

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 52, Issue 5

March 2009

In this Issue...

President's Message	1
New Kid on the Block	3
Waverly-Schuylkill Stream Restoration Project is Underway	4
Minutes of the February RCA General Meeting	4
RCA Treasurer's Report	10
The RCA Hotline	11
RCF NEWS	
President's Pen	14
RCF Treasurer's Report	14
News from Girl Scout Troop 1028	15
News from Pack 1081	16
Troop 1083 News	18
Classifieds	19

President's Message

by Matt Tifford, RCA President

Hello RCAers, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the many accomplishments of our civic association. Many of you may not realize what a rare resource this organization is for our community. Over the last 10 years the RCA has brought well over \$1 million in state and county improvements into our neighborhood. Some may think that county and state agencies just go from neighborhood to neighborhood making all these improvements – if only that were so! The reality is that our agencies largely operate on a system of the “squeaky wheel gets the grease.” Understand, the following improvement projects either would not have happened, or would still be years away, without the efforts of RCA volunteers.

- Installation of the new, larger Veirs Mill Park Playground
- Creation of the Waverly-Schuylkill Park (the very existence of this park is a result of RCA member efforts)
- Doubling of neighborhood streetlights
- Addition of sidewalks at Ashley Drive and Boiling Brook Parkway
- Organized replacement of 120 missing trees on county right-of-ways
- Invasive weed control efforts in RCA parks
- Installation of a new, and larger, Randolph Hills Park Playground (now underway!)

We also strive to provide venues for greater community interaction. Who wants to live in a neighborhood where everyone is a stranger to one another? Through the long-running Community Yard Sale and Picnic, the General Meetings, the RCA Yahoo Group, and yes, even the Hotline, we are able to communicate and get to know one another.

But regardless of these achievements, I believe that the most important force of our community is in understanding the tremendous power we

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, March 5, 2009, 8:00 p.m.

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 2009, 8:00 p.m.

Meetings are held on the **first Thursday of every month at 8 p.m.**, except January, July, and August, at the Veirs Mill Rec Center, 4425 Garrett Park Road. Usually, we alternate between General and Executive meetings.
All are welcome at every meeting.

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

The Spring RCA Yard Sale is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, May 2, 2009** at Loehmann's Plaza.
Mark your calendars!

Details in next month's Echo!



RCA Executive Committee for 2008-2009

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President

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11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

Vice President

Dan Hoffman
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12109 Galena Road
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4814 Red Fox Road
301-231-4933

Environment

Matt Tifford
11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(continued)

Education

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
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301-933-0048

Cub Master, Pack 1081

Sandra Kimball
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301-598-5772

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Mike Saunders
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Brownie Leader, Troop 1028

Leora Hernandez
11814 Dewey Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-933-0460

Girl Scout Leader, Troop 2138

Deanne Marino
11129 Schuylkill Road
301-560-4840

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: Roger Berliner 240-777-7828
email: Councilmember:berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov
Mr. Berliner's aides: Colleen Lauer, Cindy Gibson, Karen Williams, Rebecca Lord

Councilmember: Nancy Floreen 240-777-7959
email: Councilmember:floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov
Ms. Floreen's aides: Merle Steiner, Joyce McCaffrey, Jocelyn Rawat

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive: Ike Leggett 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: Richard Madaleno 301-858-3137

Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181

Al Carr 301-858-3638

Jeffrey Waldstreicher 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

Benjamin Cardin 202-224-4524

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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 \$10.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

have to enact positive changes here in our neighborhood and in the surrounding area. The White Flint area is changing dramatically and at a shocking speed. How many of you are aware that within 10 years we will be bordering a small city not unlike downtown Bethesda, or Silver Spring? Outside of all the obvious benefits of this growth, have you considered the likely negative consequences this could have for us all? Traffic, crime, schools – so many areas of the community will be affected. If we are not putting ourselves out in the public eye, advocating for our interests, we will end up having no control over the changes occurring around us.

So, please join in our effort, and help continue to improve our community. If you have not done so already, please follow these three easy steps to make a difference:

- Send in your \$10 to join the RCA. Checks should be payable to the Randolph Civic Association, and mailed to John Kehoe, our Membership Chair. His address is listed on page 2.
- Join the online Yahoo Group. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/> and follow the instructions to join.



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- And, last but not least, come to our next General Meeting on April 2nd, at 8 pm at the Veirs Mill Rec Center (4425 Garrett Park Road). You can meet neighbors, enjoy some refreshments, and find out more about what is happening in our community. The April meeting will be relatively brief, followed by a special home improvement event hosted by two of our newest neighbors: TopHat Homes, and Ecobeco. Hope to see you there! ■

New Kid on the Block

by Christiana Drapkin

I just moved into the neighborhood from Brooklyn, NY, on Election Day. What a change for me! It took me a couple of sleepless nights to get used to the romantic whistle of the trains passing by in the night. I no longer miss the eighteen-wheelers hitting the pothole right outside my old bedroom window that faced a truck route. Although I lived in the middle of the borough, I was never far from Prospect Park, where I could enjoy almost daily walks. Now here in Randolph Hills I'm lucky to live close to Rock Creek Park, and I love my new stomping grounds! I get to watch birds, squirrels, and dogs with their human friends in the morning. I'm glad to see so many kids and grownups play soccer (my favorite), and other sports. Some playgrounds are busier than others, but it's good to know that folks are using them and that the Parks Service is keeping the grounds so clean. By now, I've scouted out the neighboring streets in all directions, into Kensington, Garrett Park, and Franklin Park, and I enjoyed the whimsical holiday decorations.

