

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 44, Issue 7

May 2001

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Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting
Thursday, May 3, 2001
8:00 p.m.

RCA General Meeting
Thursday, June 7, 2001
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 one.

Renew Montgomery Update

by Richard Zierdt

The good news is that the RCA will get new sidewalks. The bad news is that it will take two years. In talking with Mr. John DiGiovanni on April 9, he said that our neighborhood would take two years to cover, and that the County will start with the north end of RCA (Montrose and Franklin Parks), and work southward. He thought that the County would cover areas as far south as Boiling Brook Parkway. Randolph Hills second and third sections would be covered in 2002.

I am not happy about this, but it doesn't look like there is much we can do about it. I called Howard Denis' office (our County Council representative). His aide thought that it was budget cutbacks. I called Mr. Joseph Beach, Budget Manager with the County's Office of Management and Budget. He said the County Executive has recommended cuts in the sidewalk program for FY02 and FY03. We (the RCA or any resident) can write to the County Council and urge them to reject these cuts. We already have one neighbor whose relative sued the County after tripping on the sidewalk. If anyone who was present at the December 7, 2000 RCA meeting (where both Mr. DiGiovanni and Ms. Sandra Kaiser from Renew Montgomery were present), can remember what was said about expected completion times or dates, please call the RCA hotline with your thoughts.

In the meantime, sidewalk repairs are expected to start around June 1. Mr. DiGiovanni recommended we wait a little longer before contacting the County's contractor for individual concrete work (driveways and driveway aprons, walkways, etc). He said there would be plenty of time for such work. He did not want to divulge the contractor yet, but the RCA can (and will) call next month for an update. I hope to have the contractor's name in the June *Echo*. In addition, as the County inspects our sidewalks, the inspectors will place notices in the mailboxes of any home they feel is in need of private contract work with the name of the contractor. I told Mr. DiGiovanni that many residents have requested this work, and that their sidewalks may not necessarily be in bad shape.

(continued on page 3)

RCA Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 12th
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at Loehmann's Plaza

See page 19 for details!



RCA Executive Committee for 2000-2001

OFFICERS

President

Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Vice President

Matthew Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

Secretary

Kevin Kline
4808 Randolph Road
301-230-1486

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Directors

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

Frank Shore

11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Echo Editor

Eileen White
11225 Ashley Drive
301-984-2579

Echo Advertising

Mauro Biondo
11508 Monongahela Court
301-770-7590

Membership

Patricia Longenecker
4703 Wyaconda Road
301-770-1927

Environment

Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Cathy Stillwell

5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Education

Elinor Walker
12111 Galena Road
301-468-6335

Mobile Watch

John Polk
11216 Troy Road
301-984-8015

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Scout Leader, Troop 1083

Brian McGahey
11805 Timber Lane
301-770-7882

Cub Master, Pack 1081

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Scout Liaison

Frank Rossomondo
11611 Ashley Drive
301-770-7450

Family & Community Education

Judy Fewell
5018 Macon Road
301-770-5540

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Scott Bailey, George Cantalupo, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):

Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964

email: Councilmember.Denis@co.mo.md.us

Mr. Denis' aide: Tedi Osias

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive (all of RCA):

Douglas Duncan 240-777-2500

Montgomery County Public Schools: 301-279-3000

School Board Offices: 301-279-3617

School System Information: 301-279-3391

School Board Member for District 3

(representing all of RCA):

Ms. Patricia O'Neill 301-320-7600

Maryland State Legislative District 17 -

South of Randolph Road:

Senator: Jennie Forehand 301-858-3134

Delegates: Kumar Barve 301-858-3001

Michael Gordon 301-858-3519

Cheryl Kagan 301-858-3046

Maryland Legislative District 18 -

North of Randolph Road:

Senator: Christopher Van Hollen 301-858-3137

Delegates: Leon Billings 301-858-3028

Sharon Grosfeld 301-858-3028

John Hurson 301-858-3464

Montgomery County Delegation Office:

All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8 (all of RCA):

Constance Morella 202-225-5341

email: rep.morella@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate (all of RCA):

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654

Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

Election Precincts:

4-08 South of Randolph Rd. Vote at Rockinghorse Center.

