

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 49, Issue 5

March 2006

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Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 2006, 8:00 p.m.

RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, April 6, 2006, 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.

Check Building Permits On-line

by Richard Zierdt

After some discussion at the February 2006 RCA Executive Committee meeting, it was decided to publish the County's website where building permits can be checked on-line. It is:

<http://permittingservices.montgomerycountymd.gov/dpstmpl.asp?url=/main.asp>

[This URL can also be cut-and-pasted from the ECHO on-line at randolphcivic.org]

From this website, under "Option 2" on the right side of the window, any address can be entered and verified that a building permit is, or was, issued. I checked my own address and found a permit issued ten years ago for electrical work! However, other tests have revealed that not all permits are listed. If a permit does not appear for an address, it is possible that it still exists. It is best to call the County's Permitting Services at 240-777-6370 and confirm. Currently, I am in an ongoing conversation with Permitting Services regarding the timeliness of their on-line data.

This website could be considered "aiding and abetting" people who love to snoop on their neighbors. This remains a concern, but what prompted the RCA to publish the URL were two reports of building irregularities, one where a shed with windows, insulation, and electricity was reported being built without a building permit, and another where a building permit was being moved by the contractor from one site to another, so that it would appear a valid permit had been obtained. Building permits must be visible while building work is being performed.

The RCA is not trying to nitpick here. The RCA does not concern itself with backyard sheds being built two inches too close to the property line. However, where a permanent shed that appears to be designed for living quarters is being erected, neighbors are rightly concerned. And when a contractor is trying to circumvent the law, we are also rightly concerned.

So, bottom line, if you suspect building work is being performed without a permit, or believe a permit is invalid, please check the above site and/or call County Permitting Services at 240-777-6370. ■

Spring is coming! Make plans now for the RCA Yard Sale!

The Spring RCA Yard Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 13, 2006** at Loehmann's Plaza. Mark your calendars!



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
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
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 aide: Ken Hartman

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 eewhite@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 RCA Executive Meeting

by Kevin Kline

February 2, 2006

The Execs met on a balmy Groundhog Day, opening with RCAer and home remodeler Dan Gideos of D.G. Liu Contractor. The Execs discussed whether the RCA should recommend contractors. This discussion was in response to a Hotline request printed in the December '05 *Echo*. Vice-president Mike Saunders suggested we could have a "Contractor's Corner" of RCA'ers who are also contractors.

A general discussion of zoning ensued. Back-yard and side-yard setbacks to the property line are now 5 feet (*Editor's Note: I believe this applies only to accessory building and not main dwellings*). A concerned homeowner reported two Schuylkill houses that are being remodeled in a shoddy way. Execs will assist by reviewing a County website that lists all permits issued to an address (see article on page 1). All RCAers are encouraged to ensure RCA-land doesn't turn into a haven for housing violations. An RCA volunteer will canvass the neighborhood and report zoning violations to the County (Permits: 240-777-3600).

All cars must have a valid license plate, whether parked on the street or on your property (unless you are restoring an antique). A volunteer will also report these unlicensed vehicles to the county (Abandoned Cars: 240-777-3600).

The Execs compared current RCA-land property tax statements to City of Rockville statements, and believe RCA-land gets less for its money than its municipal neighbor. RCAers pay high North Bethesda taxes yet receive fewer benefits in return (e.g., police coverage).

The RCA is working with the County on new playground equipment for our Randolph Hills Local Park. The County will consider: a structure for the older kids, an imaginative piece for the younger kids, spring toys, swings, a tire swing, and a climbing wall. The County disapproves of disk swings, as they are heavy and unsafe. The County will consider our park and our suggestions in July. If you have any suggestions, or would like to get involved, please tell us via voice-mail, email, snail-mail, or best yet – attend an upcoming RCA meeting!

The meeting ended early with a vote. **Passed by majority voice-vote: the last Exec meeting minutes as published in the December '05 *Echo*.** ■

**Check out the RCA's Web Site at
www.randolphcivic.com**

Zoning News

by Kevin Kline

The RCA has two sets of blueprints that you may review. The brand-new Bethesda North Conference Center (*not* North Bethesda), at the corner of Rockville Pike and Marinelli Road across from the White Flint Metro, is planning a 12-story hotel extension. It will be along the east side of the front entrance cul-de-sac, presently shrubbery and parking lot. The Conference Center is also planning a parking garage on the back (north) parking lot.

