

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 49, Issue 8

June/July/August 2006

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Upcoming Events

RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, June 1, 2006, 8:00 p.m.

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2006, 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 meeting.

Code Enforcement and Clarksburg Building Violations

by Richard Zierdt

At RCA's last meeting, May 4, we hosted four Department of Permitting Services (DPS) personnel who are expert in their field of Montgomery County zoning. I was impressed with their knowledge, and that all four came and addressed the RCA on building issues. They knew what was "right" and what was "wrong."

I also came to appreciate the difference between knowledge of the rules and the related task of enforcement of the rules. DPS does not enforce rules. Housing Code Enforcement does, and County police to a certain extent.

Where Clarksburg comes in is the level of concern shown over building violations there, where the developer is not fined for poorly built homes, but because some of the homes are too high (some just 6" over the limit) or too close to the property line (insufficient setback). Yet when home additions are built in RCA-land, where RCA's Environment Committee chair Matt Tifford has to call multiple times to get an inspector to show up reluctantly, and where substantive violations were discovered at one RCA home, it seems that the County enforcement mechanisms don't care.

I am not saying the Clarksburg building zoning violations should be dismissed. I am saying that the County Council set the stage for this non-compliance when it failed, and continues to fail, to keep enforcement and inspection staffing at levels commensurate with County growth. I also note that the zoning violations, which are not life threatening, are being scrutinized more harshly than safety violations. Something is wrong here.

I am a believer in the "broken glass" syndrome, which says that a single, broken window in a neighborhood, while in and by itself might be considered benign if it stopped right there, can be a catalyst for a whole set of more serious trouble: more broken windows, then more trash, then break-ins, then you-name-it. If less serious violations are ignored, more major violations will inevitably result.

If the County Council is going to fine the builders of Clarksburg, and it probably will, it really should take a fresh look at itself and its support of code enforcement in general. ■

Mark your calendars now!

RCA Fall Yard Sale, Saturday, October 7, 2006
RCA Community Picnic, Saturday, September 30, 2006

See you there!

RCA Executive Committee for 2005-2006

OFFICERS

President
Open

Vice President
Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

2nd Vice President
George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Secretary
Kevin Kline
4808 Randolph Road
301-230-1486

Treasurer
Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Directors
Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Frank Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

Matthew Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Echo Editor
Eileen White
11225 Ashley Drive
301-984-2579

Echo Advertising
Mauro Biondo
11508 Monongahela Court
301-770-7590

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (continued)

Membership
Carol Brown
4615 Olden Road
301-770-7440

Environment
Matt Tifford
11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

Education
Elinor Walker
12111 Galena Road
301-468-6335

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

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

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Scout Leader, Troop 1083
Dave Talbott
12104 Foley Street
Silver Spring, MD 20902
301-933-0048

Cub Master, Pack 1081
Mark Kibbe
4306 Emden Street
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-946-6393

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

Scout Unit Commissioner
Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Girl Scout Leader, Troop 1487
Stephanie French
11012 Schuylkill Road
301-770-3171

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:
Kevin Kline, Matthew Shore, Eileen White, Richard Zierdt
www.montgomerycivic.org

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):
Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964
email: Councilmember.Denis@montgomerycountymd.gov
Mr. Denis's aides: Ken Hartman, Adrian Lewis

Councilmember: Nancy Floreen 240-777-7959
email: Councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov
Ms. Floreen's aide: Merle Steiner

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive: 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 Legislative District 18 (representing all of RCA):

Senator: Sharon M. Grosfeld 301-858-3137

Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181

Jane Lawton 301-858-3638

Richard Madaleno Jr. 301-858-3130

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

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

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

U.S. Senate:
Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654
Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

Election Precinct:
04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 240-777-8500
751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20851
www.777vote.org

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

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich
Office of the Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-974-3591
governor@gov.state.md.us
www.gov.state.md.us



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$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 ewwhitedesign@comcast.net.

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

Minutes of the May 4, 2006 General Membership Meeting

by Acting Secretary Richard Zierdt

RCA 2nd Vice President George Gadbois calls the meeting to order at about 8:10 PM. The room is filled with residents and visitors, including one candidate for State delegate from District 18, which is our district.

Program: Home remodeling permitting. Our guests are four representatives from the County's Department of Permitting Services (DPS): Susan Scala-Demby, Gail Lucas, Sandra Kaiser, and Sandra Batterden. They bring copies of several documents on zoning, development standards, Homeowners Electrical Exam (for the true Do-it-yourselfer). Most of those present picked up copies.

A general discussion ensued about buildings in residential areas. A permit is needed for all sheds (!), even those thought of as "temporary." Even "Pods" – temporary storage units used when moving – require a permit.

The affect of remodeling on property taxes is unknown by DPS, who referred such questions to the Maryland State Assessment Office.

Some random facts: There is a 30% lot coverage – meaning covered by any building with a roof. It is possible to pave over your entire lot, but as long as that pavement is not covered by more than 30% of roofed buildings, fine. Storm water runoff is not a problem. If you flood your neighbor's home in the process, that's OK (I'm not making this up). It is not a code violation – it simply becomes your neighbor's problem.

Building or replacing a fence requires a permit.

The maximum building height is now 30 feet, down from 35.

Call 240-777-6259 to report permitting violations.

After the program, there was general discussion about the upcoming RCA Yard Sale, and education in the Down-County Consortium, where most public school students of RCA attend. No motions were made. ■

Voting in September? Consider This

by Richard Zierdt

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, September 12, 2006, which occurs before the September *Echo* will be distributed.

