

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 44, Issue 8

June/July/August 2001

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Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting
Thursday, June 7, 2001
8:00 p.m.

Have a great summer!

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

Outdated Signs in the Neighborhood Sign Vigilantes Must Clean Up

by Richard Zierdt

Friends sometimes ask me why I pick up so many (illegal) signs that are posted on utility poles, trees, rights-of-way, etc. The picture below says it all. Someone had an event somewhere in RCA, probably during the weekend of April 21-22 or 14-15. Someone taped two large arrows on the utility poles leading into our neighborhood at Rocking Horse and Randolph Roads, apparently showing the way to the event.

The problem is that the people who erect these signs usually never take them down. I finally did on April 26. The masking tape had hardened to the poles. (If the address of the home is on the sign, there is a greater chance it will be taken down by the person who put them up). Signs that say "Yard Sale - Moving" are guaranteed never to come down! Heck, they're moving out of the neighborhood - what do they care about the trash they leave behind?

I am a volunteer sign coordinator for the County, which basically means I sat through a couple of training classes, and got the blessing of Code Enforcement to help "educate" businesses and citizens about sign regulations. Volunteers cannot issue tickets. If every code was enforced (and I am not advocating that they should), we wouldn't be able to erect yard sale signs or meeting signs anywhere but on our own property. I think

*Cardboard "arrow" sign
taped to pole.*

we should have signs. I'm only saying that signs should be temporary (taken down as soon as the event is over) and be as attractive as they can.

No sign is "attractive" per se, but some look better than others. Balloons are never permitted because they offer a distraction to drivers (this is County Code, folks). Signs cannot be attached to trees, because the trees that line our streets are in the County right-of-way. My objection is that they are the worst-looking signs, and really give the neighborhood a bad look. In my opinion, the best-looking temporary signs are those that stick in the ground with heavy wire posts or rods.



(continued on page 3)

RCA Executive Committee for 2000-2001

OFFICERS

President

Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Vice President

Matthew Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

Secretary

Kevin Kline
4808 Randolph Road
301-230-1486

Treasurer

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4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

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Wilbur Van der Linden
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301-770-7235

Frank Shore

11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

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301-770-1927

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301-231-4934

Cathy Stillwell

5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Education

Elinor Walker
12111 Galena Road
301-468-6335

Mobile Watch

John Polk
11216 Troy Road
301-984-8015

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Scout Leader, Troop 1083

Brian McGahey
11805 Timber Lane
301-770-7882

Cub Master, Pack 1081

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Scout Liaison

Frank Rossomondo
11611 Ashley Drive
301-770-7450

Scout Unit Commissioner

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:
Scott Bailey, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt
www.montgomerycivic.org

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):
Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964
email: Councilmember.Denis@co.mo.md.us
Mr. Denis' aide: Tedi Osias

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive (all of RCA):
Douglas Duncan 240-777-2500

Montgomery County Public Schools: 301-279-3000

School Board Offices: 301-279-3617

School System Information: 301-279-3391

School Board Member for District 3

(representing all of RCA):

Ms. Patricia O'Neill 301-320-7600

Maryland State Legislative District 17 -

South of Randolph Road:

Senator: Jennie Forehand 301-858-3134

Delegates: Kumar Barve 301-858-3001

Michael Gordon 301-858-3519

Cheryl Kagan 301-858-3046

Maryland Legislative District 18 -

North of Randolph Road:

Senator: Christopher Van Hollen 301-858-3137

Delegates: Leon Billings 301-858-3028

Sharon Grosfeld 301-858-3028

John Hurson 301-858-3464

Montgomery County Delegation Office:

All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8 (all of RCA):

Constance Morella 202-225-5341

email: rep.morella@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate (all of RCA):

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654

Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

Election Precincts:

4-08 South of Randolph Rd. Vote at Rockinghorse Center.

4-26 North of Randolph Rd. Vote at Montrose Baptist Church.

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

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



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$5.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

Signs

(continued from page 1)

They erect easily, and are taken down easily. Keep in mind they are still illegal when placed in the right-of-way, but they don't look as bad as those attached to trees or utility poles.

I am not advocating a code enforcement dragnet, but I am going to propose a "carrot-and-stick" approach to the RCA at the June 7th General Meeting: That the RCA authorize \$200 for the purchase of general-purpose sign materials that RCA residents can use for their yard sales. For example, when a resident wants to hold a yard sale, he simply calls the RCA and picks up the sign materials at no charge. When the event is over, the resident picks up the signs and returns them to the RCA. This is the carrot. The stick is that signs that do not have the location of the event or are attached to trees or utility poles will be summarily taken down.

Please keep the above in mind this summer, when many yard sales are held. Help keep RCA-land an attractive place to live.

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Renew Montgomery Update

by Richard Zierdt

(May 4) This is the last update for Renew Montgomery in the *Echo* until September (June is the last issue until then).

As reported in the May *Echo*, the County is going to Renew our neighborhood over two years. The County will start north, and work south. This means that Montrose Park, Franklin Park, Westminster, Randolph Farms, and Randolph Hills first section (Randolph Road down to about Boiling Brook Parkway) will get Renewed this summer. Randolph Hills second and third sections will be done in spring and summer 2002.