The second blueprint is of the newly revised Symphony Park. The current building at the intersection of Strathmore Ave. and Rockville Pike will be torn down, and replaced with 112 townhouses. Our concern is that a "green area" remain between the townhouses and Strathmore Hall and Music Center. ■

Proposal for Concessions at RCA Community Yard Sales

by Richard Zierdt

Twice a year, the RCA runs its Community Yard Sale at Loehmann's Plaza. This festive event is enjoyed by many RCAers and others in the surrounding area. The Sales are always a fun event and a pleasant way to renew acquaintances, not to mention getting rid of stored-up junk and buying even more to replace it! It's like a community block party. And like any effective party, food and drink is involved – called concessions. But providing concessions is an arduous task, and volunteers are tired of doing it. [Where's the new blood?] Unless more people volunteer, we must pay for such services, or discontinue them.

But because the concessions of sodas, hot dogs, hamburgers and the like at RCA Community Yard Sales is so important to the vitality of each sale, I make the following proposal to be moved at the March 2, 2006 General Membership Meeting. In general, there are not enough volunteers to run this, and those who have done it for years are getting too tired of it. Either more people must volunteer at our sales, or we must "farm it out." Here is one way:

Whereas, running concessions at Community Yard Sales is a very time-consuming project, and

Whereas, very few volunteers are available to take on this task, and

Whereas, food concessions add to the festive nature of RCA Yard Sales, and

Whereas, Loehmann's Plaza already pays for entertainment to accentuate such festive nature,

(continued on page 5)

Treasurer's Report *by Richard Zierdt*

As of February 5, 2006, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$8,493.01. ■

RCA Checking Register 01/07/2006 through 02/04/2006

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 01/07/2006			8,880.59
01/11		RCAssociation	inc:advertising	40.00	9,092.59
01/11		RCAssociation	inc:advertising	147.00	9,239.59
01/17	Exfr	Verizon	Dec 22 telephone	23.91	9,215.68
01/22	780	Quick Printing	Jan/Feb ECHO	997.50	8,218.18
		BALANCE 02/04/2006			8,218.18
		<i>Suntrust Bank balance, February 4, 2006: 8,218.18</i>			

RCF Checking Register 01/07/2006 through 02/04/2006

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 01/07/2006			174.81
01/10		RCFoundation	donation	100.00	274.81
01/31		RCFaoundation	interest received .09	0.02	274.83
		BALANCE 02/05/2006			274.83
		<i>Suntrust Bank balance, February 4, 2006: 274.83</i>			

Total RCA+RCF cash assets	8,493.01
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Yard Sale Concessions

(continued from page 3)

Therefore, be it resolved that the RCA:

- 1) is authorized to spend up to \$250 for food concessions for each yard sale
- 2) is authorized to negotiate with any qualified Group terms under which the Group would run the concessions.

Typical terms would be that the Group:

- (a) Obtain the food and supplies (propane or charcoal, paper plates, napkins, etc.)
- (b) Transport such food and supplies
- (c) Set up, cook, serve, and manage finances during the yard sale
- (d) Clean up after the yard sale is over
- (e) Store remaining food and supplies until the next RCA function
- (f) Is allowed to retain the profits from the sale of concessions.

The following food standards must be met by any qualified Group:

- (i) Only "name-brand" sodas be sold
- (ii) Only Kosher hot dogs be sold
- (iii) Only one-third pound beef burgers be sold (quarter-pound burgers are pretty lame)
- (iv) Ketchup, mustard, and relish condiments be provided
- (v) Potato chips be provided
- (vi) The price to the public of each concession must be approved by the RCA Executive Committee
- (vii) The Group may use, but is not required to use, the RCA's gas grill. ■

HARRY B. SEWELL, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW, CHARTERED
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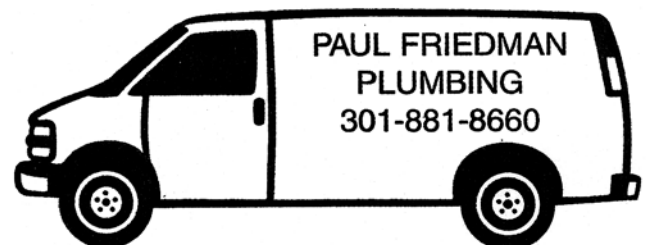
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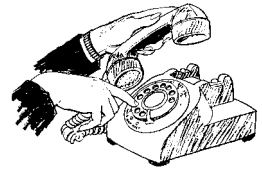
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The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

Calls Received January 6, 2005 to
February, 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!

We received just a few calls this past month. The *Echo* is published monthly from February through June, so each individual issue will have fewer calls, but over five months, they will add up. Keep those cards and letters comin'!