I've found my first favorite shops that I can bicycle to (instead of using the car all the time): My Organic Market, the well-stocked Safeway, the Kosher Mart which was open and hopping on Christmas Day, when everything else was shut down. Now I wonder, is there one thing that I'd love to add to this nice mix? And I'm curious what you, my new neighbors, think.

I'd love to see a Farmers Market right in our neighborhood. Fresh produce in season, that comes directly from farms in the region. Maybe some fresh crabs and fish from the Chesapeake, funky cheeses, healthy breads and delicious pastries from local businesses. Would YOU buy your groceries at a local Greenmarket? Would you like to join in an effort to make this a reality?

Over the holidays, I read this wonderful book by Barbara Kingsolver, "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle – A Year of Food Life," which is a fun read and truly inspiring. Not only does it provide the reader with recipes for all that fresh produce one can buy, but it gives some very practical advice on how to bring a farmers market into our own neighborhood.

I'm curious to find out about you, my new neighbors, and what you think about this idea.

Nice to meet you,
The new kid on the block

Minutes of the February RCA General Meeting

School Board Member, Laura Berthiaume, Outlines Steps for Community Success

by Angelee Marques, RCA Secretary

February 5, 2009

The meeting began at 8:16 pm, a bit later than typical, as attendees were enjoying snacks and conversation with their neighbors. President Matt Tifford welcomed all in attendance and set the agenda for the evening, highlighting the attendance of the special guest speaker, Laura Berthiaume, as an exciting step forward in the RCA's pursuit to improve our schools. Attendance was 28 including the Executive Committee. A Special Thank You to Trader Joes for donating snacks and refreshments for the meeting!

The topics to be discussed were:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. December General Meeting Minutes Approval
3. Committee Reports
4. Guest Speaker - School Board Member, Laura Berthiaume
5. New Business

1. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lauren Lehman began her report on the finances of the RCA by stating a large sum of RCA funds, \$3427.06, was recently transferred to the RCF (*Randolph Civic Foundation, the RCA's tax-deductible sister organization*) to account for the RCA membership fee overage paid by 08-09 Members (*The RCA Membership fee is \$10; amounts paid in excess of this are greatly appreciated and much needed to provide services, events, and the ECHO*). With the large transfer, Lauren shared her great concern over the lack of

expected future income to cover impending payments such as insurance and further *Echo* printing throughout the year.

A conversation arose around ways to gather these needed funds, through an increase in Membership and the need for the RCF to funnel funds back into the RCA for space within the *Echo*. Further conversations between the RCA and RCF will take place to decide on the appropriate cost for the RCF.

Neighbors - you may recall articles in past ECHOs about plans for a Spring "Membership Drive" campaign to reach out to new and old neighbors that are not currently members of the RCA. If you are able to assist in this effort, please reach out to Dan Hoffman or any of the RCA Board Members. RCA officer contact information can always be found on page 2 of the ECHO.

2. December General Meeting Minutes Approval

Due to the lack of delivery of the December/January *Echo* to all homes prior to the meeting, the approval of the December meeting minutes was postponed until the March meeting.

3. Committee Reports

A. Environment

I. Playground Update

Matt Tifford provided an update on the status of the construction of the new Randolph Hills Playground.

Construction has been moving along as expected, but due to the cold weather, the frozen ground has slowed the installation of materials. Progress to date: the old equipment has



Waverly-Schuykill Stream Restoration Project is Underway

For decades the Waverly-Schuykill Park streams have been eroding their streambeds. This unusual erosion is a result of nearby development as hard concrete and asphalt surfaces cause rain runoff to be much stronger and more intense. A few years ago, RCAers discovered the stream erosion problem and brought it to the attention of MNCPPC. Paid for by the "Save the Bay" Fund, contractors are creating a "step-pool design" in which heavy natural-looking stones step down the stream into small pools, gradually slowing the water discharge. The \$400,000 project should be complete by mid-March 2009.

For more information on the Waverly-Schuykill project, visit the RCA web site at www.randolphcivic.com.

been removed, construction safety fencing has been installed, and materials and machinery have been brought to the site. **The estimated completion date for the playground is mid-March.**

II. Waverly -Schuylkill Streambed Restoration Project

Matt Tifford and Kevin Kline provided an update on the stream bed restoration project within the Waverly-Schuylkill park. The project is being funded by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation "Save the Bay" funds to stop the erosion of the unnamed stream bed that runs through the park. The project will institute a natural looking step-pool design to slow the water that flows through the stream. The project is expected to be completed by mid-March 2009. A temporary mulch foot path is in place to allow for continued pedestrian access through the park. **Please take precaution when walking in and around any of the construction areas.**

A conversation arose around the topic of naming the stream that runs through the Waverly-Schuylkill park. Kevin Kline provided insight into a number of conversations he has had with stakeholders of the restoration project and relayed that the RCA currently has an opportunity to provide a name for the stream. Kevin and other members of the community would like to see this named as it promotes ownership of the area and provides a visible "place" for the park and stream on the map. According to Garrett Park historical books, this stream was once labeled "Glendarragh"; Kevin has suggested the name 'White Flint' to align with the development of the White Flint area. The RCA Board thanked Kevin for his commitment to this topic and urged him to continue engagement with project stakeholders Montgomery County Parks (owner of the park property), Friends of Rock Creek Park (organization that promotes a healthy Rock Creek watershed) and Garrett Park community advocates, to institute a name for the stream. If you would like to suggest a name for this stream, please reach out to Kevin Kline.

