarian sampler. All three of the meat samplers come with a vegetarian side. These are an economical way to try out several different dishes on one sitting, and go for \$13.95 to \$15.95.

It would be nicer if Sheba was a bit less expensive; the entrees start at \$9.95 and top out at \$15.95. But it is a

quality and tasteful restaurant, and offers a fascinating dining adventure in very near proximity to our neighborhood. We should encourage this kind of culinary diversity; and it is recommended that RCA-land's residents give our new neighbor a try.

Sheba Ethiopian Restaurant. 5071 Nicholson Lane, Rockville MD. 301-881-8882. Dine in or take-out. <http://www.shebarockville.com>

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## Girl Scout Troop 1079

*By Leora Hernandez*

This troop is for girls in the Sixth to Twelfth grades. At the Cadette troop level the girls will have opportunities to grow leadership skills, earn SSL hours, and have fun!

To report on our recent excursions -- Madame Tussauds Wax Museum was a lot of fun! The girls were surprised at how tall or short some of our presidents were. The museum allows you to get up close to the figures, and to pose for photos and touch them.

A. Hernandez and J. Molina participated in the Santa Ride last December, handing out candy canes in the neighborhood.



*Troop 1079 posing with Juliette Low's wax figure*

We are currently preparing for World Thinking Day. This is an annual event held in February that is celebrated by all Girl Scouts all around the world. The troop has selected Portugal as their country. They will create a poster display of facts about the country, prepare a food to share, and make SWAPS to exchange with other troops in our service unit.

It is Girl Scout cookie ordering time. We will be taking orders. Don't worry about your New Year Resolutions -- the cookies will be delivered in February long after your resolutions are over! But if you are serious about your diet, we also accept donations. We haven't decided yet which charity will receive our Gift of Caring but that is another option that can help you to keep your resolution and help the troop. Thank you for all your support!

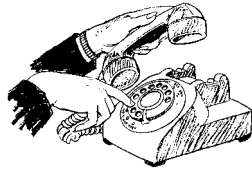
Girls in 6th-12th grade interested in joining us? Contact Leora Hernandez at 240-593-9318 or [leorah2o@yahoo.com](mailto:leorah2o@yahoo.com) for more information.

# The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

**Calls Received November 7th,  
2012 through January 22nd, 2012**

*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 reserves the right to not publish calls longer than 1.5 minutes due to the time it takes to transcribe and cost to publish. You can always email the RCA at [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) or submit an article for publication to the Echo editor.*



11-8-12 (Thurs) at 6:18am. Not Anonymous. Received via [Info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:Info@RandolphCivic.org). I thought it might be important to include something in the newsletter to alert neighbors about a safety concern. My 14 year old daughter was stopped 2 mornings in a row on the way to the school bus on Hunters Lane by a man in a black car asking if she needed a ride. I feel like we have a safe neighborhood, but scary things can happen, so a heads-up for folks to be alert. Thanks.

11-15-12 (Thurs) at 10:53am. Anonymous. Viers Mill Baptist Church is starting with a new series of movies. We probably missed telling you about the one on November 10th but we have the one coming up on December 8th at 6pm in the smaller sanctuary of Viers Mill Baptist Church, just north of Burger King on Veirs Mill Road. We have refreshments provided. Parents can bring their children and if kids are too small to sit in the movie, we'll have a nursery for them. Come and enjoy yourself. It's free. We'll have movies on 1/12, 2/9 3/16 and 4/13. Thank you very much. Come on out and enjoy yourself. Bye.

11-15-12 (Thurs) at 12:34pm. Anonymous. Those kick-outs there on Boiling Brook are the stupidest things I've ever seen in my life. I actually went to school there. I walked to school but the school buses unloaded in the driveway in front of the school. That's what that oval driveway is all about; why it's so long and the school is so set back. So that cars, buses, etc., can pull off the traffic road and onto the school property proper and unload the children where it's safe. Not out in the public byway. It's amazing that anybody would design such a mess. They didn't know how they used to do it. Why would they do it this way? They had to know how they used to do it when it was a public school. Why didn't they just continue to function in that fashion? Now we have to undo something. Thank you.