The RCA has not recommended any specific candidates, although it could. But certain suggested guidelines might help in deciding who's worthy of your vote. One check I like is the amount of money that corporations, notably developers, give to a candidate's campaign.

I have donated to many different candidates over the years, perhaps as high as \$200 in some cases. Generally, however, the most I contribute is my vote. But how about \$4,000? And if that isn't enough, how about \$4,000 more from your spouse?

Why is it that some entities will give that kind of jingle? What's in it for them? Could it be favorable treatment from the candidate should that candidate be elected? And could that favorable treatment be at odds with what you consider fair?

There is an organization that tracks campaign contributions, Neighbors for Better Montgomery, at www.neighborspac.org. Click on "Campaign Funds" to see how much money has been reported to each candidate. You might be surprised.

I won't tell you who to vote for in the primary election, but I ask you to see where a candidate's funding is coming from and consider the implications. Thanks for reading. ■

RCA in Need of a Membership Chair

by Richard Zierdt

After two years of excellent service to her community as chair of RCA Membership, Carol Brown has decided to step down and take a much-deserved break. We thank her for her efforts and help in this essential function.

So we have a void to fill. Folks, please look around, and ask around for a Membership Chair. Ask your neighbors, ask your friends. Perhaps yourself?

Here's what's involved: Over a period of about four months, open 700 envelopes, enter the membership information (renewals are easy) in the RCA's database, rubber stamp each check, and give them to the treasurer (yours truly).

If you need a computer, the RCA will provide a new one.

If you could volunteer for one year and try it out, great. This vital function is important to keep the RCA running well. ■

To find more RCA information go to
<http://www.randolphcivic.org>
designed by

EWebAvenue.com



A Custom Web Site Designer
(web site hosting also available)

Lori L. Teachum
ewebavenue.com or 301-540-1106

Tree Maintenance Badly Needed in RCA

by Richard Zierdt

The number of missing and dead trees is alarming, compared to the way the neighborhood looked 20 years ago.

I canvassed several streets of RCA-land two years ago for missing trees, and again on April 22. I came up with a list of 120 addresses that needed trees, shown below. I did not inspect all streets, so even this list is lacking. My standard is one tree per residence, and two if the property is a corner lot. Occasionally, a lot is so configured in an elongated fashion as to require three trees in my opinion. These trees are on the "County Strip" between the sidewalk and the street. This is County-owned land, but residents are expected to mow its grass, etc. The trees are not optional – they cannot be declined by the homeowner. On the other hand, they are supposed to be maintained by the County: planted, trimmed, and replaced as necessary.

In April, the County Council passed an emergency appropriation of \$1M for tree maintenance as part of budget decisions. I hope this is enough. The County has neglected tree maintenance for so long, there used to be an 18-month backlog. Now it seems to be six. I'm not convinced how that is measured, however. It seems the only time the County (Department of Public Works and Transportation) works on trees is when someone calls. DPWT does not go out on general inspections on its own. In other words, see no trees, hear no trees, plant no trees. My sense is that the overall condition of trees in this County is worse that \$1M will fix.

If your property is missing its tree next to the street, and it's not on the following list, call me at 301-881-0283.

Missing Tree List:

Ashley Drive: 11209, 11412, 11501, 11611, 11606, 11615, 11707, 11713, 11717, 11813, 11815, 11901, 11900, 11902, 12001, 12006, 12007, 12008, 12009, 12015, 12017, 12018, 12019

Coachway Drive: 4601, 4707, 4608, 4702, 4708

Ertter Drive: 4813

Galena Road: 12000, 12017, 12018, 12019, 12021

Gaynor Road: 12128, 12202

Hunters Lane: 12224, 12219, 12217, 12215, 12220, 12218, 12205, 12122, 12120, 12121, 12119, 12114, 12112, 12106,

Nordlie Drive: 12202

Otis Drive: 12108, 12110

Oxbow Road: 4818

Patapsco Drive: 11402

Randolph Road: 4607

Red Fox Road: 4813

Rocking Horse Road: 11825, 11801, 12005, 12009

Schuylkill Road: 11426, 11424, 11418, 11408, 11319, 11314, 11312, 11310, 11302, 11201, 11128, 11124, 11125, 11105, 11101, 11010, 11008, 11015, 11011, 11009, 11004, 11005, 11000

Star Lane: 4300, 4302

Stoneleigh Court: 4600, 4601, 4602, 4605

Troy Road: 11234, 10915, 10912, 10911, 10909, 10907, 10905, 10901, 10904, 10900, 10910, 11005, 11007, 11101, 11110, 11115, 11117

Wilwyn Way: 4811, 4810, 4808, 4708, 4612, 4605, 4601. ■

Keeping in Touch with a New Randolph Civic e-mail List

by Karen Helfert

An e-mail list has been set-up for Randolph Civic residents to use to exchange information, post "for sales" or give-aways, ask for help/information or even chat. This is a fast, free and easy way to communicate with other folks in RCA-land. The list is only for those who own and/or live in RCA. Other Civic Associations and subdivisions have similar localized email lists and have found it a good way to build community spirit, meet neighbors and make for a more neighborly feeling.

Joining is easy, go to

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

and click on join group. You will need a Yahoo user id and password, which you can create at this site. Or send an email to: randolphca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You will have the choice of receiving each message when it is sent, or a digest version which accumulates a number of messages before sending them to you as one message, or not receiving any message by email but rather viewing them on the website.