Many residents have called the RCA asking about extra concrete work. I talked again with Mr. John DiGiovanni, the County official overseeing the project, on May 1. He did not want to tell me the name of the contractor doing the Renew work, because he didn't want the contractor inundated with phone calls. He said that the contractor will be in the neighborhood long enough, and promised that everyone would be informed and have plenty of time to make private arrangements with the contractor.

Since the *Echo* will not be out again until mid-September, we will place notices about the progress of Renew Montgomery on the hotline (301-881-2722), and on the web site (www.randolphcivic.org).

Mr. DiGiovanni also said that the County would not remove trees unless their roots were so high above ground that they created a hazard.

Please attend the RCA June meeting on June 7 for the latest Renew update.

Minutes of the RCA May General Meeting

by Kevin Kline

RCA Vice-president Matt Shore opened the meeting by noting the good turnout (15 members). **Passed by majority voice-vote: The Meeting Minutes as printed in the March *Echo* newsletter.** Treasurer Richard Zierdt reported that the RCA will have \$3,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30th.

The first order of old business was a Renew Montgomery update. Richard reported that through the RCA Hotline, we are receiving many questions, including: when will the County's contractor begin sidewalk repairs; concerns about specific trees that may or may

(continued on page 4)

RCA General Meeting

(continued from page 3)

not be cut down as repairs are made; and most frequently, homeowners wanting to hire the County's contractor for additional concrete work.

Richard's answer to your first concern is that the County is now slowing down the repair schedule, and our sidewalks will be repaired over two years, not one. This summer the contractor is scheduled to begin north of Randolph Road and work southward. Work is now scheduled to start in Randolph Hills, Section III in 2002. You should know that the County's revenues are down, thus



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endangering many budgets. RCA-land's new sidewalks and street gutters will last for many years, so the sooner the County starts, the more likely it is the project will be finished, regardless of budgetary constraints.

Your second concern of trees possibly being cut down began a general tree discussion. At the December RCA meeting, guest speaker John DiGiovanni from the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation said that they might not cut down a tree even if it were lifting up the sidewalk. Instead, the offending tree roots would be cut, a root-barrier installed, and the new sidewalk laid. A tree can have roots cut off from two sides and still survive. A tree with roots removed on three sides cannot survive, and so would be cut down, the stump removed, and a new tree planted in the fall. John promised to notify affected homeowners before any trees in front of their house are removed. The County understands our concerns, and will not recklessly remove trees. John has driven through RCA-land, and only saw "a few trees that are a problem." An RCA'er warned of utility tree-trimmers working in our area. Beware they do not overtrim RCA-land trees. Utility workers are only interested in their power lines, and it saves money if they trim trees infrequently, so they really whack the trees.

Richard's answer to your third concern, RCA'ers wanting to hire the contractor, was not so positive. Richard asked John DiGiovanni for the phone number of the contractor, to no avail. John promises that "everyone will have a shot to have driveway work done" and that the contractor will be working in the neighborhood for months.

The next order of old business was Rocking Horse traffic, at the intersection of Boiling Brook, and also at the intersection of Randolph Rd. During the discussion, members remembered that at the March RCA meeting, the RCA President Jack Stillwell emphasized our desperate need for a traffic light at this dangerous intersection. The guest speaker, Bill Corder, was the manager of the County's Traffic Management Center. Bill was open to "studying" the idea of putting in a traffic light. RCA Secretary Kevin Kline said he would contact the County and report back on the status.

An RCA'er is circulating a petition to change the timing of the traffic light at Rocking Horse and Randolph, and RCA Execs will attend an upcoming hearing.

Another RCA'er noted that County engineers have measured that intersection, and wants the issue voted on before we encourage them to widen or otherwise modify it.

Next came a free-wheeling discussion on the chronic problem of RCA'ers who block sidewalks with their cars. It is unquestionably against the law to park your car in your driveway and block the sidewalk. Up to now we have been unable to convince the Police to issue parking tickets, but hopefully that will change. RCA'ers in wheelchairs and with strollers are especially upset! Richard Zierdt made a motion that the RCA buy pre-printed "stickies"

(sort of a friendly warning) to place on the windows of offending cars. **Motion failed for lack of a second: To spend \$200 of RCA funds to buy pre-printed stickies.**

Did you know it's illegal for you to put up a sign, whether for a lost pet or yard sale? An RCA'er complained offenders post their illegal yard/moving sale signs to the pole at Rocking Horse and Randolph. They never return to remove their signs, which end up in his yard. He said he usually tries to wait until the sale is over before taking them down, but is tired of this annoyance. Others noted these home-made signs are also posted along Boiling Brook, and at the Rocking Horse intersection. Richard Zierdt suggested the RCA remove these home-made signs and instead offer a more professional (but still illegal) temporary sign on loan from the RCA. After discussion, Richard withdrew his suggestion. Especially annoying are the "Work at Home" and "Earn Big Money" signs usually posted at Randolph and Nicholson. Secretary Kevin Kline said he routinely removes the "earn big money" or leftover political signs, and that it is perfect-

ly legal for anyone to so. A few times Kevin and Richard have teamed up to remove sturdier commercial signs illegally placed on the County right-of-way. Kevin emphasized that the RCA will not remove your lost pet signs.

