

# The ECHO

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association*

Volume 54, Issue 8

June/July/August 2011

## Announcing RCA Musicfest!

*by Amber Tedesco*

The RCA is very excited to host the first annual RCA Musicfest. The event will be held on Sunday, June 12th from 4-6pm at Mem Sahib Restaurant in Randolph Hills Shopping Center. If you've never been to Mem Sahib it is a wonderful Indian restaurant right in our backyard with great food and entertainment. The fundraiser is benefiting the RCF beautification fund which is raising money to either replace aging neighborhood entrance signs or to add signs to locations that do not currently have them as well as improve the landscaping around them.

A little bit about the musicians: our featured artists are some of our very own neighborhood musicians who have graciously offered to perform for the event. We will have jazz singer Christiana Drapkin performing with Jerry Lynn from Jerry's Music, The Symphony of the Potomac French Horn Trio, Mark Nensel, James Graffenberg and Jerry Lynn collaborating on acoustic guitar and vocals, as well as "The Randolph Trio" with Flute, Violin and Cello. There will be something for everyone.

Tickets are currently on sale for \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. The ticket price includes hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages. Contact Lindsay Hoffman for tickets by emailing [musicfest@randolphcivic.org](mailto:musicfest@randolphcivic.org) or call (240)668-4722. If you are not able to attend the event, but would like to donate to the fund, you can do so by calling the number above.

Most RCA events are kid/child friendly but because of the nature of this event we encourage you to get a sitter and enjoy an afternoon out.

## House Explosion Shakes RCA-Land

*Official Announcement from Richard Bowers, Montgomery County Fire And Rescue*

Just before 3 a.m. on May 4th, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue was called to the 11200 block of Ashley Drive in Rockville for a report of a house explosion. Units arrived on the scene and found a single family rancher style home that was completely destroyed. Two adult occupants, one male and one female, were located at the rear of the residence under debris and were treated and transported to a local burn center. The female remains in serious condition with life threatening injuries.

Montgomery County Fire and Explosive Investigators report the explosion was caused by an improperly installed natural gas dryer. The explosion caused an estimated \$750,000 damage to the structure and two adjacent homes. Debris from the home was distributed in a wide area surrounding the home.

75 fire and rescue personnel were on the scene for approximately 1½ hours. Investigators remained on the scene for an additional eight hours. Washington Gas and Pepco representatives were on the scene to assist with the incident and investigation.

Gas appliances should be installed by a licensed professional.

*[RCA Note: For more information about how you can help those affected, see the Neighborhood News section on page 3. For pictures of the scene, go to page 11.]*

## Upcoming Events

### ***RCA General Membership Meeting***

June 2nd, 2011 7:30pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center  
Special Session: Neighborhood Watch Training Part One

### ***Neighborhood Watch Training Sessions***

Session Two: June 7th, 2011 7:30pm-10:00pm, Session Three: June 16th, 2011 7:30pm-10:00pm Veirs Mill Recreation Center

### ***RCF Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social***

July 7th, 2011 7:00pm-9:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

## **RCA MusicFest - A Benefit to Beautify Our Neighborhood**

June 12th, 2011 4:00-6:00pm, Mem Sahib Restaurant, Randolph Hills Shopping Center  
All proceeds will benefit the RCF Beautification Fund - Go to page 14 for more information

## RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2010-2011

### OFFICERS

President  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494  
dan@randolphcivic.org

Vice President  
Chad Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
202-359-6158

2nd Vice President  
Amber Tedesco  
12114 Otis Drive  
301-641-2946

Secretary  
Christiana Drapkin  
11813 Ashley Drive  
chdrapkin@aol.com

Treasurer  
Nick Kriesle  
4302 Star Lane  
301-770-0119

Directors  
Matthew Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

Brian Hooker  
5003 Macon Drive  
brian.r.hooker@gmail.com

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND POINTS OF CONTACT

Echo Editor  
Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957  
marknensel@yahoo.com

Echo Production  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Echo Advertising  
Erin Meitzler  
For more info contact  
echo@randolphcivic.org

Communications Committee  
(Primary Contact for Media Requests)  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Membership and Welcome Committee  
Cindy Zelaya  
5018 Macon Road  
301-984-1006

Environment and Services Committee  
Matthew Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

Education Committee  
George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

Yard Sale Signs  
Lorena Moyer  
4802 Macon Road  
301-984-8727

Webmaster  
Chad Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
202-359-6158

Public Safety Committee  
David Matera  
safety@randolphcivic.org  
202-412-6820

External Affairs Committee  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Ways and Means  
Nick Kriesle  
4302 Star Lane  
301-770-0119

## President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

The tragic event early on the morning of May 4th demonstrates to all of us how a simple mistake can create a life threatening situation. As many of you now know, the house explosion on Ashley Drive was caused by a gas line that was left open when a resident attempted to install a new clothes dryer. As a result he and his wife suffered serious injuries, and as of when I write this message, the wife is still hospitalized with life-threatening injuries. The house they were renting, along with all of their material possessions, has been destroyed.

If you saw the result of the explosion, no doubt you were amazed by the devastation. The homes in RCA-land are known for their sturdiness, but even four-inch block, brick and quality masonry work is no match for a gas explosion. Most, if not all of our homes use natural gas for some purpose. Whether you use it for heating, cooking, or drying clothes, any work to those appliances should be performed by a licensed professional. In the situation on Ashley Drive, using a licensed professional most likely would have prevented the explosion.