2006-01-16 (Mon) 12:33 pm One Touch Communications. Reduce your local phone bill. Call 888-848-xxxx. *[We get "junk mail" from time to time.]*

2006-01-17 (Tue) 2:54 pm One Touch Communications. Reduce your local phone bill. Call 888-848-xxxx *[OK – we got your message.]*

2006-01-16 (Tue) 3:06 pm One Touch Communications. (Again!) "You know that you have a phone, you're supposed to pick it up. I mean, that's the reason why you have it; that's why you got it." *[Hey – Now that comment clinched the deal for me! Sign me up!]*

2006-01-21 (Sat) 1:27 pm Not Anonymous. The phone number for abandoned cars on the street is incorrect in the *Echo*. It is 301-840-2454. Caller reports that a car had been parked in front of caller's home for a week. After leaving a friendly note on the vehicle asking that it be moved, and after the owner ignored it, caller then called the corrected phone number. *[Richard Zierdt here. Thanks to caller for finding this out. The number has been changed. However, if a car has valid tags, it can be parked in front of anyone's home for 24 hours. After that, it must be moved. You are allowed to park your own car in front of your home indefinitely.]*

2006-01-23 (Mon) 1:14 pm Not Anonymous. Caller's father-in-law lives on boundaries of Randolph Hills, and receives the *Echo*. Caller has a question. Please call. ■

...honda&acuraservice&repairisallwedo

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Greg Skolnik



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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

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

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Lack of Response by Animal Control Results in Animal's Death

The following letter from a resident describes an unfortunate incident that occurred on Creek Shore Drive. This incident was also reported in the Washington Post. The resident felt that the RCA community should be advised of potentially aggressive stray animals, and informed of the inaction from the Animal Control Department, which resulted in the death of an animal.

Captain David Falcinelli
Director of Animal Services Division
14645 Rothgeb Dr.
Rockville, MD 20850

January 22, 2006

Dear Captain Falcinelli,

We are writing to inform you of an incident that occurred on **Saturday, January 7, 2006** and the events leading up to it that resulted in:

- (1) attack by a stray female pit bull**
- (2) injury to neighbor's dog**
- (3) killing of the pit bull**

Our neighborhood was unnecessarily placed in jeopardy due to lack of response from your department. We hope the result of this letter will be an improvement in communication between your office and your officers in the field and to prevent an incident like this from ever happening again. Following are the highlights of this incident:

- **Tuesday evening, January 3rd** pit bull was spotted in a compost pile in our back yard.
- **Wednesday, January 4th** pit bull still in yard, also spotted by other neighbors in their yards. *Called Humane Society* around 4:30 pm. Operator said she would report it and have someone come to get it. *No one came.*
- **Thursday morning, January 5th** pit bull still in yard. *Called again.* Operator (female) said someone would come right out. *No one came. Called again* later same day. Was told that someone was in the area and would be right out. *No one came.*
- **Friday morning, January 6th** pit bull still in yard. *Called again.* Told them the dog had started limping, she may have injured back leg. Operator said they were short-handed and that an officer would be out as soon as possible. *No one came. Called again* later same day. Was assured someone would come out. *No one came.*
- **Saturday late morning, January 7th** pit bull attacked neighbor's dog by clamping down on dog's thigh; dog's owner and another neighbor beat pit bull to death, the only way to make it stop biting other dog. *Called Humane Society* to report incident. Neighbor's dog taken to vet for injuries sustained by pit bull. *Dead pit bull picked up by your department.*

Total calls to Animal Control: 6

Responses: 1 (after the dog was dead)

This was a brutal thing to watch and experience. All of it could have been avoided if your department had done their job. I was informed by Officer Zoller, the officer who picked up the dead pit bull, that he had received only two communications. He had no record of the other four calls.

As residents and taxpayers of Montgomery County, we want this incident fully investigated. Why, after repeated calls, did no one respond until the dog was dead? Someone in your department should be held responsible for the injuries to the neighbor's dog. We request that you follow up with a phone call to us at home anytime after 4:00pm at 301-xxx-xxxx or anytime to our cell numbers, 240-xxx-xxxx.