A member suggested the RCA change the RCA meeting place, perhaps to the Rocking Horse Center on Macon Road or the Smith Jewish Day school. The Execs will review this suggestion. The same RCA'er asked about having a local library. A librarian in the audience spoke with authority, stating that the closeness of the Twinbrook and Kensington libraries rules out this possibility.

Mixed in the general discussion was our distress at the lack of a good Police response to our requests for law enforcement. Many of the problems mentioned could be solved if the Police and County agencies did their jobs willingly. Complaints included: trash cans left out after pickup (illegal); blowing trash; and increased homeless in traffic on Rockville Pike. RCA Education Chair Elinor Walker was very helpful with Police contacts. Kevin Kline said he would follow-up by calling the Police. Topping Lane homeowners were upset with nearby renters. The sympathetic audience, who have had similar problems, offered suggestions.

RCA Board Member George Gadbois is active with Wheaton High School matters, and gave an overview of the Down County Consortium (see last month's *Echo* newsletter).

Elinor dropped a bombshell, stating that the Holiday Park Senior Citizen's Center will be converted to a new elementary school, to serve the growing needs of the Wheaton Cluster. Several RCA'ers wanted to know: Why not re-open our own Randolph Elementary on Macon Rd? If we could only chase out the School employees! The School Board's responses to our questions over the years have been most unsatisfactory. The RCA was told the building had asbestos, yet today it houses a child care and gym for Board employees!

Finally, we thanked Margaret Lamphier for the home-made sweets and juice she delivered, just as she does for every general meeting.

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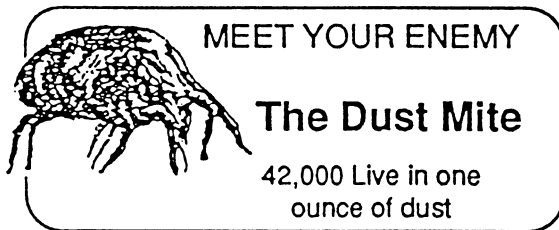
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Blocking the Sidewalks Continued

by Richard Zierdt

As a follow-up to last month's article on blocked sidewalks, usually with cars, we include a notice that residents can clip, copy, and place on cars that block sidewalks. It is written in both English and Spanish.

In addition, I'm proposing that the RCA buy a rubber stamp with essentially the same message to be used to make "yellow sticky" pads that residents can also place on cars. The advantage here is that the notice will stick easily (and quickly) to the driver's window. The cost would be \$48 for the rubber stamp, and the cost of the note pads.

At the June meeting, we will have placards from an organization representing disabled persons that may also be used to discourage blocking sidewalks.

So there will be three forms of notices that can be used to discourage sidewalk blocking. There is no reason that all three cannot be used.

Montrose Parkway Update

by Richard Zierdt

Will the Montrose Parkway ever be built? You know, the road that would run behind Montrose and Franklin Parks? Based on a meeting I attended May 4, I believe that it will, although it will take several years. The first phase, from I-270 (roughly) to Parklawn Drive wouldn't be completed until 2007, and the second phase, from Parklawn to Viers Mill Road, after that.

The meeting was with transportation designers in the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation. They have been busy with final design work: hiker/biker trails, walkways, landscaping, intersection improvements, passageways for wildlife to cross (under) the road, etc. The designs were very attractive (as all these things are on paper, I suppose). Keep in mind that the County Council has not appropriated construction funding for this project, but the designers keep designing!

As currently designed, five houses would have to be razed, and four other homeowners would have the option, but not required, to sell their houses to the County. All these houses are west of Rockville Pike. No homes are expected to be taken east of Rockville Pike, and certainly none in RCA.

My guess is that "people" (most County Council members, and certainly the County Executive) simply expect this road to be built eventually, otherwise, the Transportation Department wouldn't be spending as much staff time and money on it.

I expect public hearings to be held over the summer on this, so watch for them. There won't be another *Echo* until September.

Please do not block the sidewalk.

It makes walking difficult, is dangerous for baby strollers and children on bicycles, violates the ADA act (persons with disabilities), looks unattractive, and is against Montgomery County ordinances (Article III, section 31-20 (a)(2)).

We know many residents are not aware of these difficulties, and we thank you for your cooperation.

If you have any questions, please call the RCA hotline at 301-881-2722.

**The Randolph Civic Association
www.randolphcivic.org**

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Por favor no bloquen las aceras.

Es peligroso para los peatones, para los niños en coche, para los niños con bicicletas como tambien es contra la ley de ADA (personas desahilitadas) y tambien es contra la ley de Montgomery County (ordinance Articulo III, seccion 31-20 (a)(2)).

Sabemos que la mayoría de los residentes no tienen conocimiento de esta ley y por lo tanto les damos gracias por su cooperacion.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor llamar al RCA hotline al 301-881-2722.