11-25-12 (Sun) at 12:31pm. Anonymous. Hi. I would

like to voice my negative vote for getting the concrete bump-outs in the neighborhood. The ones we already have are making driving difficult especially when people park on the bump-outs as though they are regular curbs, thereby reducing the width of the road even more. This is particularly true with a Barwood cab that parks overnight near the park. If a bump-out is installed near the shopping mall, it will be tough for anyone with trailer or long vehicle to turn. If the bus is stopped at the bus stop, it will block traffic. Two lanes are needed in that location. Pedestrians need to use common sense, too, and are safe if they look. I don't know of any pedestrian accidents there during my 40 years in the neighborhood. It's also going to make snowplowing difficult and dangerous. *(Because this message was over three minutes in length, the transcription has been abridged)*

12-1-12 (Sat) at 2:38pm. Not Anonymous. Received via [Info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:Info@RandolphCivic.org). Good Afternoon, we wanted the neighborhood to be aware that our car was broken into while parked in our driveway on Ashley Drive, and some items were stolen. It appears that we may have forgotten to lock our doors.

12-10-12 (Mon) at 2:33pm. Not Anonymous. Hello. We have a truck and a trailer full of yard cutting equipment down on Putnam. This guy does not live in this neighborhood but he keeps this truck and trailer parked in this neighborhood. We've called before and you've had it towed away. Is there some way you can stop this man from parking in this neighborhood since he does not live here? Thank you very much.

12-13-12 (Thurs) at 2:07pm. Not Anonymous, Same Caller. Hello. We have a truck and a trailer with lawn cutting equipment and the people do not live in this neighborhood but they are parked down on Putnam. They have been there for a while. They keep coming back even though they've been told to stay out of the neighborhood. Is there some way you can stop these people from parking in the neighborhood? Thank you very much.

12-18-12 (Thurs) at 9:37am. Not Anonymous. I live on Hunters Lane and just discovered last night that the PEPCO guy is going to install smart meters today. I didn't receive a notice that they were supposed to be doing that and I wondered whether others in the area did. Also, the Echo Hotline section said we could just call and refuse it. Not true – they want it in writing 90 days in advance. But, in advance of what is the question. I just wondered if anyone else had encountered this.

1-20-12 (Sun) at 10:18am. Not Anonymous. Received via [Info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:Info@RandolphCivic.org). Dear RCA Welcome Wagon, my husband and I would like to thank you for the thoughtful and warm welcome you left at our door yesterday. We are very excited about being part of such a caring community! Looking forward to meeting many of you at the next RCA meeting on Feb 7.

---

## Thank You to our Holiday Carolers!

The 2012 Holiday Carolers had a grand time wandering the streets of RCA-Land for three consecutive and blessedly-balmy Monday December evenings, singing over 30 different carols to delighted and surprised neighbors. We would like to thank our hosts for the start and end of all three nights: Amber & Chris Tedesco, Katie & Tom Griffin, Michelle & Tom Canick, Rita Pena and her family, Heather Sisan, and Nico Stein.



---

## Venture Crew 1083 Update

*By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary*

On December 17, the Crew's monthly Venture Out activity was to go bowling at 300 Shady Grove in Gaithersburg. It had been a couple years since the Crew's last bowling outing there, and it was good to be back. The turnout this year -- 27 bowlers and several spectators -- was quite a bit larger than last time, and a splendid time was had by all. A few of the Venturers (and even a mom or dad or two) showed some real skill out on the lanes! Kudos to Jacklyn Molina, for a job well-done coordinating the outing.

Also in December, as in previous years, the Venture Crew participated in the fire truck ride with Santa. Crew members are seasoned veterans of this annual holiday tradition. As senior elves, Crew members took the morning shift (along with some older Boy Scouts) for delivering candy canes to local residents.

