

#### The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Federation

Volume 44, Issue 5 March 2001

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#### **Upcoming Events**

#### **RCA General Meeting**

Thursday, March 1, 2001 8:00 p.m.

The RCA will host a speaker from the County's Department of Transportation to tell us about traffic lights: their installation and timing. If you ever wonder "why is this red light so long?", this is the meeting to attend.

#### **RCA Executive Meeting**

Thursday, April 5, 2001 8:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center at the corner of Ashley Drive and Macon Road.

#### President's Message

by Jack Stillwell

#### Let's put the Community back in our Association.

We had our Executive Committee meeting February 1. Naturally there was a lot of discussion on the great Municipality debate. We also talked about the new Home Depot, Schools, traffic issues and various other things you'll read about in this issue. But the point that really stuck with me was raised by our long-time resident and former Maryland Congressman, Frank Shore. He said that in the old days, the December meeting was designated "The Holiday Gathering." It was a time when the Homemakers brought extra refreshments and the formal meeting was kept short so neighbors had time to talk and mingle. He said the contentiousness of the Municipality discussion stood in real contrast to those days.

You have to admit punch and cookies with your neighbors in the Community Center conjures up warming thoughts even though I don't kid myself that we'll create Mayberry on the creek anytime soon. Still, there must be a happy medium. Almost everything we read and see about politics is alerting us to issues and problems. From the Presidency, to US Congress to State and County Government, you hear people battling over threats to their lives, money and homes. No wonder so many people were averse to creating another level with Randolph Hills Municipal Government. And, as we've learned, once you commit to fighting an issue, you're in for the long haul and frequently end up dissatisfied.

The Civic Association exists to help with these issues. But we also exist to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. We don't always have high-spirited debates at our meetings. Usually we have low-attendance discussions. Maybe that's why people see it as a chore to attend. I'm rambling here, but looking for input. I had a great Saturday a couple weeks ago going to some of the houses in the neighborhood with my daughter to sell Girl Scout cookies. I talked with people I only knew to wave at, I met new folks and saw sections of the neighborhood where I'd never been. It's a great neighborhood with great residents. Even the people who didn't want cookies were really nice.

I guess I'm trying to say, don't make the *Echo* another piece of paper you read to make you angry. Don't feel like the Association officers are a bunch of government wannabees trying to get their name in front of you. As you leave for work in the morning, be glad you're leaving a nice home. Know there are others who care about it and show up at the picnic, a yard sale or a meeting and introduce yourself. And introduce yourself to that neighbor you've been waving at.

#### **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

Richard Zierdt 4707 Coachway Drive 301-881-0283

#### **Directors**

Wilbur Van der Linden 11711 Ashley Drive 301-770-7235

Frank Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### **Echo Editor** Eileen White 11225 Ashley Drive

11225 Ashley Drive 301-984-2579

#### **Echo Advertising**

Mauro Biondo 11508 Monongahela Court 301-770-7590

#### Membership

Patricia Longenecker 4703 Wyaconda Road 301-770-1927

#### **Environment**

Jack Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 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

#### Family &

**Community Education**Judy Fewell

5018 Macon Road 301-770-5540

#### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Scott Bailey, George Cantalupo, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore

#### MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA): Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964

 $email: {\it Councilmember. Denis@co.mo.md. us}$ 

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

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

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

#### **Proposed Bylaw Changes**

by Richard Zierdt

There are a number of areas in our bylaws that I believe need addressing. One is the term limits of RCA officers, and another is advance notice of RCA motions. RCA bylaws are available online at www.randolphcivic.org.

An easy amendment I recommend is to change the date of the "annual meeting" (when elections are held) from May to June. This would reflect current practice, and would correspond with our fiscal year, July to June. Article IV, Section 2 would then read: "The annual meeting and election of officers shall be held on the first Thursday in June of each year unless otherwise voted by a majority of the members at a regular meeting." Also, June should be designated as a "regular" (General) meeting month. Article IV, Section 1 would read: "The regular meetings of the Association shall be held on the first Thursday of October, December, March, May, and June and at such places as shall be designated by the President and published in the *Echo*, unless otherwise voted by a majority of the members present at a regular meeting."