**The Randolph Civic Association
www.randolphcivic.org**

Treasurer's Report

by Richard Zierdt

As of May 4, 2001, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$5,068.65. The cost of this *Echo*, plus payments for *Echo* distribution and contributions to the Boy Scouts, should leave us with about \$3,000 by fiscal year's end (June 30).

RCA Checking Register

4/8/2001 through 5/4/2001

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
Balance 04/08/2001					5,375.73
04/16	E-xfr	Verizon	Mar 22 Telephone	-20.53	5,355.20
04/21	640	VOID:	mis-wrote payee		
04/21	641	Quick Printing	May ECHO - 20 pgs	-787.50	4,567.70
05/04		RCAssociation	membership - Hendricks	5.00	4,572.70
BALANCE 05/04/2001					4,572.70

RCF Checking Register

4/8/2001 through 5/4/2001

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
Balance 04/08/2001					845.69
04/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	895.69
04/30		interest	Suntrust - .40%	0.26	895.95
05/01	1044	Cub Scout Pack 1081	contribution	-200.00	695.95
05/02	1045	Erie Insurance	community yard sale 5/12	-200.00	495.95
BALANCE 05/04/2001					495.95

Total RCA+RCF cash assets

5,068.65

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

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

Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

April 9, 2001 to
May 4, 2001



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

2001-04-09 (Mon) 6:16 pm RCA resident. Renew Montgomery, wants new sidewalks.

2001-04-10 (Tue) 8:39 am Olden Road. Caller noticed that a number of trees and the sidewalks near them on Ashley Drive and some side streets are marked with pink paint. Concerned that trees may be cut down just to make the sidewalks look better. Could the RCA find out what's going on, or supply a contact that residents may call?

2001-04-10 (Tue) 1:39 pm Serious erosion on Boiling Brook Driveway. Trees are falling over or leaning over. At several places there is a sheer drop of 15 to 20 feet straight down to the rocks. This is an accident waiting to happen. Something should be done.

2001-04-10 (Tue) 2:48 pm Franklin Park. Renew Montgomery. Wants information about driveway apron and sidewalk repair.

2001-04-11 (Wed) 8:56 am Verizon yellow pages. How do you want your listing in the yellow pages?

2001-04-11 (Wed) 1:48 pm Schuylkill Road. Renew Montgomery. Needs sidewalk repaired, and some private work.

2001-04-17 (Tue) 8:52 am When is the next community yard sale?

2001-04-18 (Thu) 7:55 pm (anonymous) Resident of RCA. Panhandling in front of Loehmann's Plaza on weekends. What is the law regarding this? What can the RCA do about it?

2001-04-29 (Sun) 11:03 am New resident. Caller is looking for someone to mow lawns. Could the RCA hotline refer someone?

2001-05-01 (Tue) 10:03 am Anonymous. Renew Montgomery. Hopes that guard rail on Garrett Park Road will be replaced. It looks very ugly and rusty. The bridge was renewed, but not the guard rail. Please look into it.

2001-05-01 (Tue) 10:04 am Anonymous. A big white trailer parked on Creek Shore Drive is a big hazard. It takes up about a third of the street. You can't see around it; can't safely get by it. Would the RCA look into getting it moved.

ELLIOTT C. FLICK, D.D.S.

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Good Pets, Good Neighbors

Dear Neighbors,

My husband and I got a puppy last November. We try to be good, considerate neighbors when we walk our dog. We pick up after him, we try not to let him walk in your bushes or on the lawn and unless you express an interest in him, we don't go up to you or let him jump on you. Mind you, he is still a puppy and we are still learning our good citizen manners, so right up front, I apologize if we have annoyed you. Most of you have been wonderful and enthralled by Jesse's enormous amount of energy and excitement. Jesse has made a lot of friends, the lovely woman and her black cat on Hunters, the two beagles, the cute little girl who has a white poodle on Stickley, of course Tim the mailman and so many more.

One day, Jesse, all 15 lbs of him, walked on a woman's yard. She yelled out her window to get off her grass. I pulled him off and said I was sorry. Her response, "Jesus, no respect." I still don't understand how an apology is disrespectful, but whatever. What annoyed me was all the stuff that we deal with on our walk around the neighborhood. On Mondays, we play dodge the trash cans and trash left behind by the trash people. What gets me is if the trash man drops trash, nobody will pick it up. Do people think that once they put the trash out for the trash man, it's not theirs anymore? There has been glass on the sidewalk, trash on the ground and the occasional loose dog, mostly around homes with children. These kids could get hurt or worse. The thing that bothers me the most is the dog waste that's left behind by truly inconsiderate dog owners.

Did you know that your dog could pick up hookworms, coccidia or other worms and parasites by just sniffing infected dog droppings, they don't have to eat it? The worms and parasites go up their nostrils. You may not know your dog is infected until he is really sick. Did you know that humans could get roundworm and other parasites and worms? They get into the body through the skin, the mouth or the nose. It's summer, the children are outside playing in the grass, walking barefoot and picking up toys and things from the yard. They're not constantly washing their hands. Dog and cat waste left on the ground is a health hazard. There is no excuse for leaving your dog's waste. There are plenty of pooper-scooper products at the pet stores or use a plastic bag from the grocery store. Just pick up the waste, take it with you and throw it away. It is your responsibility as a pet owner and a good neighbor.