Regardless of how these tragedies occur, I am always impressed at the supportive nature of our neighbors. After the explosion, neighbors who lived nearby rushed out to offer assistance and helped aid the residents until Fire and Rescue personnel arrived. In the days following the explosion we received many inquiries from people asking how they could help the couple. The Randolph Civic Foundation serves this very purpose. Go to [www.randolphcivicfoundation.org](http://www.randolphcivicfoundation.org) to make a tax-deductible donation. You can also mail a check. They should be payable to the Randolph Civic Foundation, with "Disaster Relief Fund" in the memo field of the check. 100% of all funds collected will go to those affected. Please send donations to: The Randolph Civic Foundation, 4707 Coachway Drive, North Bethesda, MD 20852.

This is the last Echo before our summer break. It has been a great year and I appreciate all the support from our

*(continued on page 8)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Neighborhood News in Brief

- Two years ago, The Randolph Civic Foundation raised money for a family on Randolph Road whose house burned down. Likewise, **we will be collecting donations for a fund to help those impacted by the house explosion on May 4th.** If you would like to help, please consider donating. Your tax-deductible donation should be payable to the Randolph Civic Foundation, with either "Disaster Relief" in the memo field of the check. 100% of all funds collected will go to this family. Please send donations to: The Randolph Civic Foundation, 4707 Coachway Drive, North Bethesda, MD 20852
- **The RCA Neighborhood Watch Program will begin its much anticipated education with a 3-part training lead by the Montgomery County Police Department.** The first training will coincide with the RCA general membership meeting on Thursday, June 2, followed by sessions on Tuesday, June 7th, and Thursday, June 16th. Each training session is from 7:30 -10:00pm at the Viers Mill Rec Center. All RCA residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- **If any RCA-land residents are interested in renting a garden plot for the season, as of 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 19 several plots appear to be available for rent at the new Community Garden at Rocking Horse Center.** Plot #1, at 200 square-feet, is available. And nine 400 square-foot plots (numbers 21, 43, 44, 45, 48, 49, 54, 56, 57) are available. The small plot (200 square-feet) is \$30 for the year, and the large plots (400 square-feet) are \$50 for the year. Go to the Montgomery County Website and apply for a permit at [http://www.montgomeryparks.org/permits/find/community\\_gardens\\_program.shtm](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/permits/find/community_gardens_program.shtm) or contact them by calling 301-495-2525.

Do you have a quick bite of news you'd like to share with the neighborhood? Please feel free to submit a few sentences to [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org). This is the final edition of the Echo before our summer hiatus, but you could still submit for the September 2011 issue. The deadline for that issue is August 12th. Thank you!



## YOUR FULL SERVICE SIGN RETAILER

Vehicle Graphics • Banners • Magnetics  
Illuminated Signs • Digital Graphics • A-Frames  
Awnings • Window Graphics  
Monument Signs • Trade Show Booths

5541-C Nicholson Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 770-8575

[sales@sar-rockville.com](mailto:sales@sar-rockville.com)  
[production@sar-rockville.com](mailto:production@sar-rockville.com)

**Mention that you saw our ad in the Echo Newsletter  
and receive 10% off your order over \$200.**



## Community Fixtures: Moti's Grill

*By Christiana Drapkin*

Just as our Randolph Hills neighborhood appears a bit tucked away and shows its strengths more through word of mouth, so it seems to be with a good number of our local businesses. It's happened again. Last night I was invited to have dinner at Moti's Grill and Deli, a kosher restaurant in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center. "It's right inside the Kosher Mart," my friend said, "just continue past the deli counter." Really? I love the Kosher Mart with its wide selection of international foods, the deli counter, and especially the bakery. But where is Moti's Grill & Deli?! Turns out, it is to the right of the Kosher Mart storefront, behind windows that sport the big blue and yellow sign "New York Style – Moti's Grill & Deli – Food you love. Food for life." A tall order, but I became an instant convert to the "Food you love" part.

Stepping inside, we were enveloped by the most intriguing aroma of herbs and spices. Arriving as a large group we had the best dining experience imaginable; we had been invited by the owner of the shopping center, Allen Kronstadt, and we were happy to go with the owner's suggestion of an all-around Middle Eastern feast. For starters, we had the Hummus and tahini plate, falafel balls, a salad

made of chopped cucumbers and tomatoes, pickled red cabbage, and pita bread. I kept having seconds, especially the "Moroccan cigars" which come either with meat or in a vegetarian version; it is a savory taste combination that was new to me and irresistible. I completely forgot that the Matzo ball soup was next, and we hadn't even gotten near the main course!

Moti Yitzhaky (president of Kosher Mart) and Rami Loya (the Director) oversee the smooth running of the restaurant but also joined us at the table. Chicken Kebab, and Kifta Kebab (made from lean ground beef mixed with Israeli spices) that were grilled over an open flame had us digging into our plates with gusto. The Jerusalem Mix was a well-spiced mix of meat with sautéed onions. Joys for the eye as well as the palate were the roasted skinned tomatoes, nicely set off by the fragrant saffron rice.

Do take the time to browse the stores and businesses we have at the Randolph Hills Shopping Center, not only right around the main parking lot, but up the hill, where we have the Dynamite Gymnastics, the Club Joola table-tennis center, the Woodworker's Club and many more. In our daily rush it's so easy to overlook what we have right here; and it's a good idea to support the businesses in our own front yard that help to make

our neighborhood vibrant, interesting and diverse.