Sincerely,
[name withheld]

Cc: Councilman Howard Denis, Randolph Civic Association, [neighbors - names withheld]

News from Pack 1081

by Mike Mulcahy



Cub Scout Pack 1081 winter activities are in full swing, and thanks to the mild temperatures outside, all events were completed as scheduled. You may recollect that last year both the Klondike Derby and the Pinewood derby were impacted by bad weather. The annual Klondike Derby at Little Bennett, with activities for our Webelos and a Troop 1083 dinner invitation, was held on Saturday, January 21st. The Klondike Derby is a winter outdoor event for our Webelos scouts involving "arctic-themed" competitions that test scout skills along with teamwork. The following Webelos I and Webelos II scouts in attendance competed at the event and had a great time: **Esteban Hernandez, Matthew Luong, Matthew Best, Brad Gessford, Gabriel Hernandez, Patrick Loberg, Luis Mayorga, Patrick Owen and Steven Escalante.** The scouts crossed a "river" on coffee cans, poured "oil" through a pipeline and also, among other things, observed some of the Boy Scout competitions. Our Webelos were then invited to Boy Scout Troop 1083's campsite for a



Friends and family get ready for the Pinewood Derby racing action!

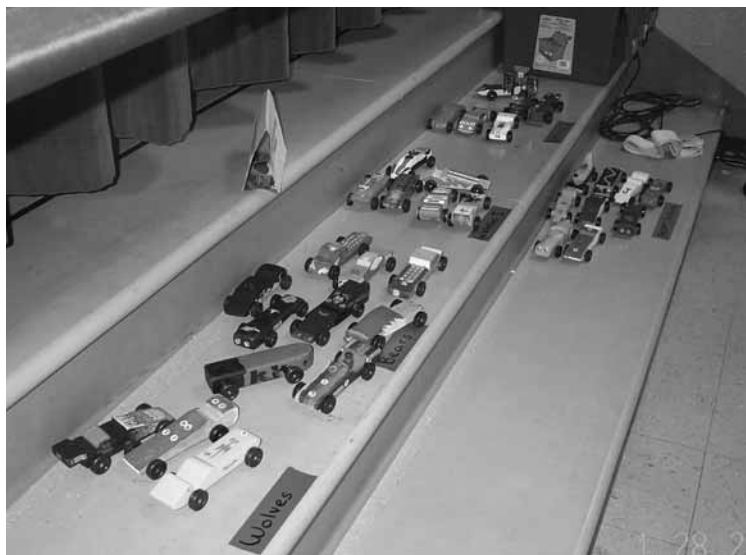
hamburgers & chips dinner and warm campfire.

As in previous years, song favorites like "409", "Who Let The Dogs Out?" and "Little Deuce Coupe" coming from the boom box got the scouts "revved-up" again for this year's Pinewood Derby. Race winners for Wolves: **Matthew Kimball 1st, Mateo Streed 2nd, Diego Carillo 3rd;** Bears: **Aidan Gibbons 1st, Preston Polk 2nd, Christopher Mulcahy 3rd.** Webelos I: **Gabriel Hernandez 1st, Brad Gessford 2nd, Luis Mayorga 3rd;** and

for Webelos II: **Patrick Owen 1st, Steve Hernandez 2nd, Joshua Murtaugh 3rd.** Winners for fastest speeds in the entire pack, **Aidan Gibbons** took 1st, **Matthew Kimball** 2nd, and **Patrick Owen** 3rd. **Maxwell DeMulder** won for "Best Looking car" for his pirate ship "Black Pearl" design.

There were winners in many other categories from "best flames" to "best creative placement of weights": **Brenton Polk, Matthew Luong, Sawyer Kibbe, Patrick Loberg, Steven Escalante, Jose Valasquez,**

Left: The Scouts have worked hard to build "the winning" car! Right: Congratulations to the Pinewood Derby's fastest car winners!



Below: Webelo Scouts test their skills at the Klondike Derby.

Bottom right: Scouts cook out and keep warm at the Klondike Derby.



DJ Terry, Brandon Wagner, Adam Levensgard, Alex Mayorga, Daniel Mbulaitey, and Colin McLean.

Congratulations to all the winners and all that participated in this year's Derby races! Many thanks to our judges **Mr. George Gadbois, Mr. Brian McGahey and Ms. Adell Milne** as well as the pit crew of our dedicated Pack parents and leaders. The District Pinewood Derby finals will be held in mid-March. Our top winners for speed in each den, **Aidan Gibbons, Matthew Kimball, Gabriel Hernandez and Patrick Owen**, will represent our Pack in the District races and **Maxwell DeMulder's** car will compete for District's "Best Looking." Good luck in the District competition, guys!