I am a big supporter of (consecutive) term limits, from leaders of volunteer organizations to the U.S. president. All RCA officers are subject to term limits (two consecutive years, max) in the same office. Term limits usually ensure that new blood is introduced on a regular basis, and gives more people a chance to serve. However, when no one volunteers for a particular position, we've got a problem. I have been RCA's treasurer for – I don't know – about 10 years, but no one else has volunteered to serve in this capacity. Kevin Kline has also ably served as secretary longer than the bylaws allow.

So here's the proposal: Amend the bylaws to permit successive terms ONLY IF no one else volunteers to be a candidate at the elections in June. The last sentence of Article III, Section 2 would then read "No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office, unless no other person was nominated or volunteered for the same office." If you oppose this change, be prepared to become treasurer or secretary in June.

RCA bylaws give its president great latitude in dealing with new business at RCA meetings. Article IV, Section 9 reads "The President shall determine whether any resolution or recommendation is of an emergency nature or whether such resolution or recommendation requires consideration of the Executive Committee or one of the Standing Committees; provided, that a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present shall call for immediate action on the matter and shall override the decision of the President."

(continued on page 4)



#### **Bylaw Changes**

(continued from page 3)

However, the *Echo*, where most news of RCA import is discussed, is not mentioned. All RCAers should be given the chance to review motions, whenever possible, before they are made at general RCA meetings. Of course, there are issues of timeliness that require immediate action. But in general, advance notice is best in the interest of fairness. I offer the following change, so that Article IV, Section 9 would read: "The President shall determine whether any resolution or recommendation is of an emergency nature, or whether such resolution or recommendation requires consideration of the Executive Committee or one of the Standing Committees, or whether such resolution or recommendation requires prior publication in the *Echo*; provided, that a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present shall call for immediate action on the matter and shall override the decision of the President.

I will move adoption of the above amendments at the March 1 General Meeting.



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## Piggy-Back Tax: Would you increase it?

by Richard Zierdt

I testified at a public hearing February 6, 2001 on the County Executive's proposed changes to the county budget for 2000-2001. Among several "adjustments" to the County public school system's capital improvements (additional classrooms and renovated schools, basically), he proposed delays in renovating Walter Johnson High School (Montrose Park residents, take note). The meeting was packed, with school proponents (parents, basically) testifying how badly their schools needed more and better classrooms, gyms, heating and air conditioning systems, and fewer portables. One council member, Derrick Berlage, asked if citizens would support a tax increase if it went to pay for school infrastructure. Most at the meeting voiced "yes."

There simply is not enough money (currently) to support all the things our public schools need. There can be differences of opinion in what constitutes a "good school" and "good grades," but surely we can agree that decent schools should be structurally sound, and should not have crumbling walls, peeling paint, or portable classrooms.

I would like to get a "sense of the RCA" regarding taxes and education. Would the RCA support a two-percent increase (from 2.92% to 2.98%) in the piggy-back tax (local tax for Montgomery County) IF such an increase would be used ONLY to correct deficiencies in school facilities? We could define what a "deficiency" is, and which facilities are meant. But the basic idea is the support of school infrastructure. I will make a motion at the March 1 General Meeting.

## Development Impact Tax: Time for a Change

by Richard Zierdt

Montgomery County places a tax on new development called the "Development Impact Tax for Major Highways" or simply just the "Development Impact Tax." This tax (Chapter 52, Article VII, sections 52-47 through 52-59), which applies only to Germantown and parts of the eastern county (Farmland area), is levied to pay for transportation infrastructure when new developments are built. The theory is that developers should help pay at least for some of the roads that become necessary when new developments are built. Sounds fair to me.

The problem is that roads are not the only burden placed on county services when new developments are built. Most notable are new burdens on education (with more children), safety (police, fire, etc), and utilities (water and sewer, gas and electric lines). Yes, new homes pay property taxes, but who pays for the new schools that must be built to accommodate additional students? We all do, including residents in RCA. This leaves less money for existing schools, which need renovation and/or additions (and fewer portable classrooms).