Moti's serves lunch starting at 11 a.m. and dinner through eight or nine p.m. on most days. They observe the Jewish Sabbath, and you won't find them open on Friday after 3:30 p.m. (or 2:30 in the winter), or all day Saturday. Here are the details, and prepare yourself for a treat:

Moti's Grill & Deli  
4860 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852.  
(301) 231-0839. [www.KosherMart.com](http://www.KosherMart.com)



*(Left side, front to back) Allen Kronstadt, Karen Helfert, Dan Hoffman, Amber Tedesco (Right side, front to back) Rami Loya, Moti Yitzhaky, Christiana Drapkin, Brian Hooker, Chad Salganik (Thank you Nick Kriesle for taking the picture)*

## May Executive Board Meeting Minutes

by Christiana Drapkin

Meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

### Old Business:

Randolph Hills Signs – Update & Fundraiser: Matt Tifford has tirelessly worked on moving our signs project ahead. Thank you, Matt! We are ready to go ahead with our final design and ordering the manufacture of five signs, which should be ready to be installed in late summer. We have to look into inclusion of the new signs into our insurance policy for potential property damage. We are holding a fundraising event on Sunday, June 12, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Mem Sahib Indian restaurant in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center.

Community Bazaar on Saturday, May 7 at Loehmann's Plaza. The banner is up, and RCA volunteers are organizing it again. Randolph Hills residents who have paid up their annual membership are running their tables free of charge. Other non-RCA members are paying a \$10 participation fee. The Boy Scout troupe is running the barbecue stand under George Gadbois' supervision. We have a clown, face painter, and some musical entertainment again. Thank you to all the volunteers who are making it a success again.

### New Business

Budget: The Board reviewed the Fiscal Year 2010 annual budget, the FY 2011 Projection, FY actual spending, and the FY 2012 Projected Budget (printed in this month's Echo). Despite the economic downturn, we beat expectations, due to some cost cutting, and due to several generous donations. RESOLVED to reduce the RCF Echo charge from \$500 to \$400. Two line-item amendments were made, and the budget was passed by unanimous voice vote.

New Advertising Coordinator: Erin Meitzler is volunteering to be our new Advertising Coordinator for The Echo. She will pick up where Kendra Fletcher had left off. Thank you, Kendra, for having put together a great media advertising kit that our businesses used in the past two years. And welcome, Erin, thank you for stepping up to the plate.

Membership Drive: Our renewing and new RCA membership numbers remained on target this year, without the extra effort of a door-to-door membership drive like the one in the previous year. For the new year, starting in September, we will conduct a targeted membership outreach in the fall.

Explosion on Ashley Drive: A one-family residence on 11217 Ashley Drive was leveled by a powerful natural gas explosion, and the two occupants were injured. Four other houses, adjacent and across the street were also damaged. Our best wishes for a full recovery go out to the injured residents, who had just moved in a couple of days earlier. RESOLVED that we establish a Disaster Fund through our non-profit arm, RCF (Randolph Hills Civic Foundation) and hold a collection for the injured tenants. We are also using part of the collected money for gifts to the neighboring residents, as a token of neighborly sup-

port. We are placing an article in The Gazette. And we are holding an appeal in The Echo for Randolph Hills residents to contribute to the disaster fund.

Community Garden: The newly established community garden behind the Rocking Horse Center is in operation. It is run by the Montgomery County Parks Department, in conjunction with Brookside Botanic Gardens. There was a publicly announced lottery for garden plot rentals county-wide several months back. Not many residents in our area seem to have known about the planned garden, and we've had some complaints that the County's outreach and information was not sufficient.

Dead trees on county property: If you spot a dead tree on public land (no leaves, easy to spot now), call 311 to report the dead tree, and get a ticket number. We have experienced very slow follow-up (2 years), but the tree maintenance crews are scheduled to work in our area soon. We recently reported a large dead tree at the entrance to Randolph Hills Park, at 11850 Ashley Drive.

### Standard Business and Reports

The Minutes of the April 7, 2011 RCA General Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

### Committee Chair Reports:

Signs: Matt is also working with Ken Hartman regarding the permits for the signage. Signs may vary in size, depending on each location's requirements.

Public Safety: Brian Hooker is now assisting the Neighborhood Watch Committee and is reaching out again to Officer Prather. Dave Matera has a work schedule conflict, but remains actively involved. With the onset of summer, we encourage more RCA residents to take an interest and get involved with our neighborhood watch.

Education: George Gadbois continues to report from the ongoing Wheaton High School / Edison HS planning process, and he'll attend the May 9 Facilities Advisory Committee about the site options.