Steve Hernandez, Sawyer Kibbe and Aidan Gibbons were top sellers for our Popcorn Fundraiser this year. Thanks to all who purchased. Since our last *Echo* column, the following scouts have worked hard to earn the following advancement awards: Webelos II: Bobcat Rank Badge - **Karlo Begazo**. Webelos I awards: Outdoorsman Webelos Activity Pin - **Brad Gessford**; Citizen Belt Loop - **Patrick Loberg and Jose Valasquez**; Citizenship Webelos Activity Pin - **Patrick Loberg and Jose Valasquez**; Bobcat Rank Badge - **Gabriel Hernandez, Luis Mayorga, Steven Escalante, and Jose Valasquez**. Bear Awards: Soccer Sports Pin - **Adam Levensgard**; Astronomy Belt Loop - **Adam Levensgard**; Music Pin - **Christopher Mulcahy**; Heritage Belt Loop and Pin - **Christopher Mulcahy**; Art Belt Loop and Pin - **Christopher Mulcahy**; Bobcat Rank Badge - **Alex Mayorga, Daniel Mbulaitey, Colin McLean, Carlos Delcid, and Brandon Wagner**. Wolf awards: Bobcat Rank Badge - **Diego Carrillo, Mateo Streed, Jassir Begazo, and Matt Kimball**.

At press time the Pack is looking forward to an ice-skating outing at Wheaton Park on February 11th, our annual Blue & Gold Banquet on February 16th, and a Ski trip to Liberty Mountain on February 19th. 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 Mr. Mark Kibbe at (301) 946-6393. It's never too late to join! ■



Troop 1083 News

by Jaime Todaro

Troop 1083 would like to express our gratitude to everyone who supported us by ordering mulch. Orders will be delivered the weekend of March 10-12.

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. Troop 1083 sent two patrols (groups of scouts) to participate in the competition: the Wildcats patrol, and the Cobras patrol. These scouts represented the Wildcats patrol: **Jason Beam, Matt Binsted, Mark Bushong, Scott Levengard, Galen Miley, Hafez Taghavi, Scott Talbott, Andy Wood**, and special guest competitor **Jen Wood**. These scouts represented the Cobras patrol: **Matt Fieller, Anthony Gadbois, Gregory Gadbois, Joseph Owen, David Santos, and Steven Santos**. Both Patrols did a great job. The Cobras finished 38th overall and received a second divi-

Wildcat patrol at the Klondike Derby.



Cobra patrol at the Klondike Derby.

sion ribbon. The Wildcats finished 12th overall and received a first division ribbon. There were over 64 patrols competing at this event.

The Order of the Arrow is an award that is recognized as Scouting's National Honor Society. It has a fourfold purpose: 1) To recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, 2) To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit, 3) To promote Scout camping, and 4) To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others. These scouts were elected by fellow scouts into the Order of the Arrow: **Matt Binsted, Anthony Gadbois, Galen Miley, Joseph Owen, John Pitkin, and Scott Talbott**. Leader **Ken Wood** was also elected into the Order of the Arrow.

In February, we held our Winter Court of Honor, where 27 merit badges, 6 rank advancements, and 2 Eagle Palms were awarded. The newly earned merit badges include: Polar Bear – **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Kyle Blakely, Matt Binsted, Mark Bushong, Matt Fieller, Anthony Gadbois, Gregory Gadbois, Bubba Hart, Josh Hart, Scott Johnson, Scott Levengard, Joseph Owen, Steven Santos, David Santos, Hafez Taghavi, Scott Talbott, David Turish, Andy Wood, Jen Wood**. Rifle Shooting – **Jason Beam**.

Citizenship in the Nation – **Kyle Blakely, John Hilderbrand, Joseph Owen.** Citizenship in the World – **Kyle Blakely.** Coin Collecting – **Scott Talbott.** Family Life – **Anthony Gadbois.**

Rank advancements, which measure significant progress in areas of leadership, responsibility, and spirit, include: Tenderfoot – **Scott Levensgard, David Santos.** 2nd Class – **Jason Beam, Gregory Gadbois.** Star – **Kyle Blakely.** Life – **Joseph Owen.**

Eagle Palms are awards that recognize an Eagle Scout who remains active in the troop after achieving the rank of Eagle. **Scott Talbot** was awarded a Bronze Eagle Palm and a Gold Eagle Palm. During this Court of Honor scouts who participated in Santa's visit to Randolph Hills and the "Scouting for Food" event were given special recognition. Scouting teaches skills that help youth develop into quality citizens, and community service is an important aspect of citizenship. Troop 1083 is proud to have so many fine citizens in our ranks.

Upcoming events include Ski Liberty, Mulch Delivery, and Webelos weekend at Cabin John. 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. ■



Joseph Owen advances to the rank of "Life" scout.

**Support your Community.
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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. The current meeting schedule is:

March 2, 2006 General Membership Meeting

April 6, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting

May 4, 2006 General Membership Meeting

June 1, 2006 General Membership Meeting

All are welcome at every meeting.