This service is a complement to our wonderful *Echo* Newsletter and website at www.randolphcivic.org. Karen Helfert will be the moderator of the list.

Looking forward to meeting you in Randolph Civic cyber space! ■

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Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
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SunTrust Bank	(301) 998-8580
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-2477

JBG Rosenfeld Retail Properties

4445 Willard Avenue, Suite 700, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815
Telephone: (301) 657-0700; Fax: (301) 657-9850

Treasurer's Report *by Richard Zierdt*

As of May 14, 2006, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$4,067.24 (\$4,237.20 after I deposit \$170 in booth sales from the May 13 RCA yard sale). Expected expenses through the end of the fiscal year in June include \$1050 for the June *Echo* (this one), \$500 for *Echo* deliveries (last half year), and \$400 Boy Scout donation, leaving about \$2000 to start the next RCA season, 2006-07, and do it all over again! ■

RCA Checking Register					
04/08/2006 through 05/14/2006					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 04/08/2006			5,383.82
04/09	789	Virginia Halberg	bulb refun Returns	12.00	5,371.82
04/12		RCAssociation	inc:advert	140.00	5,511.82
04/17	Exfr	Verizon	March 22 telephone	24.97	5,486.85
04/18	790	Quick Printing	May ECHO 16 pages	892.50	4,594.35
04/27	791	Erie Insurance	corporate liabil Insur	728.00	3,866.35
05/03	792	The Sign Shop	Yard Sale signs	315.00	3,551.35
05/08		RCAssociation	SPLIT	229.00	3,780.35
		inc:refund	MNCPPC park deposit	154.00	
		inc:advertising	Seigel	10.00	
		inc:membership	3 members	65.00	
05/12	793	Sams Club	food for yard sale	240.00	3,540.35
		BALANCE 05/14/2006			3,540.35
<i>Suntrust Bank online statement, May 14, 2006: 3,792.35</i>					

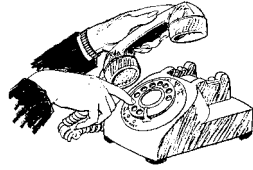
RCF Checking Register					
04/08/2006 through 05/14/2006					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 04/08/2006			274.87
04/28		RCFoundation	interest received .09%	0.02	274.89
		BALANCE 05/14/2006			274.89
<i>Suntrust Bank online statement, May 14, 2006: 274.89</i>					

Total RCA+RCF cash assets					4,067.24
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The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

Calls Received April 8, 2006 to
May 14, 2006



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.

If anyone notices that the hotline is not working, please call Richard Zierdt at 301-881-0283, and/or e-mail the RCA at info@randolphcivic.org Thanks!

2006-04-15 (Sat) 1:30 pm Anonymous. Caller reports parking problems between neighbors on Rock Road. 111xx Rock Road has seven vehicles. 111xy Rock Road have five cars and two motorcycles. 111xx (sic - same number as the first one) have five to six vehicles on a regular basis. The other evening, there was a dispute in the street with people fighting over parking. All these homes are rentals. There are traffic and parking problems in the street. Things have escalated; the street becomes impassible at times after midnight. People come and go from 111xy Rock Road on a regular basis, and often have more than seven vehicles. They sometimes block the sidewalk and other people's driveways with their cars. This is a major, major concern. The RCA needs to check into this.

2006-05-01 (Mon) 11:15 am Not anonymous, Ashley Drive. Can there be a list of baby sitters published in the *Echo* similar to the list of boys willing to do yard work? *[There can be, and will be if the RCA receives any names. The RCA would welcome this, and any sitters willing to put their names in the hat would stand to make some serious \$\$.* This caller is far from the first requesting babysitting resources. Please e-mail the ECHO editor Eileen White at ewwhitedesign@comcast.net if you are interested. BTW, Montgomery County has information on baby sitting at www.montgomerycountymd.gov: enter 'babysitting' in the Search box in the upper left-hand corner. Click on the Word document "Fire Safety Tips and Guidelines for Babysitter" that appears first on the list.]

2006-05-02 (Tue) 8:30 am Anonymous. Rock Road resident is tired about reading about the resident on Rock Road that someone believes is running a day care center. She is not.

(continued on page 8)

DAVID S. SCHLUTZ, D.M.D.



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

DENTIST



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RCA Hotline

(continued from page 7)

She has a son who plays with other friends. There is no problem with that. Caller doesn't understand the problem.

[Richard Zierdt here. I drove by Rock Road and think I recognized the property. No specific address has ever been given. Based on what I saw, no violation of County ordinances come to mind. It is unusual, but not illegal. After the neighborhood children gain a couple of years, I imagine the situation will change itself. On a related note, perhaps after Matt Tifford's efforts, the County will install new playground equipment at Randolph Hills Recreation Center that all can enjoy.]

2006-05-07 (Sun) 5:51 pm Anonymous. The lawn, front, back, and sides of 110xx Schuylkill Road is atrocious. Caller already called the County a week ago, nothing has been done, so it's apparent the County isn't going to do anything about it. Nonetheless, there is a fine for not keeping our lawns trimmed. *[County code enforcement inspectors are swamped because of under-funding by the County Council. There aren't enough inspectors to canvass the entire County in as timely a manner, but they will respond, eventually. By then, the homeowner in question may have cut her/his lawn. This cat-and-mouse game is unfortunate. See Richard Zierdt's article about enforcement in this ECHO.]*

2006-05-12 (Fri) 11:55 am Hang up. ■

Want Your House Number on the Curb?

by Richard Zierdt

Would you pay \$10 to have your house number painted on the curb? How about \$5? Somewhere in between?