Traffic: A traffic calming crosswalk will be installed at Rocking Horse & Macon, leading down from the Rocking Horse Center. And a safer pedestrian crossing with a center island is being evaluated for Randolph Road near Hunter Lane.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



**King's Way Care  
Pharmacy**

4701 Randolph Rd Ste G-4  
Rockville, MD 20852

**Phone: (301)770-5545**  
**Fax: (301)770-5547**

Free Local Delivery

**We carry Durable Medical Equipment!**  
Mention this ad and receive 20%  
Off your Over-the-counter Purchase!



**JERRY'S MUSIC**  
**301-907-6900**



### **Music lessons\***

- Guitar
- Drums
- Piano
- Brass
- Strings
- Woodwinds

### **Other stuff\*\***

- Repairs
- Amplifiers
- Accessories
- School band rentals
- Instrument sales
- Sheet music

**\* Registration fee waived for new student signups!**

**\*\* We refuse to be undersold on equipment.  
We will beat any competitor's advertised price.**

#### **Jerry's Hours**

Mon-Thu	11:00am-8:30pm
Fri	11:00am-7:00pm
Sat	11:00am-5:00pm

5040 Boiling Brook Parkway  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

[www.jerrysmusic.org](http://www.jerrysmusic.org) | [jerry@jerrysmusic.org](mailto:jerry@jerrysmusic.org)



Follow us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/jerrysmusic](http://www.facebook.com/jerrysmusic)



## Requiem for a Tree

by Christiana Drapkin

By now, our winter storms have faded into memory. But there are some stark reminders that make it hard to forget the intermittent destructive force of Mother Nature. Quite a number of our street trees look ravaged by the storms this past year. Not all tree species hold up equally well, and even trees have a limited life span, especially street trees that were planted much too close to our utility lines to begin with, and whose branches have been butchered by sometimes brutal pruning.

Looking out my window, I've noticed some gigantic trees on neighboring properties that have lost a limb or two, displaying nasty gashes on their trunks. Our neighbors must have felt lucky when yet another fallen limb missed a parked car underneath.

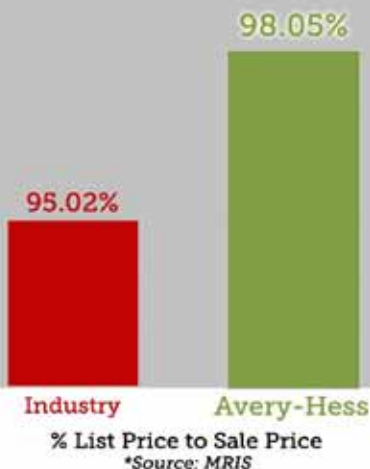
Directly over our bedroom, lying in bed, we can see the limbs of our next-door neighbor's majestic oak tree, waving to and fro when sudden wind gusts come blowing through. Sure, it's made us nervous once in a while. Gil, ever the friendly and accommodating next-door neighbor, asked us if we'd rather have him cut down the tree which towers over his house. We always respond with an emphatic shout "No! We love your tree!" Of course, it helps to know that Gil employs a local arbor care company that comes out and checks on the tree once a year. A while back, the arborist installed a couple of steel cables high up, to ease the tension on the largest limbs during the storms, and he recommended a

special fertilizer for the tree to keep it healthy. And what a fine specimen it is. In the heat of summer, that grand oak tree throws its shade on our own roof and gives us shelter from the afternoon sun, no doubt lowering our air-conditioning bill. From early spring until late into the fall, we open our windows, and we hear the sound of the rustling leaves. Each morning, the tree's main tenant, a blazing red cardinal, wakes us with his morning salute. We'd hate to see him displaced, and we would feel the loss keenly ourselves.

Our own mature backyard trees, planted over 50 years ago by Bob's parents when they bought the house here on Ashley Drive, look a bit worse for wear, and we lost some big limbs during the winter storms. So we called our neighbor's recommended tree company "Arbor Care". I was pleased when Erik their arborist came by to give us an assessment. First off, he loved our trees, told us exactly what species they were, where they came from, and what was so special about each of them. He urged us to try to preserve rather than cut them down, and explained how even the red maple with the big limb missing, could be stabilized with a steel cable way up high, to prolong its life. "Look," he said, "all the branches are setting little buds, there's hardly any dead wood in there! We'll thin that out, take off the damaged branches, but otherwise, we can leave your trees intact." I was glad to hear that, because we both really love our mature trees. He also commended the fact that we had left leaves underneath the trees, as a naturally occurring and much-

(continued on page 8)

## Sell for More Money in Less Time



Sellers who list with me can sell their home for **\$12,033 more\*** and sell their home faster—**18 days sooner** than other sellers.

\* Assuming a region-wide average sales price of \$398,445 and a +3.05% list to sale price above Industry. Source: MRIS stats as of Q2 2010

### AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

Avery-Hess	Industry
38.22	56

To learn how I can help, contact me today!



**Rick Dorta**

Cell: 352-215-8381  
Office: 301-309-2499  
Email: [rdorta@averyhess.com](mailto:rdorta@averyhess.com)

**Call me for a free market analysis**



---

## Requiem for a Tree

*(continued from page 7)*

needed fertilizer for the trees (which had more to do with our lazy gardening practices).

My heart sank a couple of weeks ago, when I heard the noise of chain saws and noticed on the other side of our property, a couple of houses up, a crew of tree cutters getting down to some serious work. There stood our neighbor's counterpart, a gigantic oak tree, a landmark that crowned the entire forest side of our hill as it rises from Rock Creek up to Ashley. Every morning, we would see this tree enveloped by the rising sun. We often marveled at the resilience and tensile strength of this tree, a natural engineering marvel. Alas, this was no pruning job. Limb by limb, the tree was decimated and dismantled. Throughout the day, we heard snapping and cracking, and several awful thumps, when a large branch fell to the ground. The guys had to come back the next day, and the following weekend, before they could even begin take down the main trunk in pieces. Finally the trunk lay sideways in the backyard, as big as a two-ton truck, and there it remained, until some bigger machinery was brought in.