4-26 North of Randolph Rd. Vote at Montrose Baptist Church.

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 240-777-8500

www.co.mo.md.us/services/elections



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$5.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

Renew Montgomery Update

(continued from page 1)

Regarding street lights, requests for new street lights can still be given to me (address, phone # on page 2). There is an application for new streetlights on page 7 of the Jan/Feb *Echo*, available at www.randolphcivic.org in PDF format (Adobe Acrobat). If you do not have access to a computer, please ask someone who does (or the library), if you can. If not, call me and I'll get you a copy. You simply ask permission from the four homes around each utility pole on which you want a light installed (two homes on each side of the street). If three out of the four agree, then a light will be installed. Get the utility pole number off the tag on the pole. The application form should be given to me, not the County (even though the County project leader's name is on the form). Thanks to all that have already given me their forms. We will cut off new applications around June 1.

Some residents have asked to have some of their trees cut down. If the trees are on private property, the County will not do it; they must be taken down at the homeowner's cost (or effort). For trees between the sidewalk and the street, several residents report that the roots are lifting or splitting the sidewalk and/or street curb. As the County inspects our trees, the trees will either be removed, or their roots trimmed and root barriers installed so that the roots will not harm the concrete again. There will be plenty of time to alert the County of special conditions as the inspections begin.

Other projects we (RCA Execs and other neighbors) have suggested: painted parking lines on Rocking Horse, Boiling Brook, and Schuylkill; additional sidewalks (Ashley Drive at Boiling Brook has already been done); graffiti-covered traffic signs replaced; US Mail box at Schuylkill and Ashley – hit and run over 15+ years ago – it would be nice to get it replaced; trash cans installed at bus stops; two "utility poles" somewhere on Randolph Road between Rocking Horse and Lauderdale Drive (Loehmann's Plaza) – one pole on each side of the road – on which to mount the RCA banner signs for Community Yard Sales or other events. Anything else?

Don't forget to check out the
RCA's Web site at

www.randolphcivic.org

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



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Minutes of the RCA April Executive Meeting

Elinor Walker, our Education Chair, gave a brief update on the plans for the Down County Consortium (see sidebar at right for background on this issue). She believes the plan will benefit from the county getting the \$9-12 million grant. Elinor and George Gadbois would like a formal slot at next month's General Meeting.

The RCA President noted that RCA'er Dave Murphy was in attendance. Dave and the Secretary Kevin Kline have agreed to review and update the RCA by-laws.

The Treasurer (though not in attendance) has suggested the RCA erect two poles on opposite sides of Randolph Road, and perhaps Boiling Brook. These would be used to stretch RCA banners across the road. We have found it impossible to get permission to hang signs from existing power poles. The President thought it was an idea "worth running up the flagpole."

*Minutes submitted by Jack Stillwell
with supplementary information provided by
Kevin Kline and George Gadbois*

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What is the Down County Consortium?

In the Fall of 2002, a new program is scheduled to be introduced to RCA-land Wheaton high school students who will graduate in 2006. Sometime prior to entering 9th grade, the student may select a "signature program" of their liking as offered by the participating consortium high schools. This program does not affect those RCA-land students who attend Walter Johnson. RCA-land Wheaton students are guaranteed that they can attend Wheaton, their "home base" high school, if they so desire. Students can also pick another high school based on its "signature" program. The high schools in this Down County Consortium are: Wheaton, Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, and John F. Kennedy. Northwood will become a member when it reopens in 2004.

Wheaton's signature programs will be the *Academies of Information Technology, Biological Technology & Medical Careers, Engineering Technology and Foreign Language and Cultural Studies*. Blair's signature programs will be the *Academies of Communications/Media Literacy, Entrepreneurship, and Science and Technology*. (Blair will continue to maintain its Math & Science magnet program, which is separate from the signature program.) Einstein's signature programs will be *International Baccalaureate, International Studies, Visual Arts and Performing Arts*, and the *Academy of Finance*. Kennedy's signature programs will be the *Advanced Placement Diploma Program, the Space, Earth, and Human Life Academy*, and the *Academy of Leadership*.