III. Status of Oil Leak from Shell Gas Station on corner of Nicholson Lane and Boiling Brook Parkway

A question arose from the audience asking about information on the oil leak that occurred at the previously-in-business gas station outside of our neighborhood entrance off Nicholson Lane. Kevin Kline provided response and shared notes from a RCA meeting in November of 2006, where representatives from Shell, the station brand, spoke to our community. A gas leak of 29,000 gallons occurred in 2006 at the fault of the owner of the station and as of November 2006, 15,000 gallons were recovered by onsite recovery wells pumping groundwater and gas from the ground. No gasoline was found to have leaked into Rock Creek Park; however, small amounts of gas (no visible sheen or smell detected) was continuing to leach into Boiling Brook Creek and would continue to do so for several years post 2006.

(continued on page 6)

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(continued from page 5)

4. Guest Speaker, School Board Member Laura Berthiaume

The celebrated guest speaker, School Board Member Laura Berthiaume, was introduced to the audience by RCA Vice President Dan Hoffman at 8:30 pm. Dan relayed to the audience that he had invited Laura to come speak with us to provide insight into the priorities of the School Board and to advise and partner with us to improve RCA community schools, in particular the issue of overcrowding in Viers Mill Elementary School and the community's desire to have the Rocking Horse Center re-opened as our elementary school.

Laura welcomed and thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to speak and relayed her desire to have her time be an open dialogue with the audience. Laura began with the hot topic of school facilities, one of her priorities while in seat on the Board. Laura stated that although the Montgomery County School System is thought of as "world class" around the country, it is struggling with the very basics of maintaining its school facilities to ensure children go to school in clean and healthy environments. Laura sees the lack of maintenance plans in place as a continuous challenge for the County, as without maintenance, our schools will not last their intended 40-50 years.

Laura continued to provide insight into the inner-workings of the County's use of Facilities money and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the program that funds and completes major school construction projects. Facilities money is divided into two pots, the CIP, for major construction projects – additions to and the teardown and rebuild of schools, and the PLAR (Planned Life-Cycle Asset Replacement) projects or renovation type projects. In the past, schools were surveyed to assign a "repair need" rating and were ranked according to need (*to see school data, check out "Schools at a Glance" on www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org*). School construction projects have been and continue to be very sensitive topics as each school and community in the County feels their needs take priority over others. However, due to unforeseen needs, some projects arise that take precedent to previously scheduled CIP projects that cause an overall postponement of CIP plans. The PLAR budget, or the "renovation" budget, is just as, if not more, important as the CIP as it covers the general maintenance of facilities. It however receives a lot less public attention as it is not published and as publicly well-known as the CIP.

Laura continued with the facilities topic and how if the State is to receive Stimulus money from the Federal Government, it would be funneled to the CIP. Because Montgomery County has one of the highest FARMS (Free and Reduced Meal Students), a good majority of Stimulus money would be channeled to our school system. Laura highlighted the positive side that if this money does come to the County, the school system already has projects ready and

waiting. As a previous Cluster Coordinator, Laura stressed to our community the need for building relationships with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff to have them understand and help us with our school facility needs. She provided examples of when she was a Cluster Coordinator, of inviting MCPS employees out to her schools to see the leaking roofs and inadequate restroom facilities; having them see firsthand the issues, made it easier for them to advocate with her for her schools.

Laura closed her review on another priority of hers, the school budget. Her goal is to make the budgeting process more transparent, accountable and easy for both legislators and parents to understand. Laura, being a newly elected School Board Member, is learning how to navigate the MCPS process and wants to help our community learn as well how to effectively and efficiently advocate MCPS for our needs.

Laura ended by opening up questions to the audience. *Please note questions and responses have been paraphrased.*
Q= Question; LB= Laura Berthiaume

Q: Other areas across the country have schools that were built 100 years ago and are still used, why does MCPS tend to tear down buildings versus renovate?

LB: Oftentimes regular maintenance needs are not tended to and buildings become easier and cheaper to tear down vs. repair. The State of Maryland now also mandates schools be built "Green."

Q: How do we most effectively ensure our schools, in particular, Wheaton High School, are not bumped on the CIP?

LB: Bumps occur due to immediate needs in other schools, for example, the focus of late has been to decrease the number of portables in use, and this has forced some school projects to be put on hold. Advice for keeping our needs top priority: **Step 1- Advocacy-** Have your School Cluster Coordinator along with the Building Services Manager go through your schools with a microscope, documenting any and all issues, and submit the report to MCPS. **Step 2- Build Relationships-** invite MCPS Depot and Facilities staff to tour your school and see the issues first hand. Engage your Principal. The more people see firsthand the issues, the better traction you will receive.

Q: A follow-up on the previous question – there is a general feeling that school problems are addressed due to clout versus need? We have a feeling that even though our community is active and advocates for our needs, our schools will have to be severely over-capacity before anything is done, whereas communities such as Garrett Park and Luxmanor have their needs met proactively.

LB: I do not agree and see that each community feels as though they are side-stepped by others. Keep advocating and joining neighbors together for a common cause.