Once again, to the woman on Galena, I am sorry Jesse walked on your lawn. We won't do it again. Look at it this way, if that was the only negative thing that happened to you that day, you were lucky.

Hope Jesse and I get to meet you,
Stacy Rabinovitz

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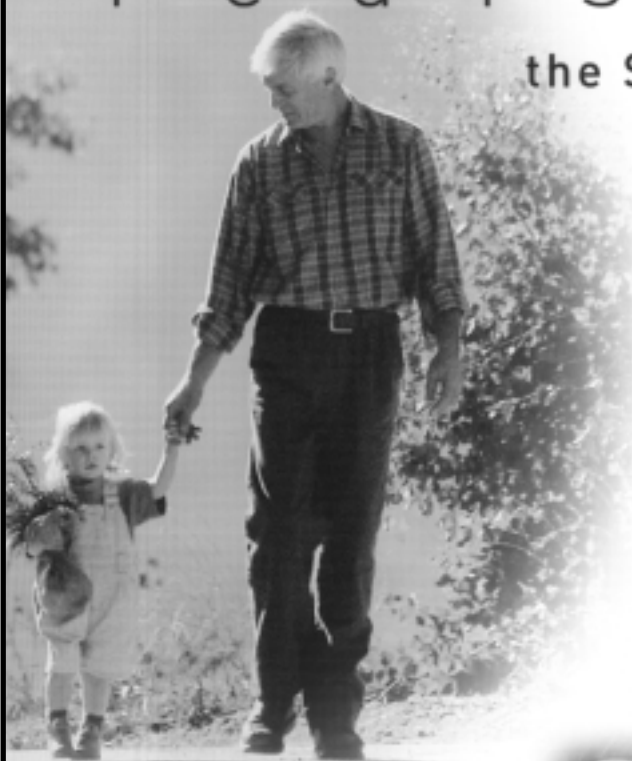
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Troop 1083 News

by Brian McGahey

We welcome four new Boy Scouts to Troop 1083: **Mark Bushong, Edward Huggins, Matthew Ulanow** and **Andrew Wood** came over from Cub Scout Pack 1081. Welcome aboard!

We continued work on Cycling merit badge with a fifteen-mile trip on the C&O Canal near Carderock in April. In May we will go to Point Lookout State Park, for fishing, swimming and fun. In June we are going to Assateague Island State Park. Summer camp is in August (5-12) at Camp Olmsted, Goshen Scout Reservation.

Congratulations to **Joey Terrones**. He has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Joey is a senior at Wheaton High School. He will be honored at a Court of Honor this summer.

If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade or is eleven years old, you can join the adventure. We meet every Monday when school is in session at Viers Mill Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Or call Mr. McGahey at 301-770-7882.

If I had to live my life again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner.

Tallulah Bankhead

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News from Pack 1081

by *Doneby Smith*



Pack 1081 roars into summer with non-stop activities. Our Tigers earned a Paw for Big Idea #16 "Tell It Like It Is": **Alan Costas, AJ**

Taylor, Gregory Gadbois, Jake Blakely, Joshua Hart, Kyle Arey, Thomas Shaw, Dwayne Remillard, and Sasha Hevey.

Michael Spitler, Jake Bennington, and Drew Delatos finished the requirements for their Bear Rank. Webelos I Pin for Geology was earned by **Tommy Rivas-Siles, Larry Souder, Galen Miley, Moses Hart, John Pitkin, and Anthony Gadbois.** The Webelos Citizen Pin was earned by **Larry Souder, Galen Miley, and Tommy Rivas-Siles.** Webelos II **Matt Ulanow** really worked hard to earn three pins: Naturalist, Outdoorsman, and Citizen. **Andy Wood, Mark Bushong, and Edward Huggins** earned Arrow of Light which is the only Cub Scout award they will be allowed to carry with them into Boy Scouts. Special appreciation went to **Collins Murphy** who completed a second year of service as Webelos II Den Chief. Our April Pack meeting saw the passage of **Mark**

Bushong, Edward Huggins, Matt Ulanow, and Andy Wood into Boy Scouting. We'll miss them, but we know that they are going onward into great adventures and community service.

With the warm (actually, hot) weather, Pack 1081 got outdoors for a Pack bike ride in Rock Creek Park. Scouts that biked from Veirs Mill Park to Connecticut Ave. and back again on the hiker-biker path were **Matt Ulanow, Oneal Summers, Anthony Gadbois, Larry Souder, Michael Spitler, Jake Bennington, Patrick Souder, Dylan Summers** and **Gregory Gadbois.** Then the following weekend, we tackled the strenuous and aptly-named Billy Goat trail. Our year-end Pack Meeting & Graduation Ceremony was May 17, but don't think Pack 1081 packs it in for the summer! The very next weekend was Family Camping at Pinecliff Park outside Frederick. On June 10, we'll have our annual Pack picnic and traditional Mother/Son Softball game at Randolph Hills Park. Our Tigers & Wolves are looking forward to day camp in July at Lois Green Isaac Walton League in Gaithersburg, and in August, some of our Bears & Webelos head to Dillsburg, PA for a week at Camp Tuckahoe.

