

# The Echo

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation*

Volume 48, Issue 5

March 2005

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## President's Message

*by Matt Shore*

Winter only has a couple of months left and Spring will be coming soon. Before we forget about winter, I wanted to mention a few things about shoveling the snow on your property. Many residents in the RCA do their part to remove the snow, but for the ones who don't, they make conditions treacherous for the community.

The County has a law on the books that says residents have to clear the snow within 24 hours after the end of a snowstorm [see article on page 3]. Now most of us shovel in a reasonable amount of time because we know everything is going to refreeze at night. Not shoveling causes an ice-skating, snow pack effect that will take forever to melt. The County has this law on the books to protect citizens from being injured in a fall. Really it just boils down to common courtesy to your neighbors and safety and well being for yourself and your family. This message probably will be more applicable to next winter, but put it in your memory for a surprise March snowstorm, and many storms in years to come.

Since the temperatures will be rising in the coming months, the RCA will embark on putting up our new community signs and some replacement ones. Four signs will be put up over the next few months and mulch and flowers/shrubs will be soon to follow. If anyone wants to help out call the RCA Hotline at 301-881-2722.

I hope to see you at the March meeting! ■

*Spring is coming, and dedicated RCA volunteers have already begun our Spring beautification project. See page 9 for more pictures.*

## Upcoming Events

### **RCA General Meeting**

Thursday, March 3, 2005  
8:00 p.m.

### **RCA Executive Meeting**

Thursday, April 7, 2005  
8:00 p.m.

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.



## RCA Executive Committee for 2004-2005

### OFFICERS

#### President

Matthew Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

#### 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

Frank Rossomondo  
11611 Ashley Drive  
301-770-7450

### 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

Jack Stillwell  
5106 Macon Road  
301-231-4934

#### 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

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

#### Girl Scout Leader, Troop 1487

Pat Hart  
4905 Randolph Road  
301-230-2740

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Kevin Kline, Matthew Shore, Eileen White, Richard Zierdt  
[www.montgomerycivic.org](http://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](mailto:Councilmember.Denis@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Mr. Denis's aide: Ken Hartman

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

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 Legislative District 18 (representing all of RCA):

Senator: Sharon M. Grosfeld 301-858-3137

Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181

John Hurson 301-858-3770

Richard Madaleno Jr. 301-858-3130

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](mailto: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](http://www.777vote.org)

Maryland State Board of Elections: [www.elections.state.md.us](http://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](mailto:governor@gov.state.md.us)

[www.gov.state.md.us](http://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 [eeewhitedesign@comcast.net](mailto:eeewhitedesign@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](http://www.randolphcivic.org)

## Snow, Sidewalks, and the RCA

by Richard Zierdt

Here's what the County's website says about snow on residential sidewalks, which everyone can obtain from [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov).

Click on "Winter Storm Information" (about the middle of the screen). Click on "Winter Weather Operations Information" (pan down a bit; yes, it's misspelled). Click on Question 23: "Who clears sidewalks of snow?" (pan down a bit).

Here's what it says:

"Property owners are responsible for clearing their public sidewalks, driveways and entrances within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm. All residents are strongly encouraged to be good neighbors by clearing the sidewalks in front of their homes, as well as assisting those who may not be physically able to do so."

I'm not sure what is meant by "driveway," and I'm trying to find out as I write this. Surely, the part of the driveway that the public would walk on must be shoveled. I'm \*guessing\* that the part where you park your car is not subject to clearing. The part from the sidewalk to the street is questionable.

OK – I talked with Lisa, an aide from Councilmember Phil Andrews' office. She read to me the actual text of the law, and the word "driveway" is nowhere mentioned. But "public" is, and all public walkways must be cleared, so it doesn't look like you have to clear from the sidewalk to your front door, but you have to clear all areas that the public would use. But heck, as long as you're out there shoveling, why not clear your front walk? There is a \$50 fine for not clearing, but she stressed that the intent is compliance, not enforcement. Technically, this is a police matter, not a housing code enforcement issue. This means that a police officer \*could\* issue a ticket on the spot for non-compliance, say if your sidewalk wasn't cleared for five days, and it became a sheet of ice.

Remember, the RCA publishes, in every *Echo*, a list of boys (girls are \*not\* excluded) willing to shovel your snow. Call them if you need help. Also, every issue of the *Echo* is online ([www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)). So if you can't find your paper *Echo*, it can be found electronically at any time.

The County goes on to allow residents to report uncleared sidewalks (Question 25: How can I report uncleared sidewalks?). Click on the "Report an Unshoveled Sidewalk" form. The County will mail a letter to the address informing the occupants about the law, and asking for cooperation. You may remain anonymous. This link is also available directly from the RCA's website. Remember, residents have up to 24 hours \*after\* the snow stops to clear their sidewalks, so give 'em a chance first. ■

## Minutes of the RCA Executive Meeting

by Kevin Kline, Secretary

On a cold and snowy night, the Execs talked wistfully of an RCA-owned snow-blower. Who would store and maintain the snowblower? What would their responsibilities be after a heavy snowstorm? The idea was eventually tabled. Snowblower talk is sure to resume right after the next heavy snow.