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News from the Girl Scout Troop 1487

by Stephanie French

Junior Girl Scout Troop 1487 had been busy with indoor activities this winter. We have worked on Printmaking and Puzzler Badges. We're making Pinewood derby cars (traditionally a Cub Scout activity) but incorporating it into a badge on cars. The cars and the badge will be completed this Spring.

We were lucky to have a warm January Saturday when we could plant Spring bulbs. We planted many bulbs provided by the Randolph Civic Association by the Westminster neighborhood sign on Randolph Road. We look forward to the color they will bring to our neighborhood in the not too distant future!

We're glad to welcome a new girl, Elena, to our troop. She joined us at the second January meeting and then again the following Saturday for the bulb planting.

Brownie Troop 1028 continues to meet on Monday nights. They have completed the All in the Family TryIt and received it at a ceremony. Currently they are working on two TryIts: Building Art and Caring and Sharing. They hope to go on a local trip this Spring.

All Girl Scouts in the area are selling cookies to raise funds for their many activities. If you haven't had the opportunity to buy some cookies please contact us. We would appreciate any support you can give in this area. Call Lily Kruger if you want to buy cookies: (240) 627-1232.

Finally, 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. There is an immediate need for a Daisy leader for kindergarten girls.

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



*Comments on topics concerning
the neighborhood?*

**Call 301-881-2722
RCA Hotline – 24 hours**

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Attention RCA-land Photographers!

Have you taken some great pictures of the neighborhood or surrounding areas? Consider submitting them to the Echo for publication! We'd love to include more photos in the Echo (space permitting). Of course you'll receive a credit line.

If you'd like your photos to be considered, please submit them to the Editor, Eileen White. Supply a little background info for your photo – where and when taken, and any other relevant information. Keep in mind that the Echo is published in black and white, so photos should be sharp and have good contrast or they will not print well. If you are taking digital photos, they will need to be at your camera's high resolution setting (low resolution photos may look great on your computer screen but they are not suitable for printing). You may also submit prints and we will scan them.

You can email digital photos directly (eewhitedesign@comcast.net), but please don't send more than one or two high resolution photos at a time; those files are large! Or you can mail your prints to the Editor's address on page two. Or bring them to an RCA meeting! Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your print returned. I can't promise to use your photo, but if I can, I will!

Above: White-tailed deer eating from bird feeder – Ashley Drive. Photo by Chris Biondo.

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DENTIST

To find more RCA information go to
<http://www.randolphcivic.org>
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Lori L. Teachum
ewebavenue.com or 301-540-1106

Dear Mrs. Brown



Within the past three months our dog has been attacked twice by our next door neighbors unleashed dog. Since our dog was leashed in both instances we find this troublesome as the vet bills to mend our poor pup have topped \$300. The first time our dog was attacked the neighbor reimbursed our \$75 vet bill, but the last attack was quite horrible and the neighbor did not offer to pay. I feel I am within my rights to call the City's Bureau of Animal Control for any code violations related to unleashed or aggressive dogs.

Yes, you are well within your rights to protect your dog and below I have reprinted those rights. I hope your neighbors will do the responsible thing in the future and it doesn't come to your having to report them. (Even if you forget the money – don't they feel bad at all for the trauma and injury to your poor little pup?) But if there is the threat or fear that it will happen again, I don't see how you have any other choice.

In September 2005 the Montgomery County Council unanimously approved a measure to require leashing of dogs in public. **All dogs, except** a service animal is at large if it is *outside the owner's premises and not leashed* unless it is a dog exercise area designated by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission or unless the dog is participating in a qualified activity. An animal is deemed to be potentially dangerous if it has inflicted a bite on a person either on public or private real property or has killed or **inflicted severe injury to a domestic animal when not on the owner's property or has attacked without provocation.**

The penalty for failing to keep a dangerous animal confined is \$500 - \$2500 and/or impoundment of the animal. Contact Animal Control at 240-773-5960.

When it has been raining, what do I do when entering someone else's home with all my wet things?

What a nice question! And that is really your answer. Ask before dripping water all through their house.

Maybe I am just old-fashioned, but it really bothers me when children don't write thank you notes when sent a gift. Isn't it rude not to acknowledge that you have received a present?

You are not old-fashioned, and it is rude. It doesn't inspire you to want to send them anything in the future either. But don't be too hard on the kids. The problem here is really a reflection on the parents as appreciation is a lesson taught. Parents should make sure all gifts are recognized and even a phone call is better than nothing at all. Here are some guidelines I wrote about in the December 2004 *Echo*.