The purpose of this Down County Consortium is that, in other County areas where it has been implemented, the student demographics have stabilized, and student achievement has improved.

Elinor Walker, RCA's Education Chair, believes that the program will additionally benefit if the county receives the \$9-12 million grant (applied for on 12/22/00 with award notifications this spring) from the US Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Magnet Schools Assistance Program, Title V. Dr. Michael Martirano, Consortium Director, stated that the Signature Programs and the consortium are not contingent on this grant, as other funding will also be sought. George Gadbois, RCA Executive Board member, is also an alternating voting delegate representing RCA and Viers Mill ES parents on the Wheaton HS steering committee for the Down County Consortium. His signature strand subcommittee is with the *Engineering Technology* strand, however he seeks input from all VMES community parents concerning each of the signature strand subcommittees. George's efforts in attending these important Wheaton meetings is greatly appreciated, and will increase RCA-land's influence on the decisions now being made.

Blocking the Sidewalks Redux: Warning

by Richard Zierdt

Here we go again, folks. Blocking the sidewalk (typically with a car) makes walking unpleasant at best, dangerous at worst, is against ADA standards (Americans with Disabilities Act), is a hindrance to baby strolling, looks like hell, and is illegal (Montgomery County Code Article III, Section 31-20 (a)(2)). How many times (and how many years) do we have to go over this?

As warmer weather comes, there will be more use of our sidewalks by everyone. There is no excuse for blocking sidewalks. If there is temporarily no room on the street, then a car may have to be parked down the street. If there is a permanent shortage of on-street parking, then we've got another problem which will be solved, but not by creating another. When you have guests over, please advise them not to block the sidewalk. (Reciprocally, we should keep this in mind when we visit our friends).

The RCA has talked with Rockville police previously about this problem (Officer Rose Young, community liaison). We suggested that the police could help by issuing warnings to such cars. Their response is that if the police come out, they will not issue warnings, they will simply issue tickets.

So here's the warning: if the police come out to ticket one car, don't be surprised if they issue tickets to every illegally parked car they see along the way, even those cars that were not reported. The RCA has never asked the police for a "dragnet" of our area. However, the RCA's position is that the RCA will support any resident that reports a specific violation, therefore, the RCA will support any ticket written as a result. Everyone has been warned.

RCA/RCF Elections at the June Meeting.

The Executive Committee is sometimes lax in this area, but there will be RCA elections at the June 7 General Membership meeting, both for the RCA and the RCF (Randolph Civic Foundation). Remember that the RCA and RCF are two legally separate organizations, so it's natural to have two different slates of officers.

Anyway, the proposed slate is as follows:

RCA president	Matt Shore
RCA vice-president	— open —
RCA secretary	Kevin Kline
RCA treasurer	Richard Zierdt

Although redundant in this case, the proposed RCF officers are as follows:

RCF president	Matt Shore
RCF vice-president	— open —
RCF secretary	Kevin Kline
RCF treasurer	Richard Zierdt

Anyone can be nominated and elected at the meeting. Interested? Come to the meeting.

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RCA Hotline – 24 hours

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

Treasurer's Report

by Richard Zierdt

As of April 8, 2001, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$6,221.42. We will owe printing costs for the May and June *Echos* (~\$1600), and delivery costs to the Scouts (\$960), donation to the Scouts (\$400), and donation to the Cub Scouts (\$200). This will leave about \$3,000 at fiscal year's end.

RCA Checking Register 3/10/2001 through 04/08/2001

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
BALANCE 03/10/2001					6,174.76
03/19	E-xfr	Verizon	Feb 22 Telephone	-20.53	6,154.23
03/19	638	Quick Printing	April ECHO - 20 pages	-787.50	5,366.73
03/19	639	SAM's Club	2 SAM's memberships	-30.00	5,336.73
04/06		RCAssociation		39.00	5,375.73
		inc:membership	Crane (Ertter)	5.00	
		inc:membership	Paysen (Ashley)	10.00	
		inc:Sams		24.00	
BALANCE 04/08/2001					5,375.73