**Passed by unanimous voice-vote: the Treasurer and Secretary reports as printed in the January/February *Echo*.** Mary Anne Gadbois, RCA'er and Parkland Elementary School PTA President, was given the floor. The RCA was contacted by the PTA, and asked our opinion on what to name Belt Middle School. This seemed an odd question, but Belt closed in 1984, and now is finally re-opening.

The RCA, through George and Mary Anne Gadbois, have agitated for years to re-open our school. Now Belt will finally re-open in August 2005. The other possible names are Ella Fitzgerald, and Goodhill (the physical location of the school is on Goodhill Road). The RCA needed to make a quick decision if our vote was to count, but no one had a strong opinion one way or another. All the Execs agreed Belt

(continued on page 4)



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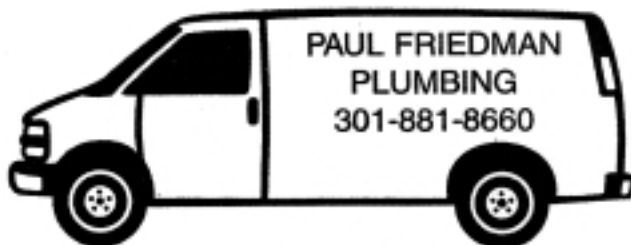
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### RCA Executive Meeting

(continued from page 3)

has always been Belt. Belt is named after Joseph Belt, a member of the House of Burgesses 1727-1729 (MD Arch Vol. 35, folio 57) and a Colonel commanding the Prince George Militia 1754-1756. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: keep the name Belt for our middle school.** The RCA general membership will also vote at the next RCA meeting.

Viers Mill Elementary School, which most of RCA kids attend, was recently selected by the State of Maryland as a Maryland Blue Ribbon School. Now Viers Mill is applying for National Blue Ribbon School recognition. These are very high honors for a school to receive. George Gadbois suggested the RCA support its school, and join a PTA effort to buy yard signs proclaiming RCA pride in our award-winning school. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: \$150 to purchase signs.** George agreed to manage the logistics of where and when to place the signs throughout RCA-land.

The Rock Creek soccer field problem was discussed, and Treasurer Richard Zierdt agreed to write a follow-up letter asking Park and Planning for a status report of the meetings that George Gadbois attended on the RCA's behalf in Oct/Nov 2004. After these meetings, the Parks staff was to modify their recommendations but the RCA hasn't heard anything.

The next topic was the County's Charter Review Commission. The County wants to change (i.e., increase) the number of signatures required to get an initiative on the voting ballot. Presently, 10,000 signatures by Montgomery County residents are needed to get an initiative on the ballot. The County would probably raise that to 25,850 signatures. The RCA Execs see this clearly as an attempt to limit grassroots efforts to change county politics. We think such grassroots efforts are a good thing, even if we don't agree with the initiatives themselves. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: The RCA supports the Montgomery County Civic Federation (our civic umbrella group) in its effort to keep the present threshold of 10,000 signatures for ballot initiatives.**

The Execs discussed political articles in the *Echo*. The Execs usually avoid delving into politics, and only address local issues. The Execs did support Question C that would have made all nine County Council members locally-elected, instead of the current five local and four at-large seats (it lost). The political season is over, so hopefully the issue is moot until the next elections.

Finally, the Execs discussed beautification efforts in RCA-land. Frank Shore noted that the County planted 75 Red Maple and River Birch trees in Waverly-Schuykill Park. Great! The Execs then had a lively debate on whether to buy more bulbs, where to plant them, etc. This heated issue was tabled for now. ■

## RCA Member Takes Control on Hunters Lane

by Stacy Rabinovitz

The request for "No Parking" signs on Hunters Lane in Franklin Park has been addressed. I contacted Tim Briscoe with Montgomery County. He has said that the county will now do a study and that this could take "several months" (I have heard up to 10 months). I have also contacted the post office to complain about the mailperson who parks their truck at the corner blocking the entrance to Franklin Park (it's not Tim). The mailperson was supposed to be told not to park there, but I still see it being done. [Call the Rollins Avenue post office at 301-231-5973.] Instead of residents complaining to the RCA, complain to the people whose job it is to take care of the problem. Tim Briscoe can be reached at

240-777-2185 or email at [Tim.Briscoe@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Tim.Briscoe@montgomerycountymd.gov). Maybe if more people contact him this situation will get corrected faster. ■

[Note from RCA Executive Committee: Way to Go, Stacy!]