- First, express gratitude for the specific gift or kindness. Never say that you don't like the gift, already have one or plan to exchange it.
- If you received money, always refer to the intended use of the money. "Thanks so much for the twenty dollars. I have wanted the new CD by my favorite group, and now I can get it!"
- Say something about the gift giver. People appreciate comments that show interest in them as individuals and not just as sources of gifts. "I miss you Grandfather and wish you were here to play with my new toy with me."

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. ■

Go Behind the Recycling and Trash Scenes with Us!

from the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services

Where do your recyclables and trash go after the trucks rumble through your neighborhood collecting them? Journey with the Division of Solid Waste Services' award-winning "Behind the Scenes" course, and see for yourself! "I never knew I could learn such interesting things about trash!" say course participants.

Tour the Solid Waste Transfer Station, the Recycling Center, Montgomery County's waste-to-energy facility, and the Composting Facility. Join discussions on collection services, landfills, hazardous waste, recycling in businesses, schools, and apartments and condos, the "do's and don'ts" of curbside recycling, and more. Sample compost, and make your own paper. New this year is a special session just on plastics.

The "Behind the Scenes" course will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 p.m., April 5th through May 17th, 2006. Classes meet at the Shady Grove Transfer Station, 16101 Frederick Rd, Derwood, MD 20855. The course is free; pre-registration is required. For details, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste or call 240-777-6461. ■

Restaurant Good!

**Crockpot Recipes make
entertaining a snap!**

Crockpot Artichoke Spinach Cheese Dip

Thaw and drain well in a colander, pressing to
remove water

2 cups frozen chopped cut leaf spinach

Add to 1-3 quart crockpot:

Spinach

14 oz. can marinated artichoke hearts, drained
and chopped

1/2 cup purchased Alfredo sauce

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/4 tsp. salt

1/8 tsp. pepper

1-1/2 cups shredded Havarti cheese

Cover and cook on low setting for 2-3 hours.



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Crockpot Peanut Chicken

Add to 3-4 quart crockpot:

3-1/2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breasts

1/3 cup peanut butter

2 Tbsp. low sodium soy sauce

3 Tbsp. orange juice

1/8 tsp. pepper

Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours or until chicken
is tender and thoroughly cooked. Serve with hot
cooked rice or noodles.

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

Can't wait for the next *Echo*?

**You can download the latest issue, which
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the printed *Echo* is delivered.**

Back issues are also available.

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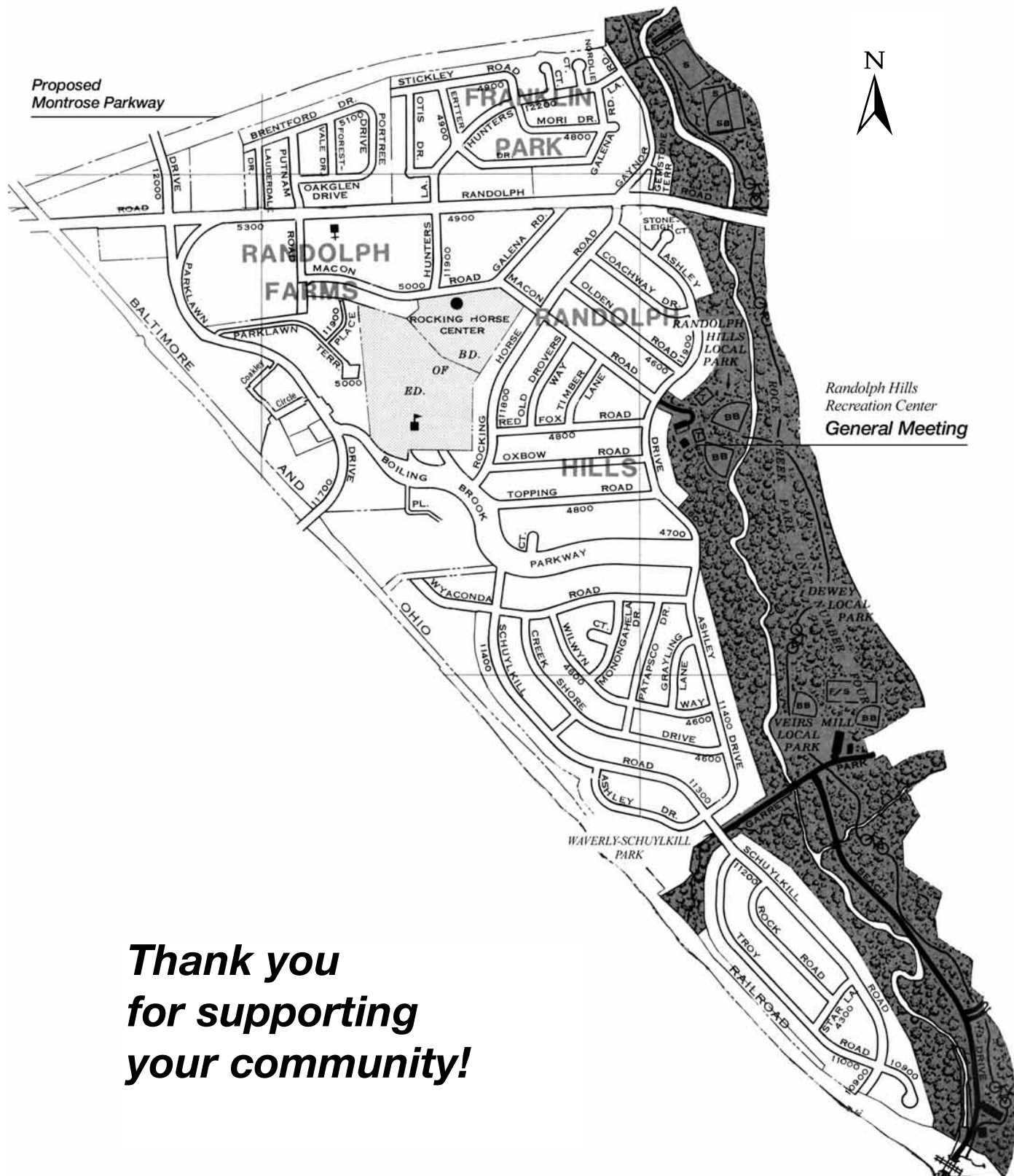