RCF Checking Register 3/10/2001 through 04/08/2001

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
Balance 03/10/2001					795.39
03/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	845.39
03/31		interest	Suntrust- .48%	0.30	845.69
BALANCE 04/08/2001					845.69

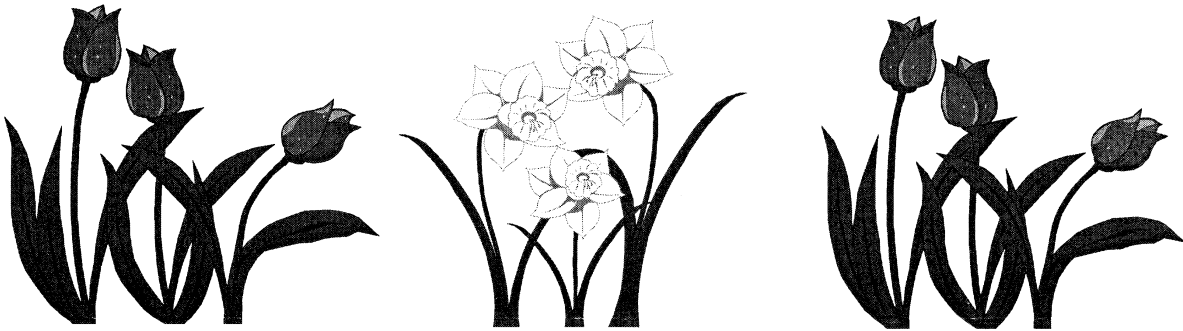
Total RCA+RCF cash assets

6,221.42

***Don't forget to check out RCA's web site at
<http://www.randolphcivic.org>***

Designed by: *Electric Web Avenue*
To Contact Electric Web Avenue to design your business web site,
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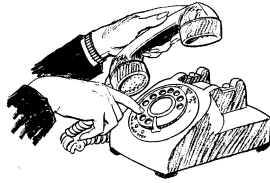
Blockbuster Video	(301) 468-1096
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Chef Theo's	(301) 770-0777
Care Cleaners	(301) 816-2092
Earful of Books	(301) 881-3464
GNC	(301) 984-3363
Hair Systems	(301) 881-0338
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Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
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Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

March 10, 2001 to
April 8, 2001



General Note: The RCA gets a lot of calls about code violations (untagged cars, tall grass, etc). Please note that phone numbers for agencies that handle such matters are published in the Echo almost every month. You don't have to leave your name or phone number. The RCA is here to help everyone keep our neighborhood as orderly as possible, so please use these numbers. Please call the RCA as well. We appreciate knowing and learning about our community.

2001-03-13 (Tue) 11:33 am Hunters Lane. Renew Montgomery. Wants tree, in front of house by the street, removed. Caller would like to know what happens from here. *[Address will be included in RCA's report to the County. Stay tuned.]*

2001-03-14 (Wed) 11:04 am Wyaconda Road. Renew Montgomery. Tree is lifting up the sidewalk, also, part of the tree is dying, so if the tree could be removed, that would be great.

2001-03-18 (Sun) 10:18 pm Wondering if it is too late to send information in about street lights? Form in *Echo*? Can it be rerun? *[It is not too late to submit requests for additional street lights. The form is in the Jan/Feb Echo, which can be downloaded from www.randolphcivic.org. If you cannot download, call Richard Zierdt at 301-881-0283, and a form will be delivered to you.]*

2001-03-19 (Mon) 11:35 am New resident in Franklin Park and read in March *Echo* about possible covenants attached to deed. Would like to get a copy if they exist. *[The RCA asked anyone in Franklin Park to provide a copy of such covenants, if they existed. So far, no one has done so. This doesn't mean they don't exist, only that no one has shown them.]*

2001-03-21 (Wed) 3:25 pm Half of caller's driveway apron needs replacement so when work is done by Renew Montgomery, he'd like an estimate.

2001-03-25 (Sun) 8:56 pm Renew Montgomery. Ashley Drive. Tree in front needs replacement.

2001-03-26 (Mon) 8:18am Schuylkill Rd. Not received *Echo*, please send a copy.