(continued on page 8)



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February RCA General Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 7)

Q: Our community leaders have suggested that the Rocking Horse Road Center (*previously Rocking Horse Elementary School at 4910 Macon Rd*) fill the White Flint Sector Plans (WFSP) need for an elementary school. The Rocking Horse Center is an excellent candidate as it has the required 14 acres (versus the two proposed sites in the current WFSP that both have far less space), is within walking distance of the White Flint development area, is already in daily use, and has the support of the building's current tenants and WFS developers. However, WFSP leaders do not even recognize this location as a possibility. We feel as though they are only uncomfortable with this suggestion as it could institute a boundary change to feed the remaining 2/3rds of our children to the Walter Johnson (WJ) school cluster (*1/3 of RCA homes already route to the WJ cluster*).

LB: It does make more sense to move the international student population currently within Rocking Horse Center to a more metro-friendly location. However, there is a prejudice with county leaders that the RCA is advocating for this as the true desire is to have the school boundaries re-drawn, not to open up a neighborhood elementary school. The community needs to understand the sensitivity with socioeconomic and demographic changes affecting the County as a whole and

that MCPS leaders are always weighing issues against these factors. The County is sensitive to moving predominantly white populations to and from predominantly non-white schools as diversity within schools is greatly encouraged. The neighborhood must understand and work with these sensitivities to be effective. The RCA should embrace its diverse population, show that all cultures within the RCA are coming together and working toward a common goal, and bring in advocates highlighting the neighborhood's diversity to get the desired changes put in place (re-opening Rocking Horse Center). Show to MCPS that the RCA is working together with other communities, larger groups and surrounding areas to not just combat RCA issues, but address a greater need. The more we show the larger picture, the less likely MCPS staff will view our plight as singularly to get the school boundaries changed.

Q: A follow-up question on the previous – we feel as though regardless of the demographics and socio-economic facts about our neighborhood and schools, we have solid arguments for getting Rocking Horse Center re-opened: overcrowding in Viers Mill is current and expected to exponentially increase.

LB: We need to always understand the perceptions in place with MCPS to advocate effectively for ourselves.

Q: Further follow-up points on Rocking Horse Center topic – Our RCA leaders are trying to improve schools in our cluster



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and create a cohesive neighborhood. Currently 2/3rds of our children go to one cluster (Wheaton) and 1/3rd go to another (WJ) and this occurs within the same street! Our neighborhood families and RCA leaders are active in the Wheaton PTA and are trying currently trying to make a difference.

LB: Agreement on the desire for cohesiveness with a community as neighborhood schools often bring a community closer together. Again, embrace and highlight the neighborhood activism within the current schools, within Wheaton. To be highly effective, the RCA should get to know the MCPS School Board Members and their Staff. Staff often stay around longer than the typical Board Member term and can be great advocates for our cause. The RCA community should, with all resident's support, clearly show its vision, how it will solve "xyz" problems with its goals and how any preconceived notions of "xyz" are not valid because of "xyz" reasons.

Q: Watching the school bus stop in the morning, I see how our neighborhood is a rainbow of cultures and races. How can we, apart from getting to know our administrators, ensure the funding process as a whole is fair and equitable – possibly the process problem lies within the administration?

LB: Gather advocates from the many cultures and races in your community to form a diverse net. Help your neighbors to understand how you are trying to make your schools a better place and how you need help from everyone to achieve this goal.

In closing, Laura stressed her desire to provide suggestions and ways to increase the RCA's effectiveness in advocating for its needs. Laura hopes to have succeeded at this and wants to keep an open channel between the community and herself.

If you are interested in assisting the RCA Board with advocating for school improvement, whether you have children in school now or not, please reach out to any of the Members of the RCA Board. We appreciate everyone's ideas and involvement, regardless of the commitment you can make!

5. New Business

Randolph Hills Park. There is opportunity for the Montgomery County Parks Authority to provide our neighborhood with enhanced features within our park, such as a covered picnic area, replacement of the baseball field with a dog park, park benches, etc. The RCA is looking for suggestions on amenities residents would like to see in the park. **If you have ideas or suggestions, please email the RCA inbox at info@randolphcivic.org or call the hotline at 301-881-2722 (2RCA)**

EcoBeco. Brian Toll, Founder and Chief Executive of Ecobeco, a new local business specializing in "Green"

(continued on page 13)

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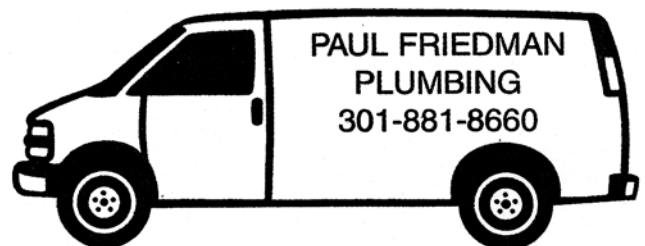
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RCA Treasurer's Report *by Lauren Lehman, CFA, RCA Treasurer*

Our current balance is \$5,087.59. There are many months and *Echo* printings between now and our next membership drive. The RCF has agreed to pay for its space in the *Echo*, and all charitable spending will be done by the RCF; however, our budget is still quite tight. ■

RCA Checking Register 12/31/2008 through 01/29/2009

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 12/31/08			9,089.57
01/12/09	1078	RCF_donations transfer		-3,427.06	5,662.51
01/12/09	dep	inc:dues		595.00	6,257.51
01/12/09	1068	Yard Sale Concessions		-112.73	6,144.78
01/20/09	1079	ECHO:printing		-1,166.00	4,978.78
01/22/09	dep	inc:dues		102.00	5,080.78
01/29/09	dep	Phone Credit		6.81	5,087.59
		BALANCE 01/29/09			5,087.59



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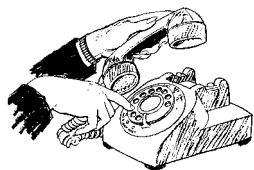
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The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

**Calls Received January 10, 2009
to February 12, 2009**



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.