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CLASSIFIEDS

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.

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.

GIVEAWAY – FREE WINDOWS. Brand-new double-pane windows that fit Randolph Hills houses. 12 in all, never installed. The living room picture window is not included. Call Richard at 301-881-0283. First call gets 'em all.

CUSTOM WOOD BLINDS for Randolph Hills basement windows. Natural bamboo 2" blinds from Next Day Blinds. Sizes: 36 1/4" wide by 24 3/4" high; 33 1/2" wide by 18 1/2" high; 33 1/2" wide by 17 1/4" high. Perfect condition, only two years old. Cost over \$100 each new; will sell for \$35 each. Call 301-984-2579.

Note to Contributors:
The deadline for the April
issue of the *Echo* is Saturday, March 4th.



Fall Leaves and Winter Snow: 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



Important Phone Numbers



Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	301-279-1591
Park Police	301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)</i>	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	301-840-2454
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
<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>	
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
<i>(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)</i>	
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)	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
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Transit Information Center (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 1, 2005

Address	Orig Price	List Price	Sold Price	Dom	Subsidy	Date Settled
4716 Wyaconda	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$435,000	70	\$0	14-Nov-05
5016 Macon Road	\$599,900	\$595,000	\$595,000	31	\$0	15-Nov-05
11119 Rock Road	\$500,000	\$489,000	\$489,000	42	\$5,000	16-Nov-05
12122 Gaynor Road	\$474,900	\$449,900	\$440,000	27	\$0	18-Nov-05
11303 Ashley Drive	\$440,000	\$430,000	\$440,000	13	\$10,000	22-Nov-05
4706 Oxbow Road	\$474,900	\$449,000	\$449,000	20	\$2,000	22-Nov-05
4706 Red Fox Road	\$449,000	\$439,000	\$442,500	28	\$3,500	23-Nov-05
4802 Ertter Drive	\$545,000	\$545,000	\$545,000	5	\$4,000	25-Nov-05
11002 Schuylkill road	\$489,900	\$429,990	\$429,000	130	\$12,000	30-Nov-05
4607 Creek Shore Drive	\$439,900	\$439,900	\$439,900	24	\$1,500	30-Nov-05
11405 Ashley Drive	\$475,000	\$450,000	\$420,000	54	\$4,500	30-Nov-05
11315 Ashley Drive	\$425,000	\$420,000	\$420,000	17	\$0	15-Dec-05
4729 Wyaconda Road	\$500,000	\$510,000	\$493,000	0	\$3,000	20-Dec-05
11820 Rocking Horse Road	\$519,900	\$479,900	\$479,900	111	\$2,000	23-Jan-06
12003 Galena Road	\$395,000	\$395,000	\$405,000	7	\$10,000	31-Jan-06



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