We hung our heads, mourning that lovely tree, which to my eyes had appeared healthy to the core. But, it was that property owner's prerogative to do as he pleased, and we had to learn to accept that.

In the Wilson Quarterly Magazine, Winter 2011, an article by Jill Jonnes, "What Is a Tree Worth?" cites various health and social experiments, and quantifies in economic terms the worth of a tree. Here is an excerpt: "In 2006, McPherson and his colleagues were adding Queens as a reference city when the New York Parks Department asked them to value all of New York City's 592,000 street trees. With the advances made over the preceding dozen years, McPherson could deliver a far more sophisticated report than he had for Chicago. Energy savings: New York City's trees annually saved roughly \$28 million, or \$47.63 per tree. Air pollution: Each street tree removed an average of 1.73 pounds of air pollutants per year (a benefit of \$9.02 per tree), for a total of more than \$5 million. The report also calculated that street trees reduced stormwater runoff by nearly 900 million gallons each year, saving the city \$35.6 million it would have had to spend to improve its stormwater systems. The average street tree intercepted 1,432 gallons, a service worth \$61, and a figure large enough to impress cost-conscious city managers". To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.wilsonquarterly.com/article.cfm?AID=1772>

I cannot bring back the tree that was removed from my neighbor's yard. In time I will no longer reflexively look out the breakfast window and notice that the branches are missing in the sky. And so I write this little requiem for what I had taken for granted. Maybe you, the reader, will look up at your trees, or the trees across the street, and no longer take them for granted. And during our next dry spell, you'll go out with a bucket, and bring some water to

our hard-working street trees that withstand so much extra stress, while gracing us with their abundance of beauty and so many other benefits that we only notice when they're gone.

## Coyotes are Here to Stay

*by Karen Helfert*

Coyotes have been spotted in the park and crossing Ashley Drive. At first glance, a coyote looks like a small German shepherd with a shorter, bushier tail. This is an easy way to distinguish it from a dog; coyotes carry their head and tail downward when moving. Sightings of coyotes occur when they are most active -- just after sunset and before sunrise.

Coyotes play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. As a 'top of the food chain' predator species, they play a valuable role in naturally controlling other species. While their primary diet is made up of small rodents, coyotes are opportunistic and will consume a vast array of foods including birds and insects, fruit and vegetables, human garbage and compost, outdoor pet food and small free-roaming pets (dogs and cats).

Prevention is the best method for minimizing conflicts with coyotes and other wildlife. If we are to reduce human-coyote conflicts: 1) never deliberately feed a coyote or other wild mammal; 2) securely cover garbage cans and compost bins; 3) remove fallen fruit from yards; 4) eliminate opportunities for rats to breed in and around your yard; 5) never deliberately approach a coyote; teach children to respect all wildlife from a distance; 6) never leave small children unattended where coyotes are frequently seen or heard; 7) keep house pets indoors and allow only controlled access to the outdoors (fenced yards and leashes); always keep pets in from dusk to dawn when coyotes are most active; 8) to prevent coyotes from entering your yard consider removing unnecessary brush, installing a motion-sensitive lighting system, or installing a coyote proof fence. To be effective, fences must be at least six feet tall, have no openings greater than four inches and should extend flush with the ground; 9) if you do not want coyotes around your home, let them know that they are not welcome. If you see a coyote, shout and make noise, wave your arms.

---

## President's Message

*(continued from page 2)*

volunteers and advertisers. We will stay busy over the summer continuing to raise funds for another purpose: beautification of our neighborhood entrances. We're having fundraiser on June 12th at Mem Sahib that I hope many of you can make it to. Please see page 14 for more information. I hope to see you there!



## RCF President's Message

by Matt Tifford

We at the RCF have much to report going into the summer "break". I use quotes because with all the projects underway we will definitely not be taking a break! As reported in last week's Gazette, the Randolph Civic Foundation has established a "Disaster Relief Fund" to help the young couple whose house exploded in May. As we did last year with the Hart family, the RCF will use your tax-deductible contribution to provide direct financial aid to the victims of this tragic accident. As we go to print, we have already raised \$554. Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

You may have noticed that our sign area flowerbeds require regular maintenance to look their best. As I write this, the Schuylkill sign is once again overgrown and needs weeding. It seems that the Jerusalem Artichokes we pulled out in April are quite difficult to get rid of! Also, once the signs start going in we will be looking to put more permanent vegetation around the signs. Please let us know if you would be willing to help out occasionally with planting and general landscaping. With enough people, it's not much work and makes for an enjoyable afternoon activity. The easiest way to help is to join the neighborhood Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>, or you can contact us directly at 240-389-4RCF or [info@randolphcivicfoundation.org](mailto:info@randolphcivicfoundation.org).

As mentioned elsewhere in this Echo, the Musicfest fundraiser for our neighborhood signs is coming up on Sunday June 12th from 4-6pm at the Mem Sahib Restaurant in Randolph Hills Shopping Center. We are all very excited about this event, which will feature musicians from the community, and delicious appetizers. Buy your tickets now before they sell out!

Finally, I am pleased to announce the Randolph Civic Foundation Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social coming up on Thursday, July 7th from 7-9pm at the Viers Mill Rec Center. At this yearly event we hold elections for Board positions, and get input from YOU about current and future initiatives in the community. Plus, free ice cream - hope to see you there!

DAVID S. SCHLUTZ, D.M.D.