## RCA Membership List

Additions and corrections to the RCA Membership List in the Jan/Feb *Echo*:

Astner - Ashley Drive \*\*\*\*  
McGowan - Ashley Drive  
Duarte - Boiling Brook Parkway  
Kotzalas - Galena Road  
Darrah - Monongahela Drive \*  
Knight - Olden Road \*\*\*  
D'shen - Patapsco Drive \*\*\*\*  
Calvo & Bryck - Portree Drive  
Wu - Red Fox Road  
Trump - Rock Road \*\*\*\*  
Hatfield - Schuylkill Road \*\*  
Thornton - Schuylkill Road \*\*\*\*  
Mosquera - Wilwyn Way \*\*\*



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## Treasurer's Report *by Richard Zierdt*

As of February 6, 2005, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$11,575.42. ■

RCA Checking Register 1/16/2004 through 2/06/2005					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		<b>BALANCE 01/16/2005</b>			<b>12,313.82</b>
01/18	E-xfr	Verizon	Dec 22 telephone	-24.50	12,289.32
01/22	749	Quick Printing	Jan/Feb ECHO 24 pgs	-1,102.50	11,186.82
		<b>BALANCE 02/06/2005</b>			<b>11,186.82</b>

RCF Checking Register 1/16/2004 through 2/06/2005					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		<b>BALANCE 01/16/2005</b>			<b>388.57</b>
01/31		interest received	.09%	0.03	388.60
		<b>BALANCE 02/06/2005</b>			<b>388.60</b>

<b>Total RCA+RCF cash assets</b>					<b>11,575.42</b>
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## Rush Hour Traffic Restrictions Proposed for RCA

*by Richard Zierdt*

Excessive Rush Hour traffic along Rocking Horse Road prompted one resident to take action. Doug Basher called the County and asked what could be done about it. Well, a few things – if he did a lot of work. Doug counted cars and took tag numbers for two weeks, and sent his list to the County for evaluation, and the results were “off the meter” in terms of traffic counts. Over 600 cars per hour use the road during rush hours. 90% of the traffic comes from more than one mile away. Basically, this means Rocking Horse

is a cut-through road for thousands of commuters.

To alleviate this traffic, the County has proposed implementing rush hour turning restrictions from about 7 to 9 in the morning, and from 4 to 6 in the evening. Westbound traffic on Randolph Road would not be allowed to turn left (south) onto Rocking Horse Road in the morning. Eastbound traffic on Boiling Brook Parkway would not be permitted to turn left onto Rocking Horse in the evening. Northbound traffic on Schuylkill Road would not

be permitted to turn right onto Ashley Drive. Final papers are being sent to Doug, and were not available as I wrote this article, but that’s the gist of it.

This also means some inconvenience to those RCA residents who use Boiling Brook and turn left onto Rocking Horse to get home, including this writer. An alternative is to go straight and turn left on Ashley.

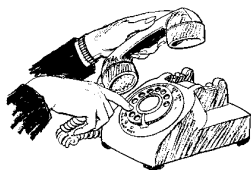
Come to the RCA meeting on March 3 to get the latest proposals. However, no vote will be taken because of the short notice. ■

## The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

### Calls Received

January 13 to February 6, 2005



*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.*

**2005-01-29 (Sat) 11:38 am** Caller's family is not listed as an RCA member in the January ECHO. *[Corrected in the RCA's database and this ECHO. Thanks to caller for bringing this to our attention. It helps keep our records accurate.]*

**2005-01-29 (Sat) 12:04 pm** Caller has not received Sams Club card. *[Done! Call Richard Zierdt directly for Sams Card issues at 301-881-0283.]*

**2005-01-29 (Sat) 2:44 pm** Glad that someone has agreed to translate the *Echo* into Spanish. This is a great way to keep those can't read English informed. Caller is unhappy about some of the messages left on the RCA Hotline with the go-back-from-where-you-came-from attitude towards the Hispanics in our community. Caller thinks they are offensive, childish, and close-minded. America's many cultures is its strength. It's anonymous callers like this that keeps prejudice and racism alive in this country. Caller chooses not to remain anonymous because caller is standing up for what caller believes in. *[To be accurate, caller's given name and address does not match RCA's membership records.]*

**2005-01-31 (Mon) 8:00 am** Randolph Hills. Caller is looking for a piano teacher for caller's child, or someone who knows of one. Caller always enjoys the *Echo*. *[Send suggestions to the RCA Hotline.]*

**2005-02-01 (Tue) 1:38 am** Anonymous in Franklin Park. Caller pleads for everyone to call and show concern for (support for) No Parking signs on one side or the other of Hunters Lane, on the north side of Randolph Road. When cars are parked on both sides of Hunters Lane, it is very dangerous to turn onto Hunters Lane from Randolph Road. We need to address this NOW. Note that No Parking is allowed on either side of Gaynor Road (one block east of

Hunters Lane). We need to address the problem on Hunters NOW. The RCA has done nothing to fix this. *[Any resident can call the County's Transportation Department, 240-777-7623 and ask for the subject No Parking sign. This number is published in almost every ECHO.]* ■

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WASHINGTON

May 7, 1965

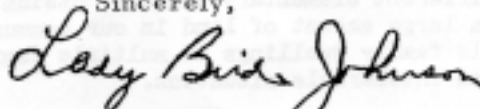
Dear Mr. Tarello:

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of your letter to the local newspapers concerning the unfortunate lack of news coverage of the wonderful April 10th Randolph Hills beautification project.