Have a great summer and keep in touch by visiting our website at <http://hometown.aol.com/jph3190/1081.html>.



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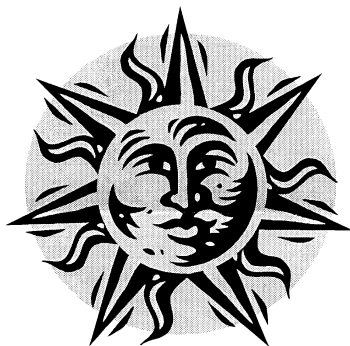
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Hair Systems	(301) 881-0338
Kumon U.S.A.	(301) 231-6977
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Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
Rite Aid	(301) 881-1910
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
SunTrust Bank	(301) 998-8580
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-2477
Urban Accents	(301) 881-4451



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The History of RCA-land

During the US Civil War, your house was located near the seat of the Federal Government, and just across the Potomac from the Confederacy.

In the last *Echo* we reported that on Wednesday, November 27, 1861, the Rockville jail-house had burned down. Jailer Lawrence Lyddane rescued all 19 prisoners, including the soldier who set the fire in an escape attempt.

Friday, March 7, 1862. Collins, the man who set fire to the jail, was brought to trial. He was judged guilty, but on this day it was determined he was “crazy then and still is.” Meanwhile, a contract for a new stone jail on the site of the old jail was let to two men from Georgetown – Mr. Richard Petit and Mr. Stake.

Monday, April 7, 1862. Population figures from the 1860 Census have been released. Montgomery County has 11,349 white citizens, 1,552 colored, and 5,421 slaves for a total of 18,322.

Friday, April 18, 1862. On Wednesday last President Lincoln signed a bill emancipating the slaves of the Military District of Columbia. The action has not been well received in Maryland. The fear is restless Maryland slaves will leave for the District.

Tuesday, August 12, 1862. Although there are Unionists among Montgomery County residents, the first known Rockville man enlisted in the Union Army. He is a free colored, George Patterson, who signed on as a teamster with Scott’s 900.

Wednesday, September 10, 1862. The Confederate Army of Virginia has invaded Maryland, and Rockville is now the base for the Union Army of the Potomac. The streets are wild with excitement, and teeming with soldiers and mule-drawn wagon trains. Calvary are thundering down the roads in all directions. Today there were reports of skirmishes near Darnestown, around the old George C. Washington farm and also at Seneca. The C&O Canal has been cut. The stagecoach to Frederick has been discontinued.

Source: The Montgomery County Historical Society

Gardening Tips

Maryland is bracing for the worst infestation of gypsy moth caterpillars in 10 years (last month we discussed tent caterpillars). Gypsy moth caterpillars will eat anything – especially during an infestation – but prefer oaks. They may completely defoliate one or two nearby trees. Trees will survive one defoliation, but will succumb to repeated defoliations (three or four) in one season.

The gypsy moth caterpillar is an extreme nuisance during an outbreak. Trees lose their leaves, the caterpillars are everywhere underfoot, and their droppings rain down from the sky. Combat the caterpillars by wrapping a piece of folded burlap around tree trunks about waist-high. This stops and traps the caterpillars as they attempt to crawl up the trunk. Home Depot & Lowes offer several sprays. Affected homeowners will quickly become expert in the art of insect warfare.

This outbreak will erupt in June and build until early July, when the caterpillars enter into a two-week resting stage. The caterpillars will then transform into moths and fly away.

Wanna Make Some Buck\$ this Summer?

by Richard Zierdt

Every summer (and winter, for that matter) brings opportunity for young people to make money, as lawns need mowing and sidewalks need snow shoveling.

The RCA receives calls from time to time asking for help in these tasks, publicizes them, and I wonder why more young people don’t come running. It’s the classic way boys used to make their own money. Of course, girls can do this to (I wonder if boys do babysitting?). Are allowances too high these days?

The RCA has received a request for someone to mow a lawn this summer, so if you’re interested, call the RCA hotline.

The Value of Nature

We in RCA-land are very fortunate that our neighborhood is bordered by parkland. Our parks are a nice mix of areas for people and areas for wildlife. Yet someone recently asked me, "Who needs wildlife?" For that matter, who needs nature? Many thanks to Janna Bialek at the Audubon Naturalist Society for helping me answer this question. The following has been adapted from the April 1998 issue of the Audubon Naturalist News.

— Eileen White

Connecting With Nature

An environmental catastrophe is how Tina Brown sees it. Most ecologists would agree. The obliteration of seventy trees and the dense tangle beneath them will eliminate most of the life on the land now slated for a picnic area adjacent to a community pool. "The Town Council sees it as an overgrown mess, not habitat," Brown says.

It's not that Brown is against the pool. But in her eyes, a picnic area doesn't justify clear-cutting a section of woods that serves as a buffer for a creek and shields the neighborhood from nearby development.