4618 Randolph Road  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 770-7369  
Fax: (301) 770-7631

DENTIST

## Venture Crew 1083 News

by Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

On April 20, during spring break, the Venture Crew spent a sun- (and pollen-) filled Wednesday afternoon enjoying the sights and sounds at the National Zoo. The Crew broke into small groups to find what most interested them. Highlights included the new lion cubs, the pandas (both the red and the more famous giant varieties), and the Amazonia exhibit. Between sneezes, a spectacular time was had by all.

In keeping with its recent trend of avoiding boring settings for its biweekly planning sessions, the Crew convened its April 25 meeting at the Cabin John ice rink. After hammering out the logistics for their coming tour of Philadelphia, the Crew adjourned, and the more intrepid of its members laced up their skates and hit the ice (not literally!).

The aforementioned Philadelphia tour took place the weekend of May 6th-8th. Venturers and advisors braved the Delaware toll booths on I-95 on a Friday evening and set up camp in Parvin State Park, a very pleasant spot in rural south Jersey just 40 minutes from Philly. Saturday was spent on a walking tour taking in some of the city's famous historic sites, including Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the underground museum at Franklin Court, on the site where Ben Franklin's house once stood. Of course, no trip to Philadelphia is complete without an authentic Philly Cheesesteak!

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, contact crew advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755.

## 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  
[amorworks1@aol.com](mailto:amorworks1@aol.com)

#### Treasurer

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

## Troop 1083 News

*By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster*

Congratulations are in order for Troop 1083 Scout Matthew Best, who participated in the "Order of the Arrow" (OA) Brotherhood ceremony on April 29. The OA is recognized as Scouting's National Honor Society. Last year, Matthew experienced the Ordeal induction ceremony, which emphasizes service and self-sacrifice. This year, having served as an arrowman for over 10 months and reaffirmed his commitment to the Order's high ideals, Matthew sealed their membership by participating in the Brotherhood induction ceremony. That same weekend, Leora Hernandez accepted the honor of being nominated and elected by the troop's members to take part in the OA Ordeal induction as an adult leader.

In April, the Troop camped at Patapsco Valley State Park, a surprisingly secluded and wooded spot just west of Baltimore. It was a memorable campout because of a little rain and a lot of wind. The campsite was on high ground, which was a good thing since it was a safe place to be on a weekend with many flash flood warnings around the region. The drawback of high ground of course is exposure to wind—which was strong and steady at about 30 mph the first night, and a stronger and steadier 45 mph the second. Thankfully, Troop 1083's campers are seasoned and experienced, and there were no reports of unscheduled midnight nylon tent hang-gliding.

In May the Troop camped at Washington Monument State Park in Boonsboro Maryland. Boonsboro is close to Harpers Ferry, which is a good thing because this campout featured some Saturday morning whitewater rafting on the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. The water level was a little higher this year than it has been some previous years, and the flow was swift, but not too choppy. Only two rafters—both of them adult leaders—wound up going overboard, and then only briefly. The trek included pullouts during which the scouts jumped out of the rafts and onto the river banks to pick up trash and debris. These guys never stop thinking about community service!

Again in 2011, the Troop offers two excellent weeklong summer camp options: Camp Rodney in Maryland and Camp Olmsted at Goshen Scout Reservation in west-central Virginia. Many boys attend both! Also this summer, the Troop will send a very well-trained crew to the Philmont High Adventure Scout Reservation in New Mexico.

If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday night at 7:30 at Viers Mill ES, or call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org).

## Girl Scout Troop 1028

*by Tiana Bingcang*

Rain or shine, Girl Scouts Troop 1028 pushes through with their fun-filled activities. If you recall from last month's article, a Spring Fling event at Camp Brighton Woods was on our agenda. It rained during the event but it didn't stop the girls from making their own kites and artworks, playing indoor volleyball and even going outdoors and collecting rocks, leaves and acorns.

During the past meetings, an important topic discussed with the girls was having a Home Safety Emergency Plan. Being prepared is the key to safety. And thanks to the Salvation Army, Centers for Disease Control, FEMA, and Red Cross, the girls were given a guide booklet designed to help prepare their households for personal and community-wide emergencies. They will have to sit-down with their families and go through this booklet together for a coordinated approach. During another meeting, the girls' artistic skills were again very obvious when they created their own versions of stained glass hearts. Made from shreds of Japanese paper, colored foam press and clear plastic with a matching decorated gift bag, the hearts with shades of red and pink were a lovely present for moms on Mother's Day.

What was next on Troop 1028's agenda? The troop's Camping Day on Sunday, May 22 at Camp Brighton Woods. It was a very special event for the troop and was a great way for the girls to bond as this Girl Scout year ended. Another year to look forward to is on the horizon!



**Nominated As  
#1 Shop In America**

**LUBE, OIL & FILTER \$24.95 (most vehicles)  
10% Off Any Repair up to \$30  
One Discount Per Vehicle**

**12356 Wilkins Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20852**

**Phone: 301-881-8530**

**Fax: 301-881-2249**

**[www.preferredautomotive.com](http://www.preferredautomotive.com)**

## Explosion on Ashley

The explosion that leveled this home was caused by a gas line left open after a clothes dryer was disconnected. The homes on RCA-land are known for their sturdiness, but even four-inch block, brick and quality masonry work is no match for a gas explosion. As can be seen in this picture, almost nothing remained except for the steel I-beam that runs down the middle of all our homes. The day after the explosion, crews began moving the debris into a pile (see towards the right in this picture) the day of the explosion. Neighbors were stunned at how completely the explosion leveled the house. No significant part of the structure above the basement remained standing.