I hope you will express my personal sense of appreciation to every one of the boys and girls who participated, and also to all those who helped to organize such a worthwhile endeavor. Every individual involved is deserving of the highest commendation and I hope that I will have the chance sometime in the near future to drive by and enjoy a view of your accomplishments.

Please let me know if your organization participates in any similar beautification activities in the future. The President's national program for beauty can only be realized if people like you dedicate their time and talent in projects of this nature.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. William R. Tarello  
11227 Ashley Drive  
Rockville, Maryland

---

## RCA Plants 'Em

by Richard Zierdt

On February 5, four earnest RCAers moved dirt and ice to plant hundreds of daffodils and tulips, hopefully in time for the spring thaw and bloom. We're not exactly sure what colors they are, but they should be attractive. The RCA purchased well over 1000 bulbs for \$100 at a fire sale from Dutch Mill Bulbs of Hershey, Pennsylvania. This is a wholesaler of bulbs, and if these bulbs do well, the RCA might consider buying more, perhaps summer bulbs this year, and more winter bulbs later.

Look for flowers along RCA's Boiling Brook entrance and the "mini park" at Coachway and Ashley Drives. ■



*RCAers Lester Bollinger, Dawn Zierdt, and Bette Walling plant a bunch of daffodils and tulip bulbs in the garden mound on Boiling Brook Parkway. We'll know if they sprout soon!*



### ◀ **FLASHBACK to 1965**

The RCA received recognition from the White House for its beautification program!



Come see  
what's blooming  
at Loehmann's Plaza!

Loehmann's plaza

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Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
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Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-2477



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## ***A Personal Letter from Your Neighbor and Realtor***

*Dear Neighbor,*

*It may still be cold outside, but the Spring Real Estate Market is warming up. If you are thinking to make a move, now may be good time to start planning.*

*I have a different philosophy about practicing real estate:*

*I focus 100% of my efforts on delivering money-saving and hassle-free services to you.*

*My primary objective is to provide you with personal customer service. I take great pride in attention to detail and careful follow through when assisting you with selling or purchasing your home.*

***Why I am #1 choice for you? Because I care about our community***

***I live in the neighborhood, my husband George and I have three kids in our school district (and share the same concerns). We love the convenience of our area, we would like to see our property values go up.***

*My knowledge of **Our Neighborhood**, 8 years of experience, marketing techniques, and negotiating skills distinguish me in real estate field. As you can see- selling your home will involve much more than just placing a 'For Sale' sign in your yard and going to the closing. This is why sellers have hired me to handle the details for them.*

***Do not hesitate to call for all your real estate needs.***

*Your Neighbor*

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## News from Pack 1081

by George  
Gadbois



The weather is often the big story this time of year, and this year is no different. Our original Pinewood Derby date was January 22nd, but we switched to the 29th due to a conflict with the District's Klondike Derby. Good thing, as the earlier date was the weekend of the six inches of snow. Good for Klondike, bad for activities at school buildings. The annual Klondike Derby at Little Bennett, with activities for our Webelos and a Troop 1083 dinner invitation, was put to the test with that snowstorm. The troop erred on the safe side and cut short their stay. The Pack followed in kind and decided to cancel our participation in lieu of risking driving in bad weather. We'll be back in '06!

As in previous years, song favorites like "409", "Who Let The Dogs Out?" and "Little Deuce Coupe" coming from the boom box got the

*Some Webelos checking out the winners from one of the Derby heats.*



*A long track, fast cars and lots of awards kept the boys' attention on Derby Day.*

scouts "revved-up" again for this year's Pinewood Derby. Race winners for Tigers were **Elijah Evans** 1st, **Conor McGinley** 2nd; For Wolves: **Preston Polk** 1st, **Chris Mulcahy** 2nd, **Aidan Gibbons** 3rd; Bears: **Brad Gessford** 1st, **David Villarreal** 2nd, **Sawyer Kibbe** 3rd; Webelos I: **Steve Hernandez** 1st, **Clark Cervantes**

2nd, **Joshua Murtagh** 3rd; and for Webelos II: **Jake Blakely** 1st, **Scott Levengard** 2nd, **Alan Costas** 3rd. Winners for fastest speeds in the entire pack, **Jake Blakely** took 1st, **Steve Hernandez** 2nd, **Scott Levengard** 3rd, and **Preston Polk** 4th. **Gregory Gadbois** won for Best Looking car for his rendition of a carrot-mobile.