(continued on page 10)



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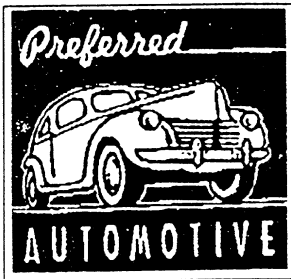


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RCA Hotline

(continued from page 9)

2001-03-26 (Mon) 7:18 pm Light out at 5000 Randolph Road at Hunters Lane; potholes on Randolph Road fixed? Montrose Baptist Church members park on Sunday from 7:30-noon on Hunters Lane. Residents can't get into driveway. *[Call the non-emergency police number 301-279-8000. This is definitely a parking violation. The Church could also be called at 301-770-5335. Call the County transportation department to report potholes and street lights out. Number is in every Echo under "Important Numbers."]*

2001-03-27 (Tue) 8:39 am Schuylkill Road. Caller would like to walk the neighborhood but cars block sidewalk and caller cannot traverse. Can these be eliminated? Will call police. *[See article about blocked sidewalks in this Echo]*

2001-03-28 (Wed) 4:24 pm Hunters Lane. Dead tree in backyard, and two dead dogwoods, possible gophers, more in front, etc. Broken concrete. Seeing Renew Montgomery trucks in the neighborhood. Where to report? *[Renew Montgomery will not do landscape work on owner's own property. We will let you know about the contractor when RCA finds out.]*

2001-03-28 (Wed) 4:54 pm Renew Montgomery. Sidewalks by Waverly street bike path and 50 feet up on Troy Road were damaged. He tried to get cleaned up, but perhaps now is good time to get them cleaned up.

2001-03-28 (Wed) Was on RCA neighborhood watch, now a Montgomery County Park Police officer. Caller does monitor speeding and has written citations, some residents included. If residents see dumping in parks or suspicious activity, call park police through 911. They are out patrolling and enforcing stop signs. Just FYI. *[Also, see the Park Police number for suspicious activity on page 19, left column.]*

2001-03-29 (Thu) 11:57 am Olden Road. Renew Montgomery. Several sections of sidewalks lifted by tree roots. Limbs need to come off.

2001-03-29 (Thu) 3:36pm Ashley Drive. Renew Montgomery. Sidewalk needs to be corrected due to roots on county property. Needs to look into tree root problem.

2001-03-30 (Fri) 1:05 pm Wyaconda Road. Caller has noticed rental of basements to multiple families. Happening quite frequently on Ashley and Schuylkill

too. Disturbed by multiple families and non families that will adversely affect community and property values. Too many cars. Abusive to property and neighbors. Needs to be on agenda for RCA.

2001-03-30 (Fri) 6:20 pm Renew Montgomery. Creek Shore Drive. The Rocking Horse and Boiling Brook traffic is a problem, impossible to enter Schuylkill during rush hour. Can light be put up? Wants to discuss sidewalk and driveway problems and other contractor work.

2001-04-01 (Sun) 11:47 am Schuylkill Road. New resident, and wants to get no outlet sign at cul-de-sac, consider parking permits to control parking, wants traffic count between Boiling Brook and Garrett Park, also had 3 cars left out for months, called 301-840-2454 and they took care of it immediately. When is *Echo* distributed? Any thought of cleaning Rock Creek Park as community project? [*Echo* is distributed eight times a year, from

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September through June. Visit www.randolphcivic.org for more information. Frank Shore is encouraging the entire community to help in maintaining a clean neighborhood. His number is on page 2.]

2001-04-02 (Mon) 7:02 am Randolph Hills, 2nd section. Complaints (in *Echo*) about mailman walking across lawns are unnecessary as it is sad that people think more about lawns than the mail carriers.

2001-04-02 (Mon) 2:06 pm Ashley Drive. Interested in Renew Montgomery. Wants driveway repaired and extended. Also sidewalk in front is bad. Reports vandalism near the area, window smashed in. Made police report.

2001-04-06 (Fri) 2:56 pm Ashley Drive. Missed *Echo* – delivered this month yet?

2001-04-06 (Fri) 8:51 pm Anonymous. Loose dogs, "Cow Dogs." One of them growled at caller. Neighbors should control their dogs. Caller will call animal control the next time.