Such numbers help emergency personal to find your home, as well as your neighbor's. Not compelling enough? How about helping your pizza get delivered before it gets cold? Or helping your friends find your party?

The RCA might offer this service as part of the RCA Membership Drive, which starts in September. You can let the RCA Executive Committee know your thoughts by calling the hotline or e-mailing info@randolphcivic.org.

The basic paint scheme is white characters on a green background. Before the white paint has dried, reflective glass bead is applied which greatly increases the white character's reflective properties. It looks sharp and helps safety personal find you if it ever becomes necessary. ■

This Summer, Use RCA-Provided Yard Sale Signs

by Richard Zierdt

The RCA has several signs for you to use free-of-charge when advertising your private yard sale. These signs are more attractive than nailing your own to utility poles and trees. Plus, they are free.

Just call Lorena Segura at 301-984-8727 and she'll leave 'em out for you to pick up (Lorena's contact information appears with most other RCA volunteers on page 2 of every *Echo*). Return them to Lorena when your sale is over.

Please save money and use these signs. Signs posted on utility poles and trees are subject to immediate removal.



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And when you do talk to a live person they don't want to give you a real appointment. They say "We'll be there between 10 and 4". Even at that, a lot of them don't show up at all.

But that's not all. When you are lucky enough to get a plumber to show up he can talk rude, smell like a goat, leave your house in a mess, charge you "an arm and a leg"...and as a final insult, act like he's doing you a favor. I believe...

Enough is Enough

I'm fed up with the bad image some plumbers are giving the rest of us.

That's why, 12 years ago, I started a "one company revolution" to give picky Washington Metro Area home owners the opportunity to call a plumber who will treat you with courtesy and respect. In fact, over 1,000 of the pickiest people in the Washington Metro Area have already discovered how to solve their...

- dripping faucet
- water leak
- stopped drain
- no hot water

...problems with ease and comfort.

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Paul Kinhead
ASE Master Technician

14716 Southlawn Lane
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(301) 251-7830 • (301) 251-7830

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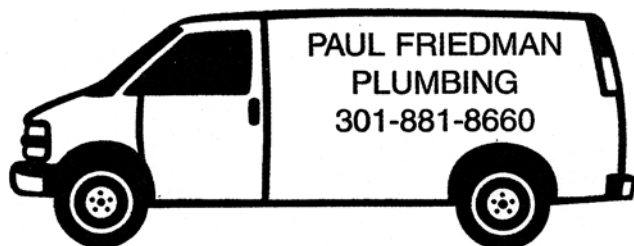
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President Bush Visits Our Own Parkland Middle School

by George Gadbois

Some of you may have caught this on the news, but President Bush dropped into Parkland Middle School on Tuesday, April 18 for a scheduled visit. He was there to promote technology, an academic theme for Parkland, as a part of the federally-funded MCPS Middle School Magnet Consortium grant. He gave a short speech talking about his plan to increase innovation in the economy, mentioning fair competition with other nations to avoid isolation, by striving to be the most innovative. To do this, programs emphasizing math and science, such as the Aerospace Technology theme at Parkland, will bolster the nation's poor grades in these areas and hopefully spur more innovation.



Parkland offers courses like "Applied Aerospace Investigations" and "Introduction to Robotic Systems" to students, some as soon as sixth grade, in order to expose children early to technology and subject matter that will keep them interested in education for some years to come. Bush toured the sixth-grade astronomy, algebra and robotics classrooms during his visit. The current sixth graders are the only ones fully involved in the Aerospace Program, though the seventh and eighth graders benefit from "spillover" effect and a severely less populated environment than in previous years. On hand for the visit was Dr. Weast, community superintendent Frank Stetson, BOE president Charles Haughey and others. Bush said schools like Parkland provide a solution to a growing problem. Many students were gathered at points to both shake the President's hand and exchange a few words. The president arrived and departed on the Presidential helicopter.

The MSMC is made up of Parkland, Argyle, and the newly-opened A. Mario Loiederman (old Belt), and was kicked off this past fall. Those RCA families not part of the WJ Cluster (Tilden MS) are entitled to select their child's middle school from the three MSMC schools. The MSMC is open for application to a lottery for all MCPS students. Students selected that are outside the Parkland/Argyle/Loiederman attendance area receive bus service if in WJ, Rockville or BCC clusters; all others must provide their own transportation. Students inside the attendance area obviously get bus service.

Pictures can be viewed at Parkland's website
<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/parklandms/>.