There were winners in many other categories from "best flames" to "best use of added weights": **Adam Levengard**, **DJ Terry**, **Kyle Baal**, **Tyler Bochniak**, **Matthew Best**, **Patrick Owen**, **Brenton Polk**, **Christopher Leal**, **Maxwell DeMulder**, **Matthew Luong** and **Jason Beam**. Many thanks to our judges **Mr. Brian McGahey**, **Ms. Adell Milne** and **Miss Cecilia Johnson** as well as the pit crew of our dedicated Pack parents and leaders. The District Pinewood Derby finals will be held on March 13. Several of our top winners for speed will represent our Pack in the races and **Gregory Gadbois'** car will compete for District's Best Looking. As of this printing, the District has yet to decide how the Pack winners for speed are selected.

**Gregory Gadbois**, **Steve Hernandez**, and **Matthew Best** were

top sellers for our Popcorn Fundraiser again this year. Thanks to all who purchased. Our January Pack Meeting brought in a few advancement awards, saving possibly for a bigger take at the Blue & Gold affair in February. Webelos IIs completing their Scholar Activity Pin requirements were: **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Joshua Hart and Antonio Garcia**. From the same group, earning their Communicator Activities Pin were **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Joshua Hart, Antonio Garcia and Scott Levengard**. **Gregory Gadbois** was presented his Webelos West Compass Point for earning the four additional Activity Pins needed for it. The Wolf den provided a skit for the entertainment this month ending with a scout's (pretend) dog inside a box after just having an "accident," leaving other boys wondering what was causing the box to leak; it was very funny.

At press time the Pack is looking forward to an ice-skating outing at Wheaton Ice Rink, a Ski trip to Liberty Mountain and our annual Blue & Gold Banquet. Please visit our website: <http://hometown.aol.com/pack1081>.

If you are interested in learning more about the Cub Scout program for your 1st – 5th grade son, please stop by Viers Mill ES any Monday evening at 6:30 or call George Gadbois at 301-770-5386. It's never too late to join! ■



*Many scouts, parents and friends came to watch the Pinewood Derby.*

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## Troop 1083 News

by Jaime Todaro

In February, we held our Winter Court of Honor, where we welcomed these Webelos II cub scouts: **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Antonia Garcia, Scott Levensgard, Josh Hart**. Seventeen merit badges and 5 rank advancements were awarded. The newly earned merit badges include: Polar Bear - **Kyle Blakely, Alex Cassel, Matt Fieller, Anthony Gadbois, Scott Johnson, John Pitkin, Scott Talbott**, and **Andy Wood**. Citizenship in the Community - **Edwin Fuentes**. Collections - **Anthony Gadbois, Bubba Hart**, and **John Pitkin**. Computer - **David Turish**. Photography - **David Turish**. Plumbing - **Steven Santos, Scott Talbott**. Rifle Shooting - **Matt Fieller**.

Rank advancements, which measure significant progress in areas of leadership, responsibility, and spirit, include: Tenderfoot - **Kyle Blakely, Matt Fieller**. 2nd Class - **Kyle Blakely**. 1st Class - **Joseph Owen, Johnny Hilderbrand**. Leadership positions were awarded to the following scouts: Troop Scribe - **Joseph Owen**. Assistant Patrol Leader - **Edwin Fuentes** (Wildcat Patrol), **Moses Hart** (Wildcat Patrol), **Galen Miley** (BAT Patrol), and **John Pitkin** (BAT Patrol). Patrol Leader - **Anthony Gadbois** (BAT Patrol), and **David Turish** (Wildcat Patrol). Assistant Senior Patrol leader - **Andy Wood**. Junior Assistant Scoutmaster - **Steven Santos**.

In January, many of our scouts and leaders traveled to Little Bennett Regional Park for the Rock Creek District "Polar Nights, Northern Lights" Klondike Derby. Competitions were held in areas such as Compass Reading, Fire Building, Knots, Lashings, First Aid, and Catapult. The troop camped in frigid conditions – the temperature was 6 degrees at bedtime! Careful preparations allowed our troop to brave these conditions successfully.

Scouts who participated in the Klondike Derby: **Kyle Blakely, Alex Cassel, Matt Fieller, Anthony Gadbois, Scott Johnson, John Pitkin, Scott Talbott**, and **Andy Wood**. Leaders who participated: **Bill Blakely, George Gadbois, Richard Fieller, Brian McGahey** – who ran the event for the District, **Ben Pitkin, Dave Talbott**, and **Ken Wood**.

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

*Comments on topics concerning the neighborhood? Call 301-881-2722*  
**RCA Hotline – 24 hours**



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## Every Scrap Makes a Difference

*from the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services*

Every bottle, can, jar, and paper you put into a blue bin truly does add to the bottom line! In Fiscal Year 2004, Montgomery County residents and businesses recycled nearly 38% of what they threw away. Looking at this result another way, 471,952 tons found their way into the recycling stream. Even though we residents tend to think of our waste in terms of how many bins and cans we fill, recycling and trash statistics are based on weight. That's a more accurate "yardstick" than volume.