The rates charged for new development come up for review every two years, and now is the time to comment. There will be a public hearing regarding the Impact Tax on March 6, 7:30 pm, in the County Office Building, across Maryland Avenue from the Rockville Library. The bill is 4-01.

My motion would be "The RCA believes a suitable tax must be applied to all new development to cover the cost of all additional public services, be it for education, transportation, safety, or utilities. County law "Development Impact Tax for Major Highways" should be revised to acknowledge that costs for public services includes more than transportation alone." I will make this motion at the RCA General Meeting March 1.

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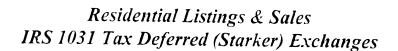


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#### **Treasurer's Report**

by Richard Zierdt

As of February 9, 2001, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$7,447.31.

The RCA balance starts out \$50 higher than the ending balance shown in January/February *Echo* because a \$50 dues check written to the North Bethesda Congress in September 1999 was destroyed and never cashed.

RCA Checking Register 1/07/2001 through 02/09/2001						
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance	
		Balance 01/07/2001			7,414.30	
01/09		RCAssociation		305.00	7,719.30	
		inc:advertising	100	0.00		
		inc:membership	205	5.00		
01/10	630	SAM's Club	SAM's memberships	-170.00	7,549.30	
01/10	631	SAM's Club	SAM's membership	-60.00	7,489.30	
01/12	632	North Bethesda Cong	dues 2000-2001	-50.00	7,439.30	
01/16	E-xfr	Verizon	Dec 22 phone bill	-20.46	7,418.84	
01/22	633	Quick Printing	Jan/Feb ECHO, 24 pages	-945.00	6,473.84	
01/31	634	Hosting Masters	Web: 1 month (January)	-20.00	6,453.84	
02/04	635	SAM's Club	5 SAM's memberships	-75.00	6,378.84	
02/07	E-xfr	Verizon	Jan 22 phone bill	-20.58	6,358.26	
02/09		RCAssociation		344.00	6,702.26	
		inc:advertising	Sound of Life Hearin 225	5.00		
		inc:membership	Mbrshp, donat, SAMs 119	0.00		
		BALANCE 02/09/2001			6,702.26	

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		Balance 01/07/2001			792.40
01/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	842.40
01/23	1043	Brian McGahey	candy canes/Santa	-97.78	744.62
01/31		interest	Suntrust71%	0.43	745.0
BALANCE 02/09/2001				745.0	

## Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

301-881-2722

January 8, 2001 to February 8, 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.

**2001-01-16 (Tue) 1:41 pm** Grayling Lane did not receive January *Echo*. Usually, it's delivered by now. [Usually, the Echo is delivered at the end of the month. The Scouts received the Echo to deliver on January 22. The Echo is available about a week before on the RCA's website: randolphcivic.org]

**2001-01-19 (Fri) 4:46 pm** Ashley Drive. Have a parking problem. No parking on the south side of Ashley. Caller has called the county, Caller wants a handicap sign in front of caller's home. Caller has bad leg and bad heart. [please leave a phone number so RCA can contact callers]

**2001-01-24 (Wed) 1:43 pm** Update on traffic study on Rockinghorse. Traffic counters were put down on January 10th and 11th. Over 50 pages of data were accumulated. Mr. David Lowry (sp?) from the County Office of Traffic Services is very sure the street exceeds standards. Public hearings will be held before the County council. *[RCA will post the date when it becomes available.]* 

**2001-01-25 (Thu) 3:39 pm** Randolph Hills, 1st section. Concerned about a tree situation. Caller has two trees in front of house, one of which is in bad shape. Should one of the trees be removed as part of the Renew Montgomery program?

**2001-01-25 (Thu) 6:56 pm** Grayling Lane. Renew Montgomery and tree replacement. Caller would appreciate an inspection of caller's tree.

**2001-01-25** (**Thu**) **8:52 pm** Student from the Charles E. Smith School. Wants to write article about the relationship between the school and the RCA community. He would like to interview someone from the RCA. [We're working on it.]