The force of the explosion not only leveled the house, but scattered debris for many houses in all directions. In this photo the back door of the house is clearly seen lodged in a tree in the woods behind the house. Cars blocks away were covered in burnt insulation. A large portion of the roof hung from a tree in the front yard. Although the injuries to both residents of the home were life-threatening, it is amazing that both were not killed instantly. As of this Echo's print-date, the man who lived in the house had been released from the hospital, but the woman remains hospitalized, suffering from life-threatening injuries and severe burns.



The house in this photo sat immediately next to the house that exploded. That car in the picture was pushed into the side of the house from the force of the explosion. Houses surrounding the one that exploded incurred significant damage. The family of one adjacent home is still in a hotel. To help all those impacted by the explosion go to [www.randolphcivicfoundation.org](http://www.randolphcivicfoundation.org) to make a tax-deductible donation. You can also mail a check. They should be payable to the Randolph Civic Foundation, with "Disaster Relief Fund" in the memo field of the check. 100% of all funds collected will go to those affected. Please send donations to: The Randolph Civic Foundation, 4707 Coachway Drive, North Bethesda, MD 20852.



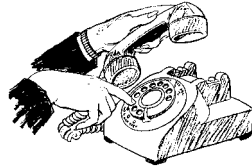


---

## The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received April 18th, 2011  
through May 17th, 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.*

04-21-11 (Thurs) at 4:03pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is seeking more information about the upcoming yard sale at Loehmann's Plaza.

05-02-11 (Mon) at 6:35pm. Not Anonymous. Caller was walking on Ashley Drive on Saturday between Macon and Olden and found a set of keys. Caller went to the people whose house they were in front of but they didn't belong to them so caller is calling hotline to see if anyone has dropped or lost keys. It looks like a pink key with a breast cancer design on it so they might belong to a woman. There is that key and another key that might be a house key or something else. They are on a little black thing that says "lock" and "unlock" on it. If you know anyone who's missing keys, please be in touch. [RCA Note: Call the hotline if these sound like your keys.]

05-05-11 (Thurs) at 5:02pm. Anonymous. Caller lives in Franklin Park which needs the center lane open – no islands – so residents can get in and out of their homes. You can't put an island in the middle of Randolph Road, that defeats the purpose of the fifth lane, the middle lane, that allow people to make turns safely. Before they put that fifth lane – center lane – in, there were many accidents - people trying to turn left into our homes. The solution, which is not very likely, is a pedestrian overpass over Randolph Road. That isn't going to happen – too expensive. Caller doesn't see an easy solution. Pedestrians have to realize that it's a road made for cars and not for foot traffic and it's a long walk to an intersection with a controlling light. Not an easy fix. And the hills obstruct the view in either direction which makes it hard to get in and out of here even with a car. Pedestrian overpass. They have one down on Viers Mill Road and caller daresay Randolph might even have more traffic that Viers Mill.

05-08-11 (Sun) at 11:43am. Not Anonymous. There's been a cat coming into caller's yard at 114xx Schuylkill Road. Looks like he weighs about 12 pounds, golden

tan with two white rear legs, two white front paws, white underneath, and a little white on his face. He is very friendly. Caller is wondering if he has a home and if the person that does own him could call the Echo. If he doesn't have a home, caller would like to find him one. As we unfortunately know from the last Echo, it's not safe for cats outside. So, please let the Echo know.

05-08-11 (Sun) at 2:22pm. Not Anonymous. Received info@RandolphCivic.org. Cat fence - Purrfect Fence <http://www.purrfectfence.com> sells a cat fence that is designed to be self-installed; Davey Tree Company in Gaithersburg also has experience installing this fence. Your cat(s) can enjoy the outdoors and be safe.

05-09-11 (Mon) at 1:10pm. Anonymous. Caller is calling in reference to the Echo dated May 2011. Caller's question is – can you please print an answer as to where North Bethesda is? Caller's zip code is 20852 and caller thought we were Rockville but is noticing more and more something come up called "North Bethesda." Can you please clear that up for caller and caller's neighbors because we're confused as to where we really live. [RCA Note: The Postal Service will accept 'North Bethesda' or 'Rockville' as a name for the unincorporated area between Bethesda and the southern border of the incorporated City of Rockville. There is no official title as far as we are aware.]

05-10-11 (Tues) at 4:37pm. Not Anonymous. Received via info@RandolphCivic.org. Randolph Farms vs. Westminster. I was pretty confused by this as well. I've looked up the land plat records, and it refers to the whole area of Macon Rd/Hunter's Lane/Randolph Rd block as Randolph Farms. Let's be accurate with our sign and call it Randolph Farms, unless we vote to change the official name of the area.

05-11-11 (Wed) at 10:12am. Not Anonymous. Caller called a few days ago. Caller was walking on Ashley Drive between Macon and Olden and found a set of car keys. One key is pink and there is a Retro Fitness card plus another key. And, on the black thing holding it is a lock/unlock button. So, if anyone has lost their keys and reported it, caller has them.

05-13-11 (Fri) at 1:29pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is inquiring about the collection of checks to benefit this couple whose house blew up in the neighborhood. Caller wants to find out because it doesn't say anything about a special notation on the check and caller doesn't want to send it to the Civic Foundation without it reaching the couple. Caller would like to know these folks' names. Please call caller back. [RCF Note: We are not yet releasing the names of the couple for privacy reasons. We will provide the names and a final tally of the donations in the September issue of the Echo.]