The top three recycled materials, by weight, were yard trimmings, paper, and scrap metal, all of which are part of the County's convenient curbside collection program. (Scrap metal requests can now be made online: <http://tinyurl.com/35n9n>). The County received over 200,000 tons of yard trim, much of which was offered back to the public as Leafgro, a wonderful compost soil amendment, or as free mulch. (For reference, a bag of Leafgro tips the scales at about 40 pounds.) Those old swingsets, lawnmowers, grills, large appliances and other scrap metal items weighed in at well over 71,000 tons.

We recycled nearly 143,000 tons of paper and cardboard – that was 30% of the recyclable material received. Of course, your arms are probably already well aware that paper is heavy – paper items represent about 80% (again, by weight) of the recyclables which residents set out in their blue bins each week. Paper, and cardboard in particular, is a valuable commodity. We recycled a lot of it, but there's still plenty going to the trash. Help us improve on that! Watch for new residential containers to help make it even easier for residents to collect and set out the recyclable paper they generate in their homes.

Want to know more about recycling rate calculations and waste stream composition? Are you interested in seeing for yourself the vast amounts of recyclables and trash passing through the County's receiving and processing facilities? Join our free, award-winning "Behind the Scenes" course, which begins on April 13, 2005.

For more information about "Behind the Scenes," recycling and waste reduction in Montgomery County, please visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste) or call 240-777-6410. ■

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## Dear Mrs. Brown



### TEEN ETIQUETTE

There is no doubt that issues today are complicated and it is difficult to know where to start with young adults. Try to reason each situation and identify the various consequences. Rules and expectations will help both parents and their teens get through these years.

**Discuss and negotiate.** Include your teenager in determining the rules. Based on the level of personal responsibility he/she has shown, be clear that you would be willing to renegotiate rules later on. Equate the consequence with each rule. When a parent negotiates from principles and open-mindedness, you set an example that will serve your teen for life.

**Respect for the feelings of others.** No one wins an argument by name-calling or demeaning others for their ideas and opinions. There is nothing wrong with challenging faulty opinions, if at the same time you show respect by staying away from hurtful personal remarks. If a discussion or argument begins to repeat or digress into other areas, it's time to stop for a while, and not by storming away. A respectful "we agree to disagree," will give everyone time to think and return to the discussion another time.

**Borrowing the car.** Teenagers should understand that borrowing the car is a privilege which has several rules attached to it, all leading to one goal: Leave the car the way you found it, if not better.

- Replace the gas used (better: fill the tank)
- Turn down the volume (better: reset the radio stations)
- Clean up (better: including under the seats)
- Pay tickets immediately (better: don't get any)
- Park the car in safe areas

**A child's friend is rude.** If your child's friend complains about the food being served or curfew hours while visiting your home, make sure that your child tells his friends the rules of your household before he invites them over.

**Table manners don'ts.**

- Don't let your elbows stick out like wings. Keep them close to your sides. Don't eat with your elbows on the table. You may, however, rest your elbows on the table when you're not eating.

- Don't put too much food in your mouth at once or chew with your mouth open. You should learn to talk with a little in your mouth, simply because you can't always wait until you have swallowed everything before answering a question. So if you take a little at a time, you will always be ready to join the conversation. This takes skill and practice.
- If you spill your water glass on your neighbor, offer them a "clean" napkin and say you are sorry. But don't start mopping – it might be misunderstood.
- If you happen to drop your knife or fork on the floor don't reach down for it or peer down at it. Pick up another fork (if table is set with more than one) or ask for another one.
- Don't eat leaning back. It looks awful and you will most likely spill food down your front. Sit erect and don't slouch.
- If you find some gristle or a piece of meat you cannot swallow, don't spit it out onto your plate or into your hand. Chew it into as small a piece as you can, retrieve it on the prongs of your fork and place on the rim of your plate. This is perfectly correct. Olive pits or fish bones should be removed with your fingers.
- If you have to blow your nose don't be embarrassed. Just blow it. Turn your head away from people and use a handkerchief or tissue, not your napkin. If you happen to inadvertently burp or your stomach rumbles, don't pat your stomach or chest, or make any silly remarks about it.
- Don't push your plate away from you when finished eating. Leave your plate where it is with the silverware properly placed. The knife and fork are crossed on the plate with the fork over the knife and the prongs pointed down. A good waiter will never remove your plate without the knife and fork crossed, because he or she knows that you are not finished.
- Don't get up from the table until your hostess rises, and don't leave the dining room until your elders have left it or excused you.
- Above all, be natural. Don't put on airs or try to be "backstairs refined," like sticking your finger out at a ninety-degree angle when you lift your tea cup or glass to your mouth. Just be yourself.