**2001-01-26 (Fri) 12:01 pm** Randolph Hills, second section. Legally blind. Renew Montgomery: Sidewalk in front of caller's home is very bad, and caller has a problem walking. Caller has lived in neighborhood 43 years. If there's a list, please add this address to it. *[Done]* 

**2001-01-28 (Sun) 1:35 pm** Franklin Park. Please remind all residents of the Franklin Park subdivision that the covenants (attached to deeds of properties in this neighborhood) specify that properties are for residential use. No business activities are permitted in Franklin Park. [Does anyone have a copy of these covenants? Please contact an RCA officer.]

**2001-01-29** (Mon) 9:51 am Montrose Park. On November 15, at about 12:30 pm, caller had serious automobile accident turning (left) off of Randolph Road onto Lauderdale Drive. This is a dangerous intersection. Caller has called four County offices asking for a left-turn signal light.

**2001-02-02 (Fri) 9:00 am** Westminster. No *Echo* in February. [Scout routes were changed (by RCA), and there was some confusion on this route. Echos should be delivered now.]

(continued on page 11)



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#### **RCA Hotline**

(continued from page 8)

**2001-02-03 (Sat) 2:43 pm** Patapsco Drive. Renew Montgomery: 15 feet of curb is missing in front of house. What does caller do? [Curbs and sidewalks will be repaired this spring/summer.]

**2001-02-05 (Mon) 1:53 pm** Schuylkill Road. Municipality issue. Caller objects to criticism that Mr. Zierdt was pursuing municipality for political gain. Caller would like to see more data in other, similar neighborhoods to see how it is working there.

2001-02-05 (Mon) 10:17 pm Wilwyn Way. Wants information on the cement contractor about driveways and costs. [RCA will pass on the name of the contractor when County tells us. Cost will be less than normal, but higher than the \$25/square yard cost contractor will charge for driveway aprons (the driveway from the street to the sidewalk)]

**2001-02-06 (Tue) 11:02 am** Hunters Lane. Trash cans are supposed to go out to the curb after 6 pm on Sunday, and taken back on Monday. Some neighbors are leaving trash cans out until Tuesday and Wednesday, which adds nothing to the attractiveness of our neighborhood. Please be considerate of your neighbors and return trash cans to the yard on Monday afternoon or evening.

**2001-02-06 (Tue) 3:48 pm** Old Drovers Way. Renew Montgomery: Trees. Tree in front of home is dead. Please replace it, or just simply remove it. Caller wants to know what to do. [Call the RCA (as you've done), and it will be added to the tree list.]

**2001-02-07 (Wed) 3:53 pm** Creek Shore. Sidewalk needs repair in front of house. Also, would consider contracting for a driveway at the same time. (Renew Montgomery)

2001-02-07 (Thu) 5:55 pm There's a vehicle parked on Boiling Brook Parkway for at least three months. The "Parking Violations" phone number printed in the *Echo* yields a message that the office will be closed for two days, then reopen on "July 13, 2000." Also, the police non-emergency number 301-279-8000 did not pick up after at least 7 rings on two occasions. [Police say the non-emergency number can get backed up, particularly between 4 PM and midnight, but that someone (or a machine) should pick up. RCA will investigate the Parking Violations number in the Echo. The vehicle mentioned was not stolen.]

## Additions to RCA Paid Members 2000-2001

Memberships missed from the January/February *Echo*:

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#### **Neighborhood Notes**

#### **Zoning News**

Montgomery County law requires commercial and multi-family property owners to remove all snow and ice from public walkways between parking areas and their front entrances. The snow & ice must be removed within 24 hours after precipitation ends, and must be done "to the extent necessary to provide safe pedestrian pathways." The fine is \$50. The Department of Public Works and Transportation "strongly encourages" residents to clean sidewalks in front of their homes. You should know that many northern communities, such as Mt. Lebanon, PA, have for many years required homeowners to also clean their front sidewalks within 24 hours. Long ago these communities legally clarified the concerns and exceptions needed for elderly and disabled homeowners.



#### **Reasons for Traffic Congestion**

*A growing region.* Since 1970, The Washington Metropolitan area's population has increased by 1.4 million people, while jobs have increased by 1.5 million. All of the population growth has been in the suburbs.

*More people driving.* Between 1980 and 2000, Montgomery County's population increased 48%. People own more cars. Between 1975 and 2000, while Montgomery County population grew 43%, the number of registered vehicles increased by 76%.