Below is a transcription of voicemail messages left on the RCA Hotline (301-881-2722) from January 10, 2009 to February 12, 2009. The Executive Board of the Randolph Civic Association reserves the right to edit the transcriptions for length and content but will not alter the essence or intention of the call.

Since the RCA Hotline is now using VoiceStick instead of Verizon, incoming telephone numbers now appear since caller id is an included option with no way to turn it off. If you wish your number to be private when you call, enter *67 before dialing 301-881-2722 and your number will remain anonymous.

There has been a great deal of concern regarding reports in the Hotline last year regarding a drive-by shooting in our community. No such event took place. We urge callers to do their best to verify their information before making calls reporting criminal activity so as not to needlessly frighten residents.

2009-01-12 (Mon) at 5:28 pm Anonymous from Franklin Park, Stickley Road. Neighbors, please pick up after your dog. Someone has been walking their dog in the neighborhood and has not been picking up afterwards, so please, pick up! Thank you.

2009-01-20 (Tue) at 7:59 am Not anonymous. Caller is reporting a problem involving the big, blue containers on wheels that are left out for recycling. The recycling people that service our neighborhood tend to leave the containers in the street. There have been accidents caused by these things being left out. Caller, and others, have contacted the recycling people. Caller would like the RCA to call. Recyclers should put the containers on the government grass and not leave them in the street, where they impede traffic. Caller is also going to call Montgomery County police about it.

2009-02-05 (Thu) at 7:09 pm Anonymous. Caller is calling about a white pickup truck and large landscape trailer parked at the intersection of Topping Road and Ashley Drive. The vehicle was ticketed one time because it was so close to the intersection that it blocked visibility. But the main concern is that it has out-of-state tags and has been parked in our neighborhood for well over six to nine months now. It is really an eyesore and takes up probably 40 feet of space. Caller has called the police, but they can't seem to do anything except when it's too close to the intersection. Caller believes that when a car is parked in Maryland, it is supposed to be registered in Maryland. Thank you.

2009-02-07 (Sat) at 2:48 pm Anonymous. Caller just received the *Echo* and noticed that the RCA meeting was two days before. Seems like someone messed up. Caller would like to have attended that meeting. *[Yes, this happens occasionally. Normally, the Boy Scouts receive the ECHOs two Mondays before the Thursday meeting. However, that Monday and the one after that were not available to the Scouts because of a holiday and teacher's meetings, in which case the schools are closed, and the Scouts couldn't meet. The RCA apologizes.]*

2009-02-07 (Sat) at 10:06 pm Anonymous. Caller is responding to the report in the last *Echo* about the recent crimes (house break-ins) in our neighborhood. Caller just wants to make a plea to all residents: We all live here together, and we should all watch over one another. If you see suspicious activity, please call the police at 301-279-8000. We are a community together and need to help each other. Be aware of what's going on around you; keep your eyes open. Thank you. *[Thanks for calling. Good advice!]*

2009-02-08 (Sun) at 9:34 am Anonymous. Caller is responding to the Jan/Feb Hotline call about someone receiving their *Echo* in the mailbox. Caller reports that placing items in the mailbox or through the mail slot in the door is a federal offense. Caller just wants to be sure we're meeting code. OK, bye-bye.

2009-02-11 (Wed) at 8:54 pm Anonymous. Caller is concerned about where the new playground equipment is being placed in the Randolph Hills Recreation Center, right where the building used to be, which is pretty close to where the homes are. Most of the people who use the park live outside of the community, and (the park equipment) is inviting people closer to the property lines and easy access to the homes. Caller wonders if the RCA was informed about the location before the play equipment was built in that area or not. Caller is going to file a complaint with the Parks and Recreation Department as well. Thank you. ■

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February RCA General Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 9)

products and services, was introduced to residents. Brian provided a brief introduction of himself and the Ecobeco business which aims to help homeowners save energy and money while living a green lifestyle and benefiting the environment. Ecobeco provides in-home energy audits, outdoor and garden reviews and recommendations and a wide selection of eco-friendly products. Brian reminded residents that Montgomery County promotes green living and as such, offers a \$250 tax rebate for the purchase of energy efficient products. Find out more about Ecobeco at www.ecobeco.com or visit their store at 5465 Randolph Road, Unit B (Behind Ace Spas).

RCA Business Partnerships. The RCA is interested in creating partnerships with local businesses to bring beneficial products and services to residents of RCA communities. The RCA is planning a "Business Fair" that would allow local businesses to showcase their products and services to residents in a centralized location, allowing RCA residents to gather information on vendors to fill their needs. **If you are a business that is interested in this event, please contact RCA President Matt Tifford. For residents, please be on the lookout for more information pertaining to such events.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm. ■

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RCF NEWS

President's Pen

by George Gadbois, RCF President

Soon we will be welcoming Spring again and gone will be the cold and ice of the winter months. Those spring bulbs should start blooming and it will be time to start spreading mulch and pruning shrubs. As with our home, we don't want to forget spring cleaning and beautification of our parks and outdoors. RCF-land Stream Cleanup, spearheaded by our Scout groups, is scheduled for Saturday April 4 from 9 to noon. This year it will return to coincide with the area-wide Potomac Watershed Cleanup occurring in many adjoining jurisdictions. All residents are welcome and encouraged to help out. We will again be col-

lecting trash along Boiling Brook Creek and in Randolph Hills Local Park.