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](mailto:dearmrsbrown@msn.com)

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

## ***Sumptuous Chocolate Cake***

20 minutes to prepare –  
Preheat oven to 350°  
60 minutes to bake (in Bundt Pan)  
90 minutes to cool  
15 minutes to ice and decorate



In large mixing bowl, add

- **1 package Duncan Hines Moist Deluxe Devil's Food Cake Mix**
- **1 package (4-serving size) Chocolate Pudding and Pie Filling Mix**
- **4 large eggs**
- **1 1/4 cup water**
- **1/2 cup vegetable oil**
- **1/2 cup Chocolate Syrup**

Beat at medium speed with electric mixer for 2 minutes.

Add and mix in with spoon

- **3/4 pkg. of Dark Chocolate Chips (or Chocolate Chunks)**

Pour into greased (recommend Pam spray) bundt pan and bake for 50 to 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Cool in pan 25 minutes, then turn cake upside down onto serving plate and cool completely.

Ice with **Duncan Hines Dark Chocolate Icing**

Sprinkle top of cake with remaining

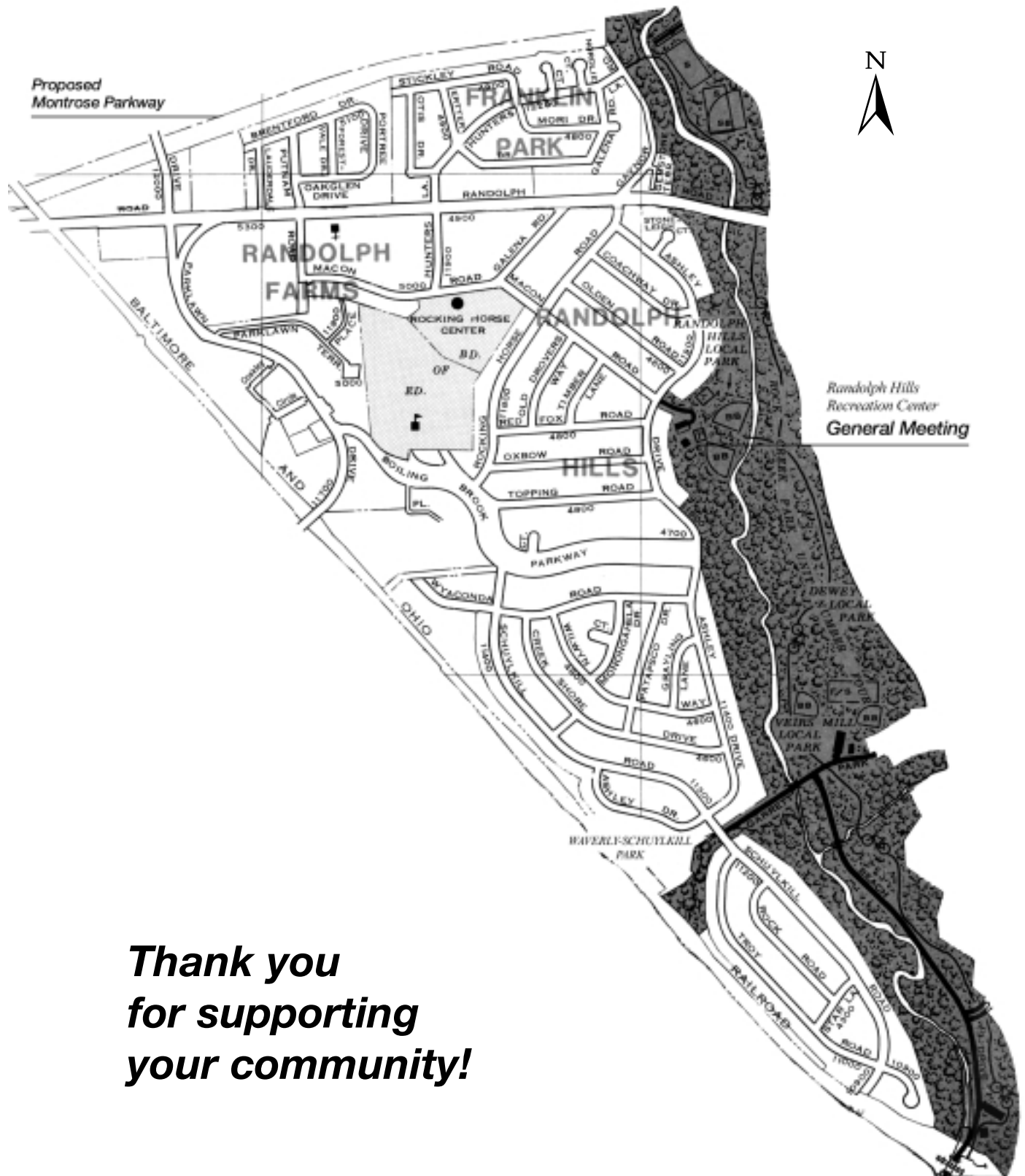
- **1/4 package of Dark Chocolate Chips**

clip and save



Have you seen the  
RCA's Web site at  
**[www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)**

Can't wait for the next *Echo*? You can download the latest issue, which is usually available a week or so before the printed *Echo* is delivered. Back issues are also available.