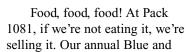
**People are driving further.** Nationally, the average number of miles driven per vehicle increased 22% between 1983 and 1990.

*More two-worker households.* In Montgomery County, between 1950 and 1997, the percentage of women working increased from 32% to 67%.

The County's Transportation Policy Task Force newsletter (January 2001) reports that "...there is no one single solution – not roads, not transit – that effectively deals with congestion...Building new transportation facilities [roads] is not easy. Here are some of the reasons: The funding available for new [roads] has not kept pace with increases in demand, nor is it expected to in the future; In a maturing county, such as Montgomery, there is less vacant land, particularly in our urban areas...; Established neighborhoods often view new [roads] as potentially threatening to community quality of life; Many wish to preserve the green space rather than building more transportation facilities.

## News from Pack 1081

by Doneby Smith





Gold banquet proved tasty fun with more than enough delicious dishes provided by our moms and dads to fill all our hungry Cub Scouts. Kudos to **Anita Stuck** for, once again, organizing a great event. We had a 3-way tie for most popcorn sales: **Thomas Shaw, Gregory Gadbois**, and **Anthony Gadbois**. This critical fundraiser resulted in \$2500.00 in sales, with a net profit to the Pack of \$425.00! Thanks to all of you out there who helped make this such a big success. Our next fundraiser is just as yummy: candy bars! All you chocoholics watch for your neighborhood Cub Scout with a delectable variety of name-brand candy for sale.

Our Tigers earned their January "paw" completing the "Making Your Family Special" activity – Kyle Arey, Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart, Dwayne Remillard, Thomas Shaw, Alex AJ Taylor, and Diego Vallejas.

Race results are in from January's Pinewood Derby:
Overall winners – Gregory Gadbois 1st, Matt Fieller
2nd, Jaccen Schairer 3rd and Jake Bennington Best
Looking. Rank/age category winners were: Tigers –
Gregory Gadbois 1st, Jaccen Schairer 2nd, Dwayne
Remillard 3rd; Wolves – Matt Fieller 1st, Dylan
Summers 2nd, Tony Caffi 3rd; Bears – Drew Delatos
1st, Joseph Owen 2nd, Jake Bennington 3rd; Webelos I
– Tommy Rivas 1st, John Pitkin 2nd, Moses Hart 3rd;
Webelos II – Andy Wood 1st, Matt Ulanow 2nd,
Edward Huggins 3rd. Numerous other boys won ribbons

(continued on page 15)



#### WATERY EYES?? SNEEZING?? WHEEZING??

## IF YOU SUFFER FROM ALLERGIES IN THE WINTER IT COULD BE RELATED TO YOUR DIRTY FORCED AIR HEATING DUCT SYSTEM

Here's Why:

Most people don't realize that the space consumed by the ducts in the home is equivalent to an extra room that's never been cleaned.

Medical research has found that the dirt, dust, pollen, bacteria, molds and dust mites in duct systems can cause allergies to flare.

Consider that the average person spend's 90% of their time indoors. Filthy air ducts blow bacteria, fungi, mold, pollen and other disease causing spores into your living environment...morning, noon and night.



Benefits to you:

Professional Air Duct Cleaning reduces allergy and respiratory suffering, reduces costly heating/cooling cost and improves the overall air distribution in your home and also reduces household cleaning and dusting labor.

Here's how:

- 1. Trained technicians connect a hose from a specially designed vacuum system to your duct work. Each outlet is sealed off and a vacuum is created within the duct system.
- 2. The technician determines if the dirt and mold in the duct work is caked on.
- 3. High pressure compressed air is injected into each vent, this air blast pushes the dirt and duct down into the main duct run.
- 4. After the vents are blown down we take a small tool call the aire sweep and insert it in the main duct runs. The aire sweep moves down the duct run each time air pressure is applied. This action sweeps grime, dirt and dust back to the vacuum hose hookup and into the portable vacuum system.
- 5. We then air wash the fan blower compartment, plenum, air handling side of the furnace and the a/c coil with air pressure and vacuum.