In December and January, the Crew designed and built a brand new customized chariot/sled for use in the 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 one of the favorites to bring home the trophy as the National Capital Area Council's top performer, as they did in 2010 and 2011.

Venturing is open to co-ed youth aged 14 through 21. Crew meetings are Monday nights 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, contact crew advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755.





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## Car Free in Randolph Hills

by Laurel Kennedy

My family and I live in Randolph Hills without a car. We get around by foot, bike, bus, Enterprise car rentals, and the kindness of neighbors. We save money, we stay healthy and we avoid traffic. We are able to live car-free because of Randolph Hills' easy access to multiple grocery stores, a post office, White Flint Metro, the MARC train, White Flint Mall, and dozens of bus stops. While it may not be feasible for you to go "car-free" all of the time, there is a lot to gain by getting out on foot, bike, bus, or metro from time to time.

Here are some of the routes our family uses to get in and out of the neighborhood that you may not know about.

**Waverly/Schuylkill Park:** A quick walk through the park leads to Garrett Park with a post office, restaurant, MARC station, and Saturday farmer's market (9am – 1pm). The entrance to the park is on Schuylkill Road between Ashley

Drive and Garrett Park Road.

**Wyaconda Industrial Park Shortcut:** Head up Wyaconda Road past the Woodworker's Club, Club Joola, Dynamite Gymnastics, and Pure Performance martial arts and you'll find a rugged short-cut up to Nicholson Lane. While you're scaling the well-worn path, dream of the pedestrian bridge connecting Wyaconda to Nicholson Court that appears in some future plans for White Flint and MARC. Note: this trail is very steep and often muddy. Do not attempt to take the shortcut with a stroller or in high heels.

**Rock Creek Park:** Access the Rock Creek trail through the entrance to Randolph Hills Park on Ashley & Macon, to your right you'll see the new gazebo and play equipment. Stay straight on the path into Rock Creek Park and cross the bridge over the creek to get to the main trail. From there you can go to Kensington or all the way to the Zoo (you'll need a bike for this since it is about

13 miles of trail). This is also a great shortcut to get to Veirs Mill Elementary, instead of getting on the trail, cross Dewey Road and head up Dahill Rd.

**Macon Road to Loehmann's Plaza:** Where Macon Road crosses Rocking Horse Road, head up the slight hill past the Rocking Horse Center and turn left as Macon meets Galena Road. Continue down Macon Road past the community garden and past the playground of Montrose Christian School. At the end of the cul-de-sac you'll see a sidewalk out to Randolph Road - a great cut thru for people going by bike - and you'll see a staircase leading up to Loehmann's Plaza - a great short-cut for those on foot. This part of Macon has actually become somewhat of a bike boulevard for the many Randolph Hillers that ride their bike to the metro, the Health and Human

Services building on Twinbrook, or beyond.

**RideOn**  
Bus Route 38 runs from White Flint Metro to Wheaton through our neighborhood on Schuylkill Road connecting you to the Metro system and all the shops and restaurants of both the White Flint area



and downtown Wheaton. You'll need a SmarTrip card or \$1.70 exact change to ride. New changes effective January 13, 2013 now end the route at White Flint Metro, so you'll need to transfer to continue on to Montgomery Mall or other destinations further up or down Rockville Pike.

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## Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster

The Troop 1083 family extends 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!

As you may know, RCA-land's home Troop already boasts an impressive roster of Eagle Scouts, and that list expanded yet again on December

14th, when Matthew Best passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review and became the newest member of the Troop 1083 pantheon. For his Eagle service project, Matthew

installed the four handsome green-and-gold signs that greet visitors to the Randolph Hills, Montrose Park, and Randolph Farms neighborhoods. You've seen 'em; Matthew did that!

If you were in the neighborhood on December 23rd, 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!