---

# 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
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

JBG Rosenfeld Retail • 4445 Willard Avenue, Suite 700  
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 • Phone: (301) 657-0700; Fax: (301) 657-9850





# RCA Musicfest

Benefiting the RCF Beautification Fund

June 12th, 2011 - 4-6pm

Mem Sahib Restaurant

Randolph Hills Shopping Center - 4840 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland

Featuring music from neighborhood  
artists and great food!

**Want to help keep RCA-Land beautiful?  
Want to improve our community identity?  
Want to show your neighborhood pride?**

All funds raised will go towards replacing our aging  
neighborhood signs and improved landscaping.



Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 per couple

To purchase tickets email  
[musicfest@randolphcivic.org](mailto:musicfest@randolphcivic.org)

or call (240)668-4722

Sponsorships are also available.

**Donations are always welcome  
online as well at [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)**



## 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.

**Wanted: to rent a bedroom in the Randolph Hills area, long term.** I'm a senior citizen, non smoker, will be gone on weekends. Bedroom should be furnished (bed, at least), and have wireless internet available. Contact: terry@teebark.com, 804-647-4515

**BEST BUDDIES PETSITTING SERVICE:** Going out of town? Need your dog to be walked daily? Have a cat that needs to be boarded? Well we are a home away from home providing the best loving care for your pet depending on your needs. We board cats and dogs and we do not crate them. We have a fenced-in quarter acre lot right here in Randolph Hills! Dogs get two 30 minute walks daily and all animals get breakfast and dinner; we provide the food! Between walks, there is plenty of playtime. Prices reasonable and our schedule is setup to meet your needs. Pickup and drop-off service is provided if needed. Any medications can and will be administered. We are bonded and insured. Call Danny Beigel at: 240.654.0694 or go to [www.bestbuddiespetservice.com](http://www.bestbuddiespetservice.com) email us at [bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com](mailto:bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com)

**WANTED SENIOR VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS - IT'S FUN AND GAME TIME AT THE WHEATON REC. CTR. LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE WHEATON LIBRARY. WE MEET EVERY MON. AND THURS. FROM 1:00 - 2:30PM. FOR MORE INFO. PLEASE CALL 301-770-7590 AND ASK FOR MAURO.**

**Fellow Neighbor 20 Years**

Leaf Removal • Grass Cutting • Tree Work  
**INSURED**



**Local Lawn Care**  
Etc.

**OWNER** (301) 770-5549 **OPERATED**

## RCA 2012 Proposed Budget

This proposed budget is being submitted for approval by the general membership at the June meeting.

Category	FY2012 Proposal	
	Credit(+)	Debit(-)
Advertising income	\$4,000.00	
Bank Fee		\$20
Community Day Expenses		\$100.00
Copy expense		\$350.00
Echo Printing		\$8,000
Echo Delivery		\$1,100
Insurance		\$635
P.O. Box Rental		\$120.00
Membership Drive		\$500.00
Neighborhood Watch		\$200.00
RCA Dues and Donations	\$7,000.00	
RCA Hotline		\$25.00
RCA Picnic		\$0.00
RCF Donations	\$2,500.00	
RCF Echo Charge	\$400.00	
RCF Reconciliation		\$1,500.00
RCF Sign Fund		\$1,000.00
Rec Center rental		\$170.00
Website		\$100.00
Yard Sale Revenues	\$100	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$14,000.00</b>	<b>\$13,820.00</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>		<b>\$180.00</b>

## 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/>

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

<u>Address...</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>DOM</u>	<u>Subsidy</u>	<u>Date Settled</u>
4626 Creek Shore Drive	\$365,000	\$362,000	10	\$0	9-Nov-10
11423 Schuylkill Road	\$310,000	\$300,000	10	\$10,000	10-Nov-10
11808 Ashley Drive	\$274,900	\$273,500	68	\$0	6-Dec-10
12114 Hunters Lane	\$374,900	\$367,500	45	\$10,000	15-Dec-10
4706 Red Fox Road	\$365,000	\$365,000	11	\$0	20-Dec-10
4616 Coachway Drive	\$359,000	\$359,000	194	\$9,000	30-Dec-10
4716 Red Fox Road	\$367,000	\$360,000	10	\$500	14-Feb-11
4705 Coachway Drive	\$299,950	\$300,000	55	\$5,000	15-Feb-11
4713 Topping Road	\$319,900	\$305,000	143	\$0	28-Feb-11
4618 Creek Shore Drive	\$449,900	\$440,000	182	\$10,000	30-Mar-11
12205 Nordlie Drive	\$349,900	\$349,900	20	\$10,374	15-Apr-11
12124 Gaynor Road	\$302,000	\$290,000	10	\$0	29-Apr-11
11807 Timber Lane	\$299,999	\$299,999	13	\$4,000	10-May-11



**Sunny days are finally here!**



*If you're thinking of selling or buying a home this year,  
call Denise for advice, timing and marketing strategies.  
Denise has more than twenty years of experience as a realtor in the area.*

**Denise  
SZCZUR**  
**301-452-5544**



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

**email: Denise.Szczur@LNF.com**

**website: DeniseSzczur.LNF.com**



*"Professional Service with a Personal Touch"*