Information contributing to this article was obtained from the Gazette, Washington Post, and Parkland Middle School. ■



Parkland Middle School Construction Status

by George Gadbois

As many of you know, Parkland Middle School has been relocated for two years to the holding facility at the former Tilden Middle School location. (Tilden Middle school is cur-

rently housed in the former Charles Woodward High School building on Old Georgetown Rd.) The reason is to begin the much-awaited and delayed MCPS Parkland renovation project. This move was effective after the last day of school in June of 2005. Since then, the Parkland home location has been undergoing major demolition. Please see photo at left for status picture as of April 2006. In this author's opinion as a professional in a related field, progress could be much further along. However, it is common knowledge that school buildings are typically slated for "just-in-time" completion so they do not

remain empty and unused for measurable periods of time. Technically the project started in September of 2004 for design, and then construction was to have started in February of this year for a completion date of August 1, 2007. By the looks of the photo, the schedule seems to be slipping with no actual "construction" started. The structure remaining is the gym along with some key iron members to be reused in the new design by Moseley Architects. ■

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News from Pack 1081

by Mike Mulcahy



Our April pack meeting featured our annual Native American "Pow Wow" ceremony, along with an array of awards. After our Medicine Man, **Mr. Jack Levensgard**, presented ceremonial names upon our newest members in the Pack, the Order of the Arrow American Indian Ceremonial Team performed their always-impressive ceremony for our Webelos II scouts earning the highest award in Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light. Congratulations to our hard-working Webelos IIs who earned this award: **Esteban Hernandez, Joshua Murtagh, Maxwell DeMulder, Brenton Polk, Matthew Luong and Patrick Owen**. The Webelos I scouts kept busy earning Belt loops, pins, badges and ribbons. **Sawyer Kibbe** was awarded the Belt loop and pin for Mathematics and the Scholar badge. Brad Gessford earned the Belt loop for Bicycling, pins for Bowling, BB Shooting, Snow Skiing and Boarding and the Webelos Badge. **Luis Mayorga** was awarded Belt loops for Communicating, Computers and Chess and the Communicator Badge.

Some 68 bags of trash were collected in the rain.



The Boiling Brook Stream Clean Up.

Steven Escalante and Jose Valasquez received the Communicator Badge, and Jose earned the Webelos pin ribbon as well.

In preparation for the "Pow Wow", the Webelos I scouts have been working on additions to their Native American costumes, including chest armor and other embellishments. Also, our Bear scouts were busy this month preparing Pow Wow costumes and working on Bear electives for additional Arrow Points.

The Wolf scouts this month were busy working on electives and Native American attire too.

Service Project Recognition for Conservation & Stream Clean at Boiling Brook was given, by means of a patch, to all attending Cub scouts that participated in this event. The scouts and their helpers toughed their way through the

rain (just like last year) on Saturday, April 8th and retrieved some 68 bags worth of trash and assorted other debris from Boiling Brook Creek. Thank you to the following scouts and helpers for your efforts at this important scout event: **Esteban Hernandez, Brenton Polk, Preston Polk, Aiden Gibbons, Maxwell DeMulder, Patrick Owen, Matthew Luong, DJ Terry, Sawyer Kibbe, Mateo Streed, Don Gibbons, Mark Kibbe, Eric Streed, Lorna Luong, Matt Demulder, Kim Polk, Geoff Owen, Darryl Terry, Amanda Hernandez** (Girl Scout Troop 1028), **Sergio Hernandez, Daniel Hernandez, Josiah Polk, Melissa Terry and Jordan Polk**.

Our April meeting ended with the traditional bridging ceremony where Pack 1081 says good-bye to our graduating Webelos II scouts. **Esteban Hernandez, Joshua Murtagh, Maxwell DeMulder, Brenton Polk, Matthew Luong, Matthew Best, Patrick Owen, Karlo Begazo, Clark Cervantes and Christopher Chalfont-Leal** crossed the bridge with their parents and

became the newest members of Boy Scout Troop 1083. **Scoutmaster Talbott** and other leaders and troop members welcomed them with new insignia, Scout manuals, hearty handshakes and a follow up reception. Thanks also went out to our "graduating" Webelos II leaders and helpful others for their hard work: **Ed Murtagh, Vernelle Murtagh, Patrick Owen, Jane Owen, Lorna Loung and Matthew Demulder**. A big Thank You for all your time and hard work for a great first year in your leadership positions to Cubmaster **Mark Kibbe**, Committee Chair **Don Gibbons** and to Assistant Cubmaster **Daryl Terry**. So sad to see another fun scout year coming to an end but exciting summer activities are lined up for the scouts and September will be here to kick off another thrilling scout year before you know it.

After the originally scheduled April Pack bike ride was postponed due to rain, we ended up with great weather when the rescheduled event took place on the morning of Sunday, April 30th. The scouts peddled from the Veirs Mill Rec Center to Connecticut Avenue and back. In attendance were: Bear Den Leader **Mrs. Kim Polk, Brenton Polk, Preston Polk, JoJo Polk, Jordan Polk, Garrett Polk, Luis Mayorga, Alex Mayorga, Gabriel Hernandez**, his father **Steve Hernandez**, Wolf Den Leader **Erik Streed**, his son Wolf scout **Mateo Streed, Layden Streed** and the **Streed family**.

The annual Billy Goat Trail hike was scheduled for May 7th where a number of our Cubs were signed up to attend the fun, but challenging, outing.