On an educational and economy-downturn note, it is imperative that we all get out and advocate for our neighborhood schools. Our school system will not be immune from budget cuts. But cuts will come if we as advocates do not express to government what is important to us. Things like all-day kindergarten, reduced class sizes, magnet consortiums, and modernization schedules, as well as selected programs, could be fodder for cuts. Please let the School Board, County Council, and MCPS Central Administration know that we do not want any proposed cuts to affect the quality of education for our RCA/RCF-land schools.

In January, as mentioned in the last *Echo*, an RCF board meeting was held to discuss our own budget, the bylaws, the

RCF Treasurer's Report by Richard Zierdt, RCF Treasurer

As of February 12, 2009, RCF assets totaled \$3604.49. Mr. Katz, the attorney through whom we applied for and received 501(c)(3) status, is due \$1872, payable through December, 2009. The RCF has \$600 in donation obligations remaining to the girl and boy youth groups it supports by June 30. The RCF's website, www.randolphcivicfoundation.org, and one of its sponsored youth groups www.Troop1083.org, were hosted by Electric Web Avenue (see check 1108). The RCF has changed to another, less expensive, host. Additionally, the RCF needs to pay the RCA for *Echo* space that the RCF uses. The amount needs to be determined. ■

RCF Checking Register 01/10/2009 through 02/12/2009

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 01/10/2009			4132.49
01/29		Donation	Anonymous	200.00	4332.49
01/29	1106	Steven M. Katz	Attorney - legal services	-200.00	4132.49
02/01	1107	Boy Scout Troop 1083	Annual donation	-400.00	3732.49
02/01	1108	Electric Web Ave	Web hosting troop1083.org	-128.00	3604.49
		BALANCE 02/12/2009			3604.49

RCF Executive Committee for 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Secretary

Matt Tifford
11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

Directors

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Dan Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-938-7494

The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community.

Vice President

Chad Salganik
4818 Mori Drive
202-359-6158

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Karen Helfert
11429 Ashley Drive
301-468-0236

RCF Web site:
www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org
Phone: 301-881-2722

RCF section in the *Echo*, our website, meetings and other matters. Several items were tabled and were scheduled to be addressed at a follow-up meeting in February. With the RCA meeting bi-monthly (almost every month if you count board meetings), it was determined from last year that back-to-back RCA/RCF meetings was not working and deemed impractical. So due to the RCF's status as a "foundation," it will likely be decided to entertain having several board meetings throughout the year and one official membership meeting. Members would be welcome to attend board meetings, but would typically not vote. Major initiatives affecting the direction of the foundation would be presented at the annual membership meeting (or a special membership meeting), where membership input and approval would be solicited. This is not fully decided, so input from members will certainly be reviewed as we progress. Again, with the frequency of RCA meetings, the value of everyone's time became additional consideration in scheduling more civic-related meetings for RCAers/RCFers.

By the time you read this, we will have since welcomed our new US President. Like him or not, take some time to listen, learn and watch how he goes about implementing his initiatives. Write letters or emails to your various representatives expressing how you feel and how you either support or disagree with the new President's policies. You might be surprised how much you learn about our leaders and the political process by doing this. ■

News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Leora Hernandez

This troop is a multi-level troop which consist of Juniors (3rd-5th grade), Brownies (1st – 3rd) and Daisies (K).

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time! And we thank you in advance for supporting not only our troop but all Girl Scouts when you purchase them. We have already started taking orders and should start delivering cookies sometime mid-February. The sale ends at the last week of March. In case you are concerned about your favorite peanut butter cookies, they are not a part of the recall!

Our cookie booth dates that have been scheduled are: From 12 pm - 3 pm on February 28, 2009 at the Loehmann's Safeway and from 12 pm - 3 pm on March 22, 2009 at the Wheaton Giant. One of the things our girls are working towards paying for is an outing at a horse farm where they will learn about horse care and do a little riding.

Feel free to call me, Leora Hernandez at 301-933-0460, if by some chance you didn't get your Girl Scout Cookie fix and I will arrange for one of the girls in our troop to take care of you.

Activities:

The girls loved making new greeting cards by recycling old ones. They also added stickers, ribbon, and

(continued on page 17)

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News from Pack 1081

by Don Gibbons



Cub Scout Pack 1081 winter activities are in full swing! The annual Klondike Derby at Little Bennett, with activities for our Webelos Scouts and a Boy Scout Troop 1083 dinner invitation, was held on Saturday, January 24th. The Klondike Derby is a winter outdoor event for our Webelos Scouts involving "arctic-themed" competitions that test scout skills along with teamwork. The Scouts were then invited to Boy Scout Troop 1083's campsite for a chili and pasta dinner and warm campfire. Participating Webelos were **Matthew Kimball, Mateo Streed, Sebastian Jardine and Devon Parker**. Way to go, Webelos!

As sounds of screeching tires, hard braking and sirens were heard throughout the room, the scouts "revved-up" again for this year's Pinewood Derby on Saturday, January 26th at Viers Mill ES. Race winners for Tigers: **Nathan Skirvin** 1st Place. Wolves: **Nathaniel Harley** 1st, **Galen Gibbons** 2nd, **Adrian Streed** 3rd; Bears: **Mark Kimball** 1st, **Wolfie Woolard** 2nd,

Victor Guerrero 3rd; Webelos I: **Devon Parker** 1st, **Sebastian Jardine** 2nd; Webelos II: **Matthew Kimball** 1st, **Cameron Lett** 2nd, **Mateo Streed** 3rd. There were winners in many other categories from "most unusual" to "most interesting driver."