On December 29th, Scouts, friends, and family gathered to honor and celebrate the accomplishment of yet another Troop 1083 Scout, Jake Blakely, at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Jake's Eagle service project was -- fittingly enough -- to landscape the grounds around the neighborhood welcome signs (previously installed by Mr. Best) using native flowering plant species.

By the time you receive this ECHO issue, the scouts will have put their winter weather scouting skills to work at the Klondike Derby campout at Little Bennett State

Park in Clarksburg; 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](http://www.troop1083.org).





# RCF NEWS

## Doing Our Part to Keep the Neighborhood Beautiful

by Lindsay Hoffman, Randolph Civic Foundation President

Beauty in our neighborhood surroundings provokes not only personal joy but a sense of pride, as well. We may not be outside as often in the colder months, but litter doesn't seem to take a break. As I look out my window after a windy few days, I see that my yard is strewn with trash that has blown over from elsewhere. So, the next time you're out for a stroll on a sunny day, please grab a plastic shopping or trash bag to fill along the way. Many hands will make the work all that much lighter!

Neighborhood beautification is one of RCF's central missions and we will be increasingly focused on it this year. You've noticed that the new entrance signs are surrounded by flora and those sites require attention. RCF Board Member Karen Helfert has led the charge in ensuring that the sites stay tidy and beautiful but she could use a hand or ten. If you're able to lend an hour here or there at the sign site nearest you, please volunteer by emailing me at [LindsayHoffman@aol.com](mailto:LindsayHoffman@aol.com). A little weeding and watering in the warmer months will ensure that those signs are the warm welcomes we envision for our neighborhood.

Finally, stay tuned to the Echo for additional opportunities to keep our neighborhood clean, beautiful and inviting!

## RCF Executive Committee for 2012-2013

### OFFICERS

#### President

Lindsay Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-775-9807

#### Vice President

Matt Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

#### Secretary

Bob Walker  
11813 Ashley Drive  
[amorworks1@aol.com](mailto:amorworks1@aol.com)

#### Treasurer

Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957

#### Directors

Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

Alison Dewey  
5003 Macon Drive  
[sabaly@hotmail.com](mailto:sabaly@hotmail.com)

The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community. The address is: Randolph Civic Foundation, PO Box 489, Garrett Park, MD 20896-0489

[www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org](http://www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org) - Phone: 240-389-4723



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## CLASSIFIEDS

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

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If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues, you may experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether.

In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for. And knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help home sellers before their homes are listed, a free report entitled, "**11 Things You Need to Know to Pass a Home Inspection**" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To order a **FREE COPY** of this report, call 1.800.638.0895 and enter ID#1006. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **CALL NOW** to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your house.

This report provided by Ken Abramowitz of Re/Max Realty Centre 301.774.5900 as a Public Service

## News from Cub Scout Pack 1081

By Leora Hernandez

Pack 1081 is accepting boys from first grade to fifth grade into their pack. The boys enjoy learning all kinds of life skills and have experience a wide variety of activities such as camping, trips to museums, bowling, and skiing. The boys are working hard and earning lots of pins, and belt loops. Recent awards given include: the Physical Fitness Belt loop was earned by G. Castellon, J. Cobb, T. Settersen; for the Tigers, M. Leone, D. Payne, and I. Parsons earned the Bobcat pin; for the Wolves, G. Castellon earned his Bobcat badge and pin; for the Bears, T. Parker, J. Levy, C. Hackenberg, and M Ayala earned the Cycling Belt Loop; for Webelos I, S. Hernandez, J. Tallman, L. O'Donnell, W. Metelko, T. Kyaw, and W. Tun earned Citizen and Traveler Pins, and Webelos badge; for Webelos II, J. Holtaling, J. Hackenberg, M. Charron, F. Ayala, and M. Lopez earned Scientist and Family pins.

The November trip to the Dulles Air and Space Museum was attended by F. Ayala, M. Ayala, L. O'Donnell, W. Tun, T. Kyaw, M. Charron, J. Hackenberg, J. Cobb, C. Hackenberg, and D. Payne.