We are again looking forward to the rest of our Pack members graduating at the May Pack meeting, camping at Fort Frederick in Maryland (also in May), as well as many summer activities including day camp and overnight camp, a picnic, a mother/son softball game, a carwash and pro baseball games with special scout or kid promotions. We're looking for all interested 1st to 5th grade boys to come join the fun, learning and adventure of Cub Scouting! Contact us at the numbers listed in the front of this *Echo* edition for more information. Have a great summer and remember to check out our website at: <http://hometown.aol.com/pack1081>. ■



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Troop 1083 News

by Jaime Todaro

Scouts in Troop 1083 had a busy month preparing a bridging ceremony to welcome our newest members. In April, Troop 1083 welcomed these 2nd year Webelos from Pack 1081: **Karlo Begazo, Matthew Best, Maxwell DeMulder, Steve Hernandez, Matthew Luong, Joshua Murtagh, Patrick Owen and Brenton Polk.** The ceremony is rich with symbols, including drumming, fire, and traditional Native American dress. During the ceremony, each scout must walk across the bridge – a bridge which symbolizes the departure from cub scouts into boy scouts, and down a trail towards achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Troop 1083 proudly awarded **Steven Santos** the rank of Eagle Scout during a special Eagle Court of Honor held in April. The honored guests included **Councilmember Howard Denis, State Senator Sharon Grosfeld,** and of course many scouts, and Steven's family and friends. Steven's volunteerism (his Eagle project was to build a pond at Meadowside Nature Center), and his quiet yet inspirational style of leadership have been an asset to Troop 1083 and to the entire community. We're proud of your achievement Steven!



Steven Santos and parents at his Eagle Court of Honor.

George Gadbois accompanied these scouts from Troop 1083 to the "Order of the Arrow" (OA) induction ceremony in April: **Matthew Binstead, Anthony Gadbois, John Pitkin, and Scott Talbott.** The OA is recognized as Scouting's National Honor Society. Scouts are elected to OA by fellow scouts, and inductees must be approved by the Scoutmaster. The induction ceremony is the first step toward full membership. During this ceremony, candidates maintain

Weekend campout at Gettysburg's Drummer Boy campground.





Bridging ceremony.

complete silence, receive small amounts of food, work on camp improvement projects, and are required to sleep alone, apart from other campers, which teaches significant values. Congratulations!

Our campout in April was at Gettysburg's Drummer Boy campground. Scouts in the Lenhok'sin High Adventure crew used this opportunity to prepare for the ultimate High Adventure experience by taking a day long hike carrying all the equipment they need to sustain themselves – food, water, cooking gear and utensils, tents, and sleeping bags. The scouts in the Lenhok'sin High Adventure crew who hiked while at Gettysburg are: **Anthony Gadbois, Johnny Hilderbrand, Scott Johnson, Joseph Owen, and John Pitkin.** Leaders who accompanied the High Adventure crew are: **Bill Blakely, George Gadbois and Ben Pitkin.** While the Lenhok'sin High Adventure crew was hiking, these scouts took a bike ride on the trails surrounding the Gettysburg Visitor Center, and visited the Civil War museum: **Jason Beam, Matthew Best, Jake Blakely, Kyle Blakely, Steve Hernandez, Edward Huggins, Patrick Owen, and Scott Talbott.** Leaders who accompanied the scouts on the bike ride are: **Geoff Owen, Jane Owen, and Dave Talbott.** Other leaders who camped in Gettysburg: **Fred Beam, John Hilderbrand, and Jaime Todaro.**

Upcoming events include a weekend campout at Harpers Ferry, the Relay for Life fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, a weekend campout at Assatague State Park, a two-week Philmont High Adventure experience, a week-long campout at Broad Creek, a week-long Lenhok'sin High Adventure experience, and a week-long campout at Olmstead-Goshen. 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. ■

News from Girl Scout Troop 1487

by Stephanie French

The Junior Girl Scouts in Troop 1487 enjoyed an evening at the Montgomery Aquatic Center this Spring. They worked on the swimming badge by demonstrating their ability to swim and dive. They also learned about water safety and how to help themselves and others in dangerous conditions.

The girls are now planning for two trips. One will be a weekend with other Girl Scouts from the area at a state park. They will participate in many of the Girl Scout traditions. On Saturday they will work on activities that will help them earn a badge.

Later this Spring the troop will go to Hershey's Park for a weekend of fun. In addition to the rides and park entertainment they will join with hundreds of other Girl Scouts from the region at a campfire Saturday night and special Girl Scout ceremony Sunday morning.

We're always looking for adults interested in working with girls. You don't have to be a parent. Your talents can be used in many ways. There is also free training that you can personally benefit from.

Any questions please call Stephanie French (301) 770-3171. ■



Flowers from the bulbs we planted earlier this year.

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Dear Mrs. Brown



Every summer we get visitors to our home. We also visit friends in different parts of the country. Are gifts expected?

After staying in anyone's home a thank you note must always be sent within a week of your return. A gift along with the note is very appropriate. The gift chosen, however, should be something for the entire family you have visited or something for the house. While you are a guest, it is helpful to look around and get ideas to what they might need or appreciate.

What is that old rule about wearing white shoes and does it still apply today?

The "old" rule is: Never wear white shoes before Memorial Day or after Labor Day. The exception to the rule is tennis (athletic) shoes. Does it still apply today? Yes. It is a traditional society rule – especially in the Washington area – yet most people consider it passé. But I say, go for it! Have some character, even if it's for your own self-satisfaction.

Would you please help me explain to my teenage daughter why manners are important, especially table manners?

Teenagers have a difficult time understanding the fact that they will be judged more on their manners, (which include not only table manners, but all typical practices, such as choice of clothes, speech, and forms of behavior) than their character. Manners are the customs, if you will, of any given society. Those who violate these customs are almost certain to arouse extreme distaste in those who do obey them. This is as true of subculture manners, such as those in a teenager's world. In their world, they may be outraged to see anyone mishandling a guitar or video game, for example.