Congratulations to all the winners and all that participated in this year's Derby races! Many thanks to our judges 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 were **Nathan Skirvin, Nathaniel Harley, Mark Kimball, Matthew**

Kimball, and Devon Parker. Jordan Pitt's car won the best "Show" car. Congratulations to all the winners! Our Pack will be represented in the District races by our top winners. Good luck in the District competition, guys!

Since our last *Echo* column, the following scouts have worked hard to earn the advancement awards: earning the Bobcat Rank Award were **Nathan Skirvin** and **David Ghunaim**. Scouts earning Sports and Academic Belt Loops in Computers were Tiger **Nathan Skirvin**. Wolves earning Computers were **Nathaniel Harley, Adrian Streed** and **David Ghunaim**,

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Chess for **Thomas Alder, David Ghunaim**. Bears earning Sports and Academic Belt Loops in Astronomy were **Mark Kimball**, and in Bowling for **Jordan Pitts** and in Collecting for **Jordan Pitts** and **Mark Kimball**, and in Communicating were **Jordan Pitts, Mark Kimball** and **Victor Guerrero**. Webelos Activity Pins for **Cameron Lett** for Family Member and **Devon Parker, Sebastian Jardine** for Readyman. **Matthew Kimball** in Artist and Family Member. Let's hear it for all our hard working and award-earning Scouts!!

At press time the Pack is looking forward to a trip to a Ski trip to Liberty Mountain on Sunday, February 15th and our annual Blue & Gold Banquet on Thursday, February 19th. 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 P.M. It's never too late to join! Please visit our website location for more Pack 1081 news and pictures: <http://www.pack1081.org>. ■

Keep in touch with your neighbors!
Join the RCA Yahoo Group at
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>

Girl Scout Troop 1028

(continued from page 15)

drew lovely pictures. We the leaders were really impressed with the results. The cards will be sent to a Girl Scout Troop in Peru.

The brownies also worked on their cookie sales skills. They practiced their math skills of making change and tallies. They learned more about the products so they could be better salesmen. Lastly, they worked on how to greet a customer and handle questions, and rejections, with a smile. All great life skills for the girls!

The Juniors started a new leadership journey. During the journey, the girls will explore the power of themselves, power of a team, and the power of a community. They started out with learning about what powers they have themselves and learned about other amazing woman leaders in the past.

Girls in K – 5th grade interested in Girl Scouts? We meet every other Thursday at the Veirs Mill Recreation Center at 4425 Garrett Park Road from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Contact Leora Hernandez at 301-933-0460 (evenings) or Rosi Muehlstedt (hablo Español) 240-603-1847 for more information. ■



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Troop 1083 News

by Dave Talbott, Scoutmaster

Troop 1083 would like to thank everyone who supported the Troop by buying a Christmas Tree from our tree lot and making our fundraiser quite a success! With the help of the Venturing Crew, and many Webelos II from Packs 1081 and 493, Troop 1083 hosted an annual visit from a very special guest. Santa Claus has a very warm spot in his heart for Randolph Hills, and always sets aside some time from his busy December schedule to be the scouts' guest of honor. He never misses the opportunity to greet the children of the neighborhood, and with the help of the Kensington VFD, he hops aboard the fire truck to tour the neighborhood. All the while, scouts walk alongside the truck, delivering candy canes to all who come out to see Santa Claus. In a year packed with community service and other outings, the pleasure of welcoming our jolly old friend is always one of our favorite events! After Santa's Ride, **Judi Talbott** hosted the Troop's annual Holiday party for the families and friends of Troop 1083. At the party, in addition to other delicious treats, Santa, the scouts and their families feasted on a huge array of home cooked goodies as well as pizza from Armand's located in Congressional Plaza. While Armand's is now under new management, they still support Randolph Hills and our scouting efforts.

Just to finish up some news from 2008, during the last quarter of the year, five scouts from Troop 1083 completed their Boards of Review and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. The scouts are **Mark Holland Bushong, Andrew James Wood, Bryan Roberto Bravo, Galen Patrick Miley** and **George Anthony Gadbois**. Each scout will be honored at their Eagle Court of Honor that celebrates their accomplishment in attaining the highest rank in scouting sometime over the next few months.

On January 20, 2009, the Troop joined the Bravo family to celebrate Eagle Scout **Bryan Roberto Bravo** at his Eagle Court of Honor. Many of Bryan's friends from his prior Troop, Troop 495, joined us to participate in the ceremony. Timothy McMahon served as Master of Ceremonies and Mr. Walter Varner, past Scoutmaster of Troop 495, presided over the presentation of the Eagle Badge by Bryan's parents, **Laurie Bravo** and **Robert Bravo**. The Junior ROTC Team, including Bryan (past member), from Kennedy High School served as Color Guard for the ceremony. The traditional Troop 1083 pot-luck dinner followed the ceremony. It was a wonderful night in celebration of Bryan's achievements.

On January 23-25, the Troop attended the Montgomery District Klondike Derby. Two special event Patrols, the Wildcats and the Bats, met Scouts from other local troops at Little Bennett Regional Park for two days and two very cold nights of camping and gaming. The scouts slept out in tents and cooked outside too. The temperatures dropped into the teens at night, well below freezing and well within the

requirements for all the scouts to earn their symbol of polar bear brotherhood, the polar bear patch. The Derby events included various tests of Scout craft, first aid and life saving skills and knowledge and teambuilding exercises. WEBELOS II Scouts from Packs 1081 and 493 joined the Troop Saturday evening for some lessons in fire building and enjoyed dinner before returning home to their warm beds to sleep.