2001-04-08 (Sun) 2:18 pm Ashley Drive. Noticed the special exception on Nicholson Lane just after the railroad tracks on the right going towards Rockville Pike. What do we know about this? Is it likely to be approved? [*No news to report so far.*]

2001-04-08 (Sun) 6:13 pm Please call as soon as the date of the yard sale is known so caller can take off work that day.

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The price shown above includes basic loads and side boards custom covered with vinyl coated aluminum trim. Soffits front and rear overhangs up to 12 inches in width covered with solid vinyl soffit. Guttering installed on front and rear of home with one downspout on front and one downspout on rear. Normal installation on a typical ranch style, one story home - 36' x 24'.



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Millard Property Update

by Eileen White



Thanks to everyone who signed our petition in support of the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission (MNCPPC) offering to purchase the 2.38 acres in our community known as the Millard Property. Between RCA-land, Garrett Park, and other concerned neighbors, we collected well over 400 signatures.

To those of you just tuning in, the Millard Property is a parcel of woodland between RCA-land and Garrett Park, adjoining Waverly-Schuylkill Park. Last July, the owner submitted a Pre-preliminary Site Plan to MNCPPC proposing to build a subdivision of five homes on the property. The only access to the homes would be over the CSX railroad tracks. The RCA's official position was that, for a number of environmental and safety issues, the subdivision be denied, and that Park & Planning acquire the property and annex it to the existing Waverly-Schuylkill Park.

In January I spoke to a senior naturalist at the Audubon Naturalist Society about our efforts to save this little piece of forest. The Audubon Naturalist Society, located in Chevy Chase, strongly advocates community involvement in saving small wooded parcels in our communities, as they provide vital shelter for birds and other wildlife (did you know that the beautiful little flying squirrel is quite common in our woodlands, including the Millard Property?). She in turn spoke to Neil Fitzpatrick, ANS Conservation Director, who made a call to Park & Planning in support of our efforts.

In December, the RCA was informed that Park & Planning would have the property appraised and would most likely make an offer. In February Park & Planning did make an offer to the property owner and his representative. This offer was rejected, and the owner is now pursuing an independent appraisal, presumably to argue the value of the property.

So stay tuned, keep your fingers crossed, and keep an eye out for those flying squirrels!

Did You Get Your *Echo*?

In the event you do not receive your copy of *The Echo*, please call the RCA hotline (301-881-2722) and one will be delivered to you.

The next *Echo* will be the June/July/August 2001 issue. Look for it in early June.



No Dumping!

Following up on last month's report of dumping in Rock Creek Park, we've noticed an alarming amount of trash behind some Randolph Hills Homes adjoining the Park. Here's another such eyesore – the white area at top is the rooftop of a Randolph Hills home. Of course, the current owners may not be responsible; some of this rubbish appears to have been there for years! Let's all chip in to clean up our Park! FYI: Dumping in the Park is a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$1,000. Fines for commercial dumping are even higher.

Study Shows Civic Involvement Makes for Happier Citizens

The following article from the AP illustrates how active civic associations promote a positive social fabric. Real Estate agents: Show this to your clients. Richard Zierdt.

In the classic Brady Bunch episode "Save Woodland Park," the family crusades to stop City Hall from turning a local park into an office building. By the end, they have succeeded in preserving the park and have emerged a closer, happier family.

Once again, science proves we can learn a lot from the Bradys. A nationwide survey conducted by Harvard University and the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University examines "social capital," the connections that bind people and strengthen the places they live. Researchers found that residents in neighborhoods with high civic involvement were happier than those in areas with more wealth but less community participation.

They found that about two-thirds of Americans engage in informal socializing and about 58% are members of a church, synagogue or other spiritual group. The author comments, "If you had to choose between a place rich in money and a place rich in social capital, I'd pick the place that has more social capital" (AP/Houston Chronicle, 3/2/2001).

Appreciation for our Executive Committee

by Susan Walker

I spent the latter half of the month of December in Suburban Hospital, so I was not aware of the nasty episode which took place at the January meeting of the Civic Association until I read the *Echo*. However, I was shocked to hear that such behavior had taken place.