To ecopsychologists, Brown's passionate defense of the habitat for which she feels responsible and her anger about the vote to destroy it would be considered entirely normal, a sign of good mental health. This relatively new mental health field contends that Western Society has become blind to the fundamental human need for an engaged, reciprocal relationship with the earth, a bond as essential to peace of mind as bonds with family and friends. Much of modern-day stress, ecopsychologists say, results from denying that two-way relationship and failing to take responsibility for our part. Ecopsychologist Theodore Roszak says, "Ecopsychology seeks to heal the more fundamental alienation between the person and the natural environment."

New Age nonsense? That's what Jack Reed thought when three years ago his doctor ordered doses of nature to cure bouts of depression. "I thought the man was crazy," says Reed. But nothing else had worked, so he took up gardening and worked with neighbors to establish a native wildflower meadow in the vacant lot behind his house. And it worked.



One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

— William Shakespeare

Gardeners don't dispute the psychological benefits of America's favorite outdoor hobby. A wide range of studies bear that out. Gardeners consistently rate themselves more tranquil and better satisfied with their lives than nongardeners. And people who see their roses and zinnias as gifts to their neighbors turn out to be right. A garden view is a consistent factor among people most satisfied with their neighborhood, whether they work the garden or not. Views of parking lots or traffic-clogged streets have the opposite effect.

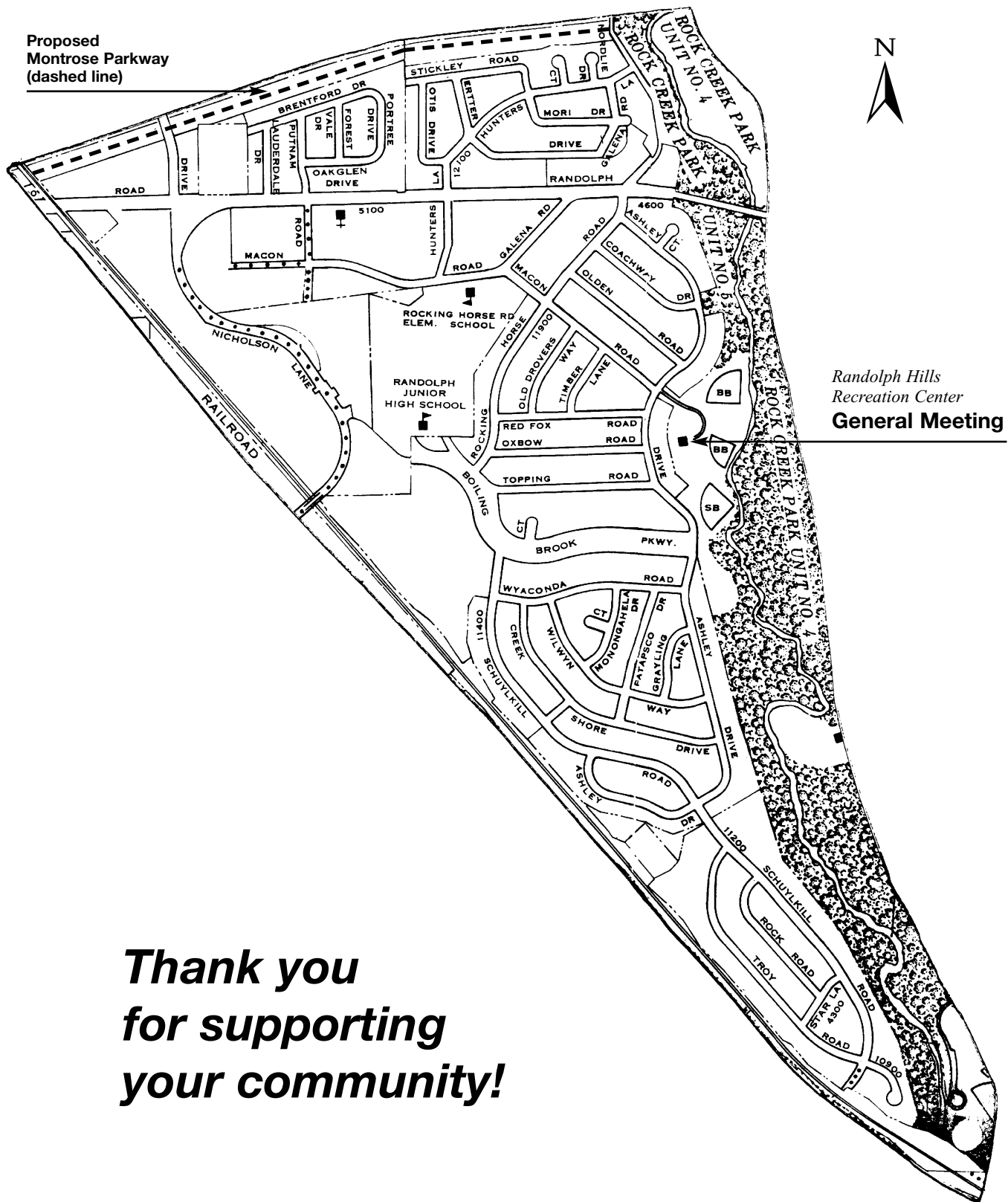
Other people connect with nature in other ways. Silver Spring resident Ross Campbell connects with the natural world through birding, cultivating native plants in his back yard, and in his reading about ecological restoration. He recalls the day he spotted

his first Red-breasted Mergansers. "To me it was pretty remarkable, such wild-looking birds right here in the city," he said. "I wanted to hold up my arms and say, 'Stop, look at this!'"