On February 2, 2009, Troop 1083 held their Winter Court of Honor at the Masonic Lodge on Knowles Ave in Kensington. A parents' meeting where we discussed fund raising and opportunities for the scouts to go to summer camp preceded the Court. Following the meeting, we enjoyed a wonderful potluck meal before we got down to the business of presenting awards. Merit Badges earned and presented were: Citizenship in the Community: **Matthew Best, Maxwell DeMulder, Brad Gessford, Brady Grundy, Steve Hernandez, Sawyer Kibbe** and **Patrick Owen**; Family Life: **Moses Hart**; First Aid - **Cory Byrne, Brad Gessford, Aidan Gibbons, Adam Levensgard, Brian Lin, Kevin Oakes, Chuck Reese, Noah Reidinger, Ben Safford** and **Andres Valencia**; Personal Management: **Anthony Gadbois, Scott Levensgard** and **Eric Uglem**.

Those advancing in rank included: Tenderfoot: **Cory Bryne, Brian Lin** and **Chuck Reese**; 2nd Class: **Aidan Gibbons**; 1st Class: **Aidan Gibbons** and **Kevin Oakes**; Life: **Steve Hernandez** and **Patrick Owen**.

Finally, we expect to deliver all the mulch you ordered with deliveries starting on Friday, March 13th and continuing through Sunday, March 15th, or until it is all delivered, whichever comes first. Thanks again for all your support. Happy gardening!! If you forgot to order mulch, give Dave Talbott a call (301-933-0048) as we may have some mulch available for sale.

Upcoming events include a ski trip to Ski Liberty, March WEBELOS Weekend and whitewater rafting in May. 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's web page at www.troop1083.org. ■

Fellow Neighbor 20 Years

Leaf Removal • Grass Cutting • Tree Work
Pre-Season Specials



Local Lawn Care

Plus Handy Service

(301) 770-5549

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 is not responsible for 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, 28 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

CUSTOM MADE DRAPES FOR A RANDOLPH HILLS HOUSE. Two years old. For living and dining rooms. Floor to ceiling including lined drapes, valances, sheers and hardware. Sage green cotton. Original cost - \$3,000. Offered at \$550. Other curtains available for bedrooms. Call 703-326-1370.

Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2008-2009 Issue year are:

April 2009 March 6
May 2009 April 3
June/July/August 2009 May 8



Yard Work and Grass Mowing: Here's Your Help

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

Moses (Bubba) Hart 301-230-2740

Jennifer Moy 240-672-4921

Anthony Gadbois 301-770-5386

Gregory Gadbois 301-770-5386

David Santos 301-468-1756

Noelle Valenta 301-816-0293

(also available for babysitting and petsitting)



Important Phone Numbers



Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	240-773-6070
Park Police	301-949-3010
(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)	
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
(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
Metro rail 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.mcrcycles.org)	240-777-6400
Recreation Information	240-777-6804
School Information	301-279-3391
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)	240-777-4999
Street Light Out (metal poles)	240-777-2190
Street Light Out (wooden poles)	202-872-3432
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	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 2008 Market Review!***



<u>Randolph Hills</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Average List Price	\$288,133	\$343,071	\$429,402	\$443,736	\$433,882	\$353,967
Average Sale Price	\$288,102	\$344,496	\$433,028	\$441,028	\$424,703	\$339,295
Lowest Sale Price	\$225,000	\$289,900	\$350,000	\$368,000	\$315,000	\$220,000
Highest Sale Price	\$359,900	\$410,000	\$510,000	\$505,000	\$519,000	\$437,000
Average # Days on Mkt.	28	17	19	64	89	95
Sales per Year	65	60	47	58	29	25

<u>Franklin Park</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Average List Price	\$309,580	\$398,553	\$459,507	\$458,686	\$452,684	\$374,500
Average Sale Price	\$304,100	\$396,626	\$457,536	\$454,000	\$448,129	\$366,000
Lowest Sale Price	\$290,000	\$318,500	\$400,000	\$425,000	\$430,000	\$333,000
Highest Sale Price	\$325,000	\$480,000	\$545,000	\$522,000	\$465,000	\$399,000
Average # Days on Mkt.	29	30	22	80	105	102
Sales per Year	5	15	14	7	7	2

<u>Montrose Park</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Average List Price	\$314,254	\$415,087	\$435,967	\$499,000	\$486,600	\$404,475
Average Sale Price	\$321,000	\$414,437	\$437,333	\$489,000	\$460,000	\$370,000
Lowest Sale Price	\$310,000	\$380,000	\$420,000	\$489,000	\$430,000	\$350,000
Highest Sale Price	\$332,000	\$441,000	\$450,000	\$489,000	\$479,000	\$415,000
Average # Days on Mkt.	21	22	7	16	103	29
Sales per Year	2	8	3	2	3	4

<u>Randolph Farms</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Average List Price	-	\$440,600	\$574,778	\$520,580	\$550,000	\$435,267
Average Sale Price	-	\$444,211	\$571,000	\$527,160	\$535,000	\$423,967
Lowest Sale Price	-	\$359,900	\$435,000	\$405,000	\$535,000	\$395,000
Highest Sale Price	-	\$527,427	\$716,000	\$695,900	\$535,000	\$469,000
Average # Days on Mkt.	-	52	27	47	104	171
Sales per Year	-	6	5	5	1	3

Denise
Szczur

301-452-5544



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