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#### Pack 1081

(continued from page 12)

ranging from Most Unusual to Best Workmanship. Our special thanks to the judges who gave of their time: Mr. Brian McGahey, Ms. Adell Milne and Mr. Dave Talbott. Our top three Cub/Webelos boys along with the top two Tigers and Jake's best looking car will compete in the District Derby event in late March. Good luck boys!

In March, a group of our Webelos scouts will have a great time being "locked in" overnight in the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore: a special after-hours guided tour followed by "camping out" in our sleeping bags in the museum. They'll be treated to several science oriented workshops as well as a visit to the planetarium.

Visit our website at:

http://hometown.aol.com//jph3190/1081.html and chase the last of those winter blues away with a nibble of Pack 1081 chocolate!

#### **Boy Scout Troop 1083 News**

by Brian McGahey

Even though it's Winter, we have been busy Scouting in Troop 1083. Of course we helped Santa deliver candy canes in December. Helping Santa were Nachi Roper, Andrew Tao, Alex Cassel, Collins Murphy, Steven Santos, Chris Soares, Hafez Taghavi, and Scott Talbott. Adult support came from Fernando Santos, Dave Murphy, Greg Skolnik, Janete Soares, Dave Talbott, Freeman Tao, Matthew Tao, Don McGahey, and Mike Saunders. Station 21 of the Kensington V.F.D. supplied the firetruck. Lynn Russell drove. The Randolph Homemakers supplied us with cookies, and Armand's Pizza at Congressional Plaza supplied pizza. We gathered at the end of the day to take down the Christmas tree lot and eat pizza. If you bought a tree — thanks!!

On January 26, 27 & 28 we were at the Klondike Derby at Little Bennett Regional Park. There was actual snow on the ground!! We had a great time competing with other Scouts. We showed how to use skills in First Aid, knots and lashings, compass work, and group leadership and initiative. And, we pushed a sled around. Just like Alaska. Scouts Nachi Roper, Scott Talbott, Joe Ridesatthedoor, Hafez Taghavi and Andrew Tao were there with adult support from Dave Talbott, Greg Skolnik and Brian McGahey.

In February we went skiing at Ski Liberty with expert guidance from **Mike Saunders** as the boys tried to earn Winter Sports (Alpine option) Merit Badge. Our other event in February was our dinner on February 10 at

Millian Memorial United Methodist Church. We had a great meal and showed the Webelos from Pack 1081 what Boy Scouts do at Summer Camp. We recognized **Steven Santos** with Tenderfoot rank and **Collins Murphy** with Radio merit badge.

For March we are planning a campout with the Webelos to Gettysburg Battlefield.

If any of this interests you and you are a boy, or the parent of a boy, who has finished fifth grade, come join us on Monday night at 7:30 at Viers Mill Elementary School. Or call Mr. McGahey at 301-770-7882.

THANKS AGAIN FOR SUPPORTING CHRISTMAS
TREE SALES!!!

## RCA Hotline – 24 hours

Call 301-881-2722

The RCA invites you to call the RCA Hotline at any time and leave your comments on topics concerning the neighborhood. The Executive Committee is notified of each message left on the answering machine. Be assured your calls are heard and that we appreciate your input.



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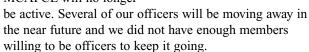
301-317-0188 Laurel 301-468-6577 Rockville

## (Former) MCAFCE

by Mary Lee

Dear Friends:

With sad regrets, I need to inform you that MCAFCE will no longer



Some of our members would like to keep making favors for Meals on Wheels and items for Day Care. If and when we can get ideas, etc., going, we'll be glad to let the *Echo* know.

We hope you have enjoyed reading about our Club – so we are saying FAREWELL for now.

Sincerely, the former MCAFCE

## Swanson Cheddar & Roasted Garlic Biscuits

- 5 cups all-purpose baking or buttermilk biscuit mix
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 14 1/2 oz. can Swanson Seasoned Chicken Broth with Roasted Garlic (99% fat free)

Mix biscuit mix, cheese and broth to form a soft dough. Drop by spoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet and bake according to package directions. Makes 24.