***Thank you  
for supporting  
your community!***

## 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.

**OAK KITCHEN CABINETS for sale.** We're expanding our Randolph Hills kitchen, and – sadly – getting rid of the original solid oak cabinets. Will sell all for \$100; free delivery within Randolph Hills. Also have dark wood china hutch/cabinet for \$100. Can email photo. 301-770-7997.

**WATERCOLOR CLASSES.** Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, informal classes for adults. All levels welcome, including complete beginners. Held in teacher's Victorian home. Martha Seigel, MFA, the American University, 24 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

**Note to Contributors:**  
The deadline for the April issue of the *Echo* is Saturday, March 5th.



### Yard Work and Grass Mowing: Here's Your Help

Here's a list of boys willing to perform leaf raking, grass mowing, snow shoveling, general yard work, etc. Negotiate cost and payment with each boy.

**Andrew Souder** 301-770-7632 Ashley Drive

**Matt Bebawy** 301-881-4698 Red Fox

**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

**Moses (Bubba) Hart** 301-230-2740

### Need Babysitting Services?

**Casey Stillwell** 301-231-4934 Macon Road



### Important Phone Numbers



Police: Non-Emergency ..... 301-279-8000  
(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: Emergency ..... 911

Park Police ..... 301-949-3010  
(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)

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

Animal Control ..... 240-773-5960

Building Permits ..... 240-777-6200

Consumer Affairs ..... 240-777-3636

Crisis Hotline (24 hours) ..... 301-315-4000

Department of Natural Resources ..... 800-442-0708  
(wildlife nuisance problems)

Disability Resources ..... 240-777-1246

Fire Non-Emergency ..... 240-777-0744

Housing Code Violations ..... 240-777-3600  
(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)

Large Item Pick-up ..... 240-777-6410

Libraries: Hours, etc. .... 240-777-0002  
Telephone Reference ..... 240-777-0001

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

Montgomery County Humane Society ..... 240-773-5960  
Emergencies only ..... 240-773-5900  
Licensing Dept. .... 240-773-5946

Motor Vehicle Administration ..... 1-800-950-1682

Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance .. 240-777-7700  
(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)

Parking Tickets ..... 240-453-0113

Parks: Information & Permits ..... 301-495-2525

PEPCO: Power Out ..... toll free 1-877-737-2662  
Emergency/Life Threatening ..... 202-872-3432

Post Office, Rollins Ave., Rockville ..... 301-231-5973

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

RCA Hotline ..... 301-881-2722

Recycling Info ([www.mcrecycles.org](http://www.mcrecycles.org)) ..... 240-777-6400

Recreation Information ..... 240-777-6804

School Information ..... 301-279-3391

Senior Citizens (Holiday Park) ..... 301-468-4448

Street Light Out ..... 240-777-2190

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

Transit Information Center ([www.dtwp.com](http://www.dtwp.com)) ..... 240-777-7433

Trash Collection ..... 240-777-6410

Tree Maintenance (ask for county arborist) .... 240-777-7623

Voter Registration ..... 240-777-8500

Water and Sewer (WSSC) ..... 301-206-8000

Weeds/Rubbish Complaints ..... 240-777-6400



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

### **Neighborhood Home Sales Settled Since November 2004**

Address	Orig Price	Sold Price	Dom	Address	Orig Price	Sold Price	Dom
11014 Schuylkill Road	\$374,900	\$342,000	31	11116 Schuylkill Road	\$379,900	\$380,000	40
4612 Wilwyn Way	\$369,000	\$369,000	6	11804 Ashley Drive	\$369,900	\$385,000	20
11811 Rocking Horse	\$369,900	\$369,900	3	11108 Schuylkill Road	\$399,900	\$390,000	9
4727 Wyaconda Road	\$372,500	\$370,000	27	12002 Galena Road	\$409,900	\$397,000	80
4625 Gemstone Terr	\$389,900	\$370,000	32	4909 Stickley Road	\$399,000	\$399,999	2
11211 Troy Road	\$374,900	\$372,000	12	4304 Star Lane	\$419,900	\$410,000	7
11403 Grayling Lane	\$368,900	\$373,000	20	12106 Portree Drive	\$449,900	\$419,000	56
11501 Monongahela	\$375,000	\$375,000	8	4800 Ertter Drive	\$425,000	\$440,000	58
11021 Schuylkill Road	\$399,900	\$379,900	62	12101 Putnam Drive	\$439,000	\$441,000	7

### ***The Spring Market is Starting Early!***

*Open houses are very busy and some homes are selling with multiple offers...*

*this Spring is predicted to be a hot market again.*

*When you're ready to buy a new home, or sell your current home,  
call, "Your Neighborhood Realtor," call Denise.*



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



Email: [denise.szczur@longandfoster.com](mailto:denise.szczur@longandfoster.com)



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