Caroling at the Randolph Nursing Home was performed by: J. Hackenberg, F. Ayala, M. Ayala, L. O'Donnell, W. Tun, T. Kyaw, M. Charron, C. Hackenberg, T. Parker, and J. Tallman

Upcoming events include: Combined Scouting Ski trip to Ski Liberty – February 17, 2013; The Blue and Gold Banquet, scheduled for February 21, 2013.

The Pack meets Mondays at Viers Mill Elementary School during the school year starting at 6:30 pm. Boys in 1st through 5th grades are welcome to join. You can contact our Pack Master at [rchackenberg@verizon.net](mailto:rchackenberg@verizon.net).

### Block Party (continued from page 1)

generosity proves lacking, at least one person isn't left holding the bag. The Block Party Tracker spreadsheet includes an area for people to pledge cash contributions. This way, every week that you send out the Tracker you also send a subtle reminder to everyone that they need to pony up some dough.

**Cover your bases.** With an outdoor event, you always have to plan for bad weather. Either set a rain date or plan an indoor backup location. If you are hiring some form of live entertainment or renting a moon-bounce, make sure you know the vendors cancellation and rain date policy so you don't end up having to pay a cancellation fee for notifying them past their deadline.

**Most importantly, don't stress out!** Remember that a Block Party should be a casual, free-form event. Make your plans, but then expect that some elements may not pan out and be prepared to go with the flow. Now get out there and start partying!

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## Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park 2012 Market Review!

### Randolph Hills

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Average List Price	\$433,882	\$353,967	\$313,250	\$329,885	\$315,515	\$348,034
Average Sale Price	\$424,703	\$339,295	\$306,915	\$326,282	\$308,744	\$343,544
Lowest Sale Price	\$315,000	\$220,000	\$219,900	\$225,018	\$175,000	\$246,000
Highest Sale Price	\$519,000	\$437,000	\$370,000	\$400,000	\$440,000	\$405,000
Average # Days on Mkt	89	95	61	41	61	46
Sales per Year	29	25	30	33	29	43

### Franklin Park

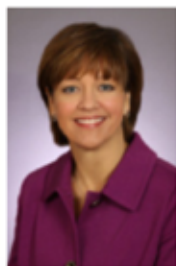
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Average List Price	\$452,684	\$374,500	\$358,700	\$369,417	\$341,500	\$364,933
Average Sale Price	\$448,129	\$366,000	\$358,725	\$360,833	\$327,257	\$360,533
Lowest Sale Price	\$430,000	\$333,000	\$335,000	\$345,000	\$290,000	\$305,900
Highest Sale Price	\$465,000	\$399,000	\$400,000	\$370,000	\$379,900	\$439,900
Average # Days on Mkt	105	102	25	35	64	86
Sales per Year	7	2	4	3	7	6

### Montrose Park

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Average List Price	\$486,600	\$404,475	\$365,667	-	-	\$409,900
Average Sale Price	\$460,000	\$370,000	\$362,333	-	-	\$400,000
Lowest Sale Price	\$430,000	\$350,000	\$302,000	-	-	\$400,000
Highest Sale Price	\$479,000	\$415,000	\$395,000	-	-	\$009,000
Average # Days on Mkt	103	29	10	-	-	7
Sales per Year	3	4	3	0	0	1

### Randolph Farms

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Average List Price	\$550,000	\$435,267	\$266,633	\$329,000	-	\$353,133
Average Sale Price	\$535,000	\$423,967	\$271,633	\$328,667	-	\$345,667
Lowest Sale Price	\$535,000	\$395,000	\$245,000	\$247,000	-	\$297,000
Highest Sale Price	\$535,000	\$469,000	\$319,900	\$370,000	-	\$400,000
Average # Days on Mkt	104	171	110	21	-	21
Sales per Year	1	3	3	3	0	3



*Happy New Year!*

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