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**Homemakers Appreciation** 

by Richard Zierdt

The Randolph Homemakers, aka the Maryland Association for Family and Community Education, have closed their official operation, but remain on for ad-hoc projects.

The RCA appreciates all the work these women have performed over the decades. It's a change in society's lifestyle, I suppose, with fewer work-at-home mothers, smaller families, and "lets-eat-out" at an all-time high. In reviewing past issues of the *Echo*, I noticed there were at least a couple of homemaker clubs: The Franklin Park Homemakers, the Montrose Park Homemakers – you get the idea.

We appreciate the refreshments the homemakers have provided for RCA meetings over the years. We will miss them (the Homemakers!).

Editor's Note: I am really going to miss the Homemakers' contribution to this newsletter. Their monthly article has been a part of the Echo for so long, it feels like the end of an era to see it leave. Maybe, if we're lucky, the former MCAFCE members will continue to send in recipes for publication. I sure hope so.

#### Almond Bacon Chicken

- 4 strips bacon
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 10 3/4 oz. condensed cream of onion soup, undiluted
- 1/4 cup chicken broth
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds, toasted

In a microwave, cook bacon on paper towels on high 1-3 minutes or until partially cooked. Wrap a bacon strip around each chicken breast; sprinkle with pepper. Arrange in an 8-inch square microwave-safe dish. Cover and microwave on high for 7 minutes, drain.

In a bowl, combine soup and broth. Cover, microwave for 2 minutes. Spoon around chicken. Cook uncovered 5-7 minutes until juices run clear. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with almonds.

Make 4 servings.

**WSSD 603** 

#### The History of RCA-land

During the US Civil War, our area was located near the seat of the Federal Government, and just across the Potomac from the Confederacy. This led to an early occupation by Federal Troops. There was only one battle in this area, but troops from both sides passed through on several occasions, and livestock, crops, trees, and fences were taken and torn up each time. Rockville was the County seat, but had a population of only 500.

On Saturday, April 20, 1861, the Confederate flag was flown from the Rockville Courthouse by States' Rights supporters. Many were waiting for Maryland Governor Hicks to convene the Legislature and secede from the USA. That day President Lincoln called for troops. Sometime later the Governor complied with President Lincoln's call to arms.

On June 27, 1861, Federal troops passed through Rockville and began camping in the surrounding area (that's RCA-land). These were part of Colonel Stone's troops defending Washington and the C&O Canal. Veirs Bouic, Maryland's States' Attorney, complained that US soldiers camped at Great Falls forcibly entered several homes along the Maryland road to the Falls, including the John Willson and Samuel Willson homes. The soldiers were searching for arms, but also carried off eggs and poultry, and frightened the womenfolk greatly. That day Mr. Bouic wrote a formal complaint to Colonel Stone about this illegal conduct.

## Gardening Tips

By late March, buy a \$20 lawn pH tester, or take a thimble of soil to a garden shop to test if lime is needed. It probably is, so buy pulverized dolomitic limestone and raise your lawn pH to 6.5 (ideal) by summer. Apply weed-killer to your lawn now to stop the spring emergence of wild onions (super-tough), clover, chickweed, ragweed, etc. If you have a gypsy moth problem, apply Superior Oil under ideal conditions (no rain, temperatures above 40 degrees).

#### Did You Get Your Echo?

In the event you do not receive your copy of The Echo, please call the RCA hotline (301-881-2722)

and one will be delivered to you.

The next *Echo* will be the April 2001 issue. Look for it in early April.