Most people who have some connection to the natural world have discovered it on their own or have been inspired by a mentor. Often these days, it is a child who does the leading. When Victoria Zuckerman's son was a boy, he found a small skull in their back yard. "He was so excited, I got excited. We went to the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History to find out what kind of animal it was," she recalls. "Sam learned he had a raccoon skull, and I discovered a whole new world."

Ecopsychologists acknowledge that nature connection isn't something that appeals to everyone. But numerous science-based studies have provided tangible evidence to support widely believed theories about the benefits of nature. Ancient Romans valued natural environments as an antidote to human congestion. And Frederick Law Olmstead, the nineteenth century landscape architect who designed such nature-oriented urban parks as Rock Creek Park and New York City's Central Park, argued convincingly that urban dwellers suffer psychologically when deprived of nature.

So think of nature as a prescription for serenity. A two-week vacation may be what the doctor ordered, but a few minutes gazing at the creek or eating lunch in the park may be all that your stress-constricted brain really needs.



CLASSIFIEDS

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

WALKING PARTNER WANTED - walk the neighborhood 2-3 days/week, slow pace, flexible daytime hours. Call Brenda 301-881-7858.

WHITE CHEST with 4 drawers \$30.00 40 x 27 x 16. Crib Mattress \$15.00. Call 301-770-4807.

WANTED: Someone to mow lawns. Elderly residents need assistance, and some residents do not have lawn mowers. Some may need lawn service while on vacation. Call Richard Zierdt, 301-881-0283.

RCA Meetings

RCA meetings are held the **first Thursday of every month** (except January, July and August) at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center at 8:00 p.m. Usually we alternate between General and Executive meetings. If you are unsure about meeting times and dates, please call the RCA Hotline (301-881-2722) for verification. All are welcome at every meeting.



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Note to Contributors:
**The Echo will resume publication with the
September/October 2001 issue.**

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



Important Phone Numbers



Police: Non-Emergency301-279-8000
(Police Reporting Areas (PRA): Franklin, Montrose Park: #306;
Westminster, Randolph Farms: #308; Randolph Hills 1st & 2nd sections
#308; Randolph Hills 3rd section: #309)

Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)301-279-1591

Police: Emergency911

Abandoned Cars (on private property)240-777-3600

Animal Control301-279-1823

Building Permits240-777-6200

Consumer Affairs240-777-3636

Crisis Hotline (24 hours)301-315-4000

Department of Natural Resources800-442-0708
(wildlife nuisance problems)

Disability Resources240-777-1246

Fire Non-Emergency240-777-0744

Housing Code Violations240-777-3600
(use this number for calls about tall grass, broken windows,
trash in yard, etc.)

Large Item Pick-up240-777-6410

Libraries: Hours, etc.240-777-0002

Telephone Reference240-777-0001

Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info.202-637-7000

Montgomery County Humane Society301-279-1823

Emergencies only301-279-1694

Volunteer Info301-279-1026

Licensing Dept.301-279-1249

Motor Vehicle Administration301-948-3177

Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance240-777-7700
(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)

Parking Violations240-777-8960

Parks: Information & Permits301-495-2525

PEPCO: Power Out toll free 1-877-737-2662
Emergency/Life Threatening202-872-3432

Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)240-777-3986

RCA Hotline301-881-2722

Recycling Info (www.mcrcycles.org)240-777-6400

Recreation Information240-777-6804

School Information301-279-3391

Senior Citizens301-468-4443

Street Light Out240-777-2190

Transportation (Highway Services)240-777-7623
(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)

Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)240-777-7433

Trash Collection240-777-6410

Tree Maintenance240-777-7623

Voter Registration240-777-8500

Water and Sewer (WSSC)301-206-8000

Weeds/Rubbish Complaints240-777-6400



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

Home Sales Settled Since April 1, 2001

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy	DOM
11104 Rock Road	\$199,950	\$192,300	\$0	22
11120 Schuylkill Road	\$209,900	\$216,250	\$2,000	3
11118 Troy Road	\$214,950	\$214,950	\$4,000	10
5201 Randolph Road	\$225,000	\$218,000	\$0	76
12107 Putnam Road	\$229,900	\$234,000	\$0	13
5103 Brentford Drive	\$239,000	\$224,000	\$0	25

Homes Under Contract...

Address	List Price	Address	List Price
11814 Timber Lane	\$289,900	12105 Forestvale Drive	\$239,000
12112 Hunters Lane	\$210,000	11102 Troy Road	\$143,900
4602 Stoneleigh Court	\$210,000	11404 Grayling Lane	\$209,900
11309 Ashley Drive	\$219,500	4709 Boiling Brook Pkwy.	\$219,900

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