To answer your question, the point to make is that your child will *someday* want the good will of people who do know table manners: a boyfriend/fiancé and his parents, new friends at a sorority in college, co-workers or clients. And *right now*, she needs the approval of someone very important in her life – you!

Whenever our family gets together my aunt makes some very rude comments to my brother. No one says anything to her about it, not wanting to cause friction. What do you suggest?

Good manners recognize situations in which it is necessary to be respectful, polite and also able to convey to another person that you will not tolerate bad behavior. Honor requires you not to let these insults pass. Your reply should be: "I am very fond of my brother and I don't appreciate your negative comments about him." After letting that sink in for a second or two, add, "I have never heard him speak unkindly of you."

Children Who Are Not Your Own

The world is full of children whose parents have not bothered to teach them any manners, which you may perhaps have noticed. That is why all good meaning adults have a great obligation toward the children who come under their sphere of influence. Let them get lucky and be a stepparent, adult friend, grandparent, or other relative or teacher who will take over that task.

It is a more difficult task for such people than it is for the original parents, who have more time and influence and a presumption of authority. Anyone stepping in with less clear authority must first obtain the child's desire to please him or her. Affection, tact, and a myriad of qualities that the child will admire and try to be like are needed for this, in tremendous quantities. But children, who observe a pleasantly ordered way of life, different from that to which they have become accustomed, and if they are led into this by someone of whose love they are convinced, will respond.

A child who is learning proper behavior from you will have it at their command in the future, whether or not this behavior is reinforced in their own home. Often children of conflicting influence will choose the better when they are more mature and independent.

Mail your questions to: The RCA, Inc, Attn: Dear Mrs. Brown, P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD 20852; or e-mail: dearmrsbrown@msn.com

Questions used in the column may be edited for brevity and clarification. ■

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Chicken Marbella

Yield: 16 pieces, 10 or more portions



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The distinctive colors and flavors of the prunes, olives and capers make this a spectacular party dish. The overnight marination is essential to the moistness of the finished product. The chicken keeps and even improves over several days of refrigeration and it travels well and makes excellent picnic fare. It's good hot or at room temperature. The recipe can successfully be divided to make a smaller amount if you wish.

In a large bowl combine:

- 4 chickens, 2 1/2 pounds each, quartered
- 1 head of garlic, peeled and finely pureed
- 1/4 cup dried oregano
- coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 cup pitted prunes
- 1/2 cup pitted Spanish green olives
- 1/2 cup capers with a bit of juice
- 6 bay leaves

Cover and let marinate, refrigerated overnight.

Preheat oven to 350° F.

Arrange chicken in a single layer in one or two large, shallow baking pans and spoon marinade over it evenly. Sprinkle chicken pieces with:

- 1 cup brown sugar

Pour around the chicken

- 1 cup white wine

Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour, basting frequently with pan juice. Chicken is done when thigh pieces, pricked with a fork at their thickest, yield clear yellow (rather than pink) juice.

With a slotted spoon transfer chicken, prunes, olives and capers to a serving platter. Moisten with a few spoonfuls of pan juices and sprinkle generously with

- 1/4 cup finely chopped parsley or cilantro.

Pass remaining pan juices in a sauceboat.

To serve Chicken Marbella cold, cool to room temperature in cooking juices before transferring to a serving platter. If chicken has been covered and refrigerated, allow it to return to room temperature before serving. Spoon some of the reserved juice over chicken.

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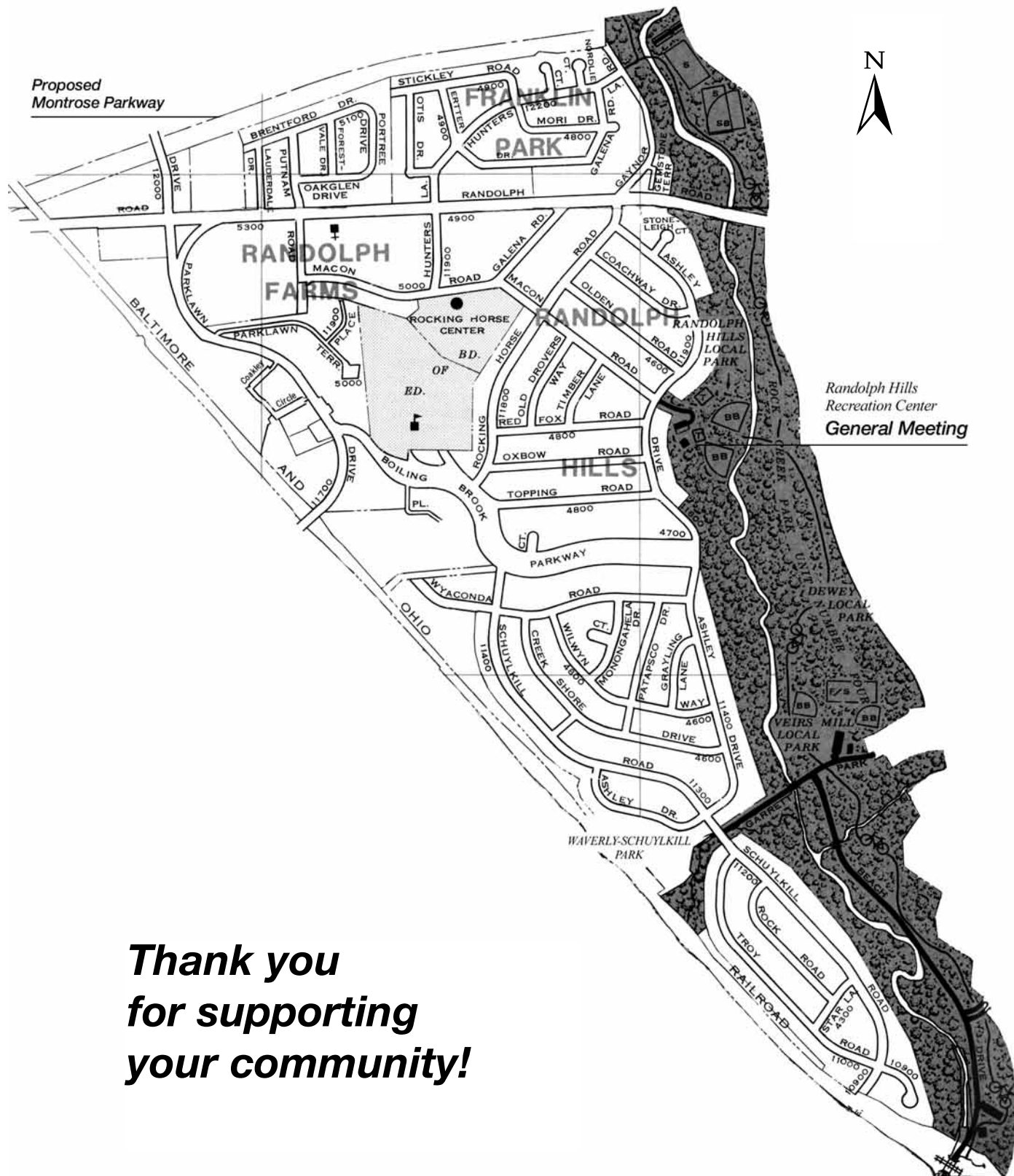
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Note to Contributors:

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Have you seen the RCA's Web site at
www.randolphcivic.org

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Yard Work and Grass Mowing: Here's Your Help

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Andrew Souder 301-770-7632 Ashley Drive

Alex Cassel 301-770-8757 Macon Road

Steven Santos 301-468-1756 Wilwyn Way

Chris Geerman 301-230-1386 Ashley Drive

Mark Bushong 301-942-5890 Bennion Road

Andy Wood 301-946-4634 Idlewood Road

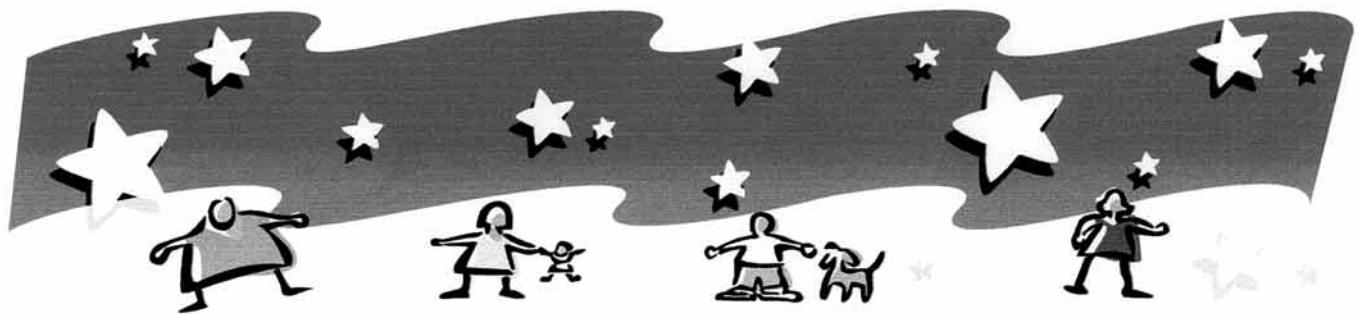
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Abandoned Cars (on the street)	301-840-2454
Animal Control	240-773-5960
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Consumer Affairs	240-777-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	301-315-4000
Department of Natural Resources	800-442-0708
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Resources	240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	240-777-0744
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3600
<i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)</i>	
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Telephone Reference	240-777-0001
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Motor Vehicle Administration	1-800-950-1682
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PEPCO: Power Out	toll free 1-877-737-2662
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Recreation Information	240-777-6804
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Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park Market Update...

Neighborhood Home Sales Settled Since March 1, 2006

<u>Address</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>Dom</u>	<u>Subsidy</u>	<u>Date Settled</u>
4711 Topping Road	\$479,000	\$479,000	4	\$0	3/03/2006
4714 Red Fox Road	\$410,000	\$410,000	13	\$5,000	3/31/2006
11414 Grayling Road	\$450,000	\$450,000	5	\$0	3/31/2006
12103 Porttree Drive	\$489,000	\$489,000	2	\$0	4/05/2006
4817 Creek Shore Drive	\$469,900	\$475,000	12	\$7,000	4/18/2006
4708 Macon Road	\$439,000	\$439,000	8	\$0	4/20/2006
11401 Patapsco	\$444,900	\$445,000	5	\$0	4/24/2006
11203 Schuylkill	\$499,900	\$490,000	20	\$0	4/27/2006
4631 Gemstone Terrace	\$449,900	\$435,000	27	\$3,500	4/30/2006
12000 Galena Road	\$489,000	\$495,000	9	\$5,000	4/30/2006

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