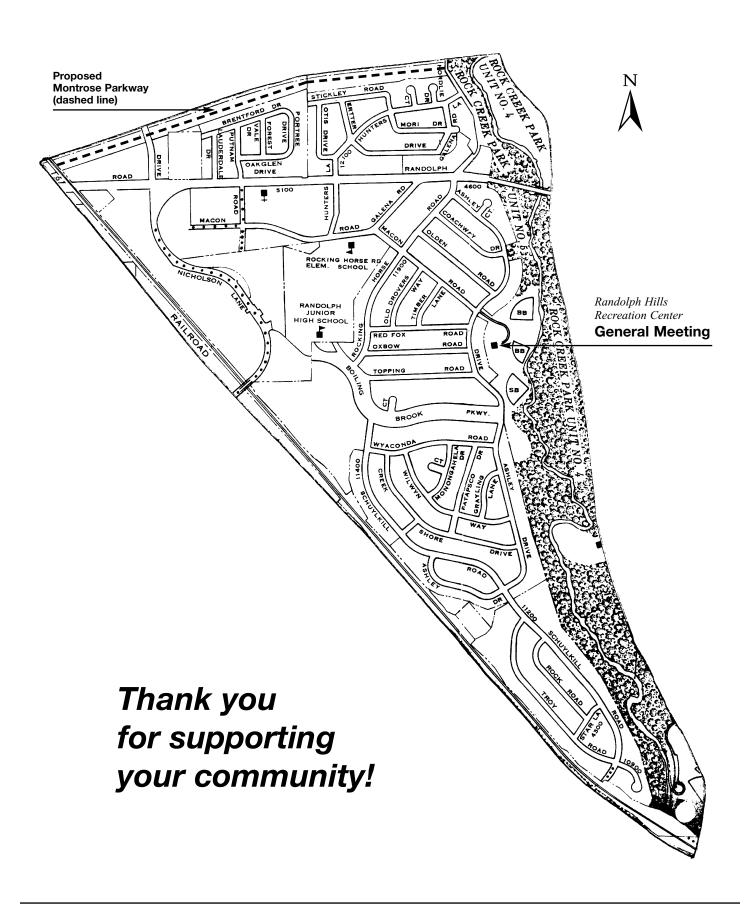


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#### CLASSIFIEDS

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.

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#### 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

> **Note to Contributors:** The deadline for the April 2001 issue of The Echo is MARCH 2.

every meeting.

#### Important Phone Numbers



Police: Non-Emergency
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)301-279-1591
Police: Emergency
Abandoned Cars (on private property)240-777-3600
Animal Control
Building Permits
Consumer Affairs
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)
Department of Natural Resources800-442-0708 (wildlife nuisance problems)
Disability Resources
Fire Non-Emergency
Housing Code Violations
Large Item Pick-up
Libraries: Hours, etc
Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info
Montgomery County Humane Society.301-279-1823Emergencies only.301-279-1694Volunteer Info.301-279-1026Licensing 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 Violations
Parks: Information & Permits301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out toll free 1-877-737-2662 Emergency/Life Threatening202-872-3432
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)
RCA Hotline
Recycling Info (www.mcrecycles.org)240-777-6400
Recreation Information
School Information
Senior Citizens
Street Light Out
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 Collection
Tree Maintenance
Voter Registration
Water and Sewer (WSSC)
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints240-777-6400



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

"Activity at Open Houses has been brisk lately, interest rates have fallen dramatically and prices are up. Six homes in the neighborhood are under contract or have sold so far in 2001. Currently, there are only three homes on the market... so now is a great time to place a home on the market! If you have any real estate questions, give me a call. I'd be delighted to help!"

Listing your home with someone who knows the neighborhood is more important than ever. Again last year, Denise was the Number One Agent in the neighborhood by far.

Let Denise's knowledge and appreciation of the neighborhood work for you.

Nobody Knows the Neighborhood like Denise!

#### Home Sales Under Contract or Settled Since December 1,2000

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy	DOM
4712 Boiling Brook	<b>\$</b> 181,987	Under Contract		9
4718 Boiling Brook	<b>\$</b> 169,500	Under Contract		45
5103 Brentford	\$239,000	Under Contract		25
4600 Creek Shore	\$200,000	Under Contract		63
11507 Patapsco	\$169,000	Under Contract		50
11806 Rocking Horse	<b>\$</b> 182,500	Under Contract		3
11430 Schuylkill	<b>\$</b> 170,000	Under Contract		17
4831 Ertter	\$204,000	\$204,000	<b>\$</b> 6,0000	33
12110 Galena	\$199,900	\$193,000	<b>\$</b> 0	3
11710 Rocking Horse	\$200,000	\$200,000	<b>\$</b> 0	25
11206 Troy	\$189,500	\$185,000	<b>\$</b> 0	110

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