I want to say that the neighborhood should be extremely appreciative and grateful to the Executive Committee which upholds and maintains this civic association: Richard Zierdt, Kevin Kline, the Stillwells, the Shores, and the many other good members who act in an executive capacity. Believe me, I am grateful they have the conscience and stamina to keep this association alive. It takes unique human beings like them, who give so generously of their time and caring efforts, to make this community what it is today.

I wonder how many people know that RCA has been in existence since the early 50's, and we still have neighbors who have been here and are still wholeheartedly supporting our association. There are very few (if any) in this county who are still operating by providing services and communications for its residents for that length of time.

I can't accept such behavior without "shooting my mouth off." I know what it is to develop and continue caring and working to maintain an efficient organization such as ours.

I came here in 1956, and joined RCA immediately. I was one of the first membership chairmen, and continued in that job for many years. There are approximately 1400 homes in RCA-land. I have walked to almost every door, along with a group of neighbors, called Block Captains, to collect your membership fee.

And don't forget your membership fee is only \$5.00 per year, and whether you pay it or not, you will still get your *Echo*.

I do not know who the perpetrators of this negative behavior were. But I have been here a long time, and I just have to let my neighbors know that I feel we are so fortunate to have an Executive Committee that is doing a superb job in maintaining our Civic Association and keeping RCA-land the great neighborhood it is.

I second the motion in Pat Longenecker's recent Letter of Appreciation for our Executive Committee. More power to them and let's all try to help them whenever we can.

Susan S. Walker
RCA-land's Grandmother



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Peter Crawford

News from Pack 1081

by Doneby Smith



If you like sweet treats, you should have come to our Pack 1081 Parent/Son Bake-Off! First place for taste went to **Robbie Smith** in the "Cakes" category, **Andy Wood** in the "Pies" category, **Galen Miley** in the "Brownies/Cookies" category and **Kyle Arey** for "Other" category. **Sasha Hevey** won for "Most Original Cake" with his Cowboy Boot cake, and **AJ Taylor** won for "Best Looking" with his Pikachu cake. After the judging, all the delights were auctioned. Calories were ignored as the bids went higher and higher, all to benefit our Pack. Thanks to our Viers Mill teachers for judging, and a big thanks to the many generous bidders.

It was a busy Pack meeting with the Bake-Off prizes and auction alternating with the presentation of the following awards: Tigers Big Idea # 14 Family Games, Tricks and Puzzles - **Alan Costas, AJ Taylor, Greg Gadbois, Joshua Hart, Kyle Arey, Thomas Shaw, Sasha Hevey**; Bobcat Rank - **Matee Kowl**; Wolf Rank - **Kyle Blakely, Tony Caffi, Matt Fieller, Robbie Smith, Patrick Souder, Dylan Summers**; Webelos I - Rank **Moses Hart, Larry Souder**; Webelos I - Citizen pin **John Pitkin, Anthony Gadbois**; Webelos I - flag ceremony **Anthony Gadbois, Moses Hart, Galen Miley, John Pitkin, Tommy Rivas, Larry Souder, Oneal Summers**.

March was a full month with our Webelos II camping & riding bikes with Troop 1083 Boy Scouts in Gettysburg, despite the rain and cold weather, on March 17-18. The next weekend brought a trip to the Newseum in Arlington. **Michael Spittler, Jake Bennington, Elliott Edwards, Galen Miley, John Pitkin, Miguel Manzano, Oneal Summers, Anthony Gadbois** and **Gregory Gadbois** ran a simulated newsroom, viewed a film on Hollywood's portrayal of newpeople, made live broadcasts and learned about history from smoke signals to today's internet.

The annual District Pinewood Derby finals on March 31 were exciting. Although **Matt Fieller** and **Dylan Summers** weren't able to make it, **Tony Caffi, Jaccen Schairer** and **Gregory Gadbois** were on hand to represent our Pack. **Gregory** won First Place Overall for the Tiger event and took home a very handsome trophy. Way to go Greg! All the boys earned special patches for participating.

The 13th Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup on April 7 was our conservation project. Starting at the Longbranch Recreation Center, we worked to rid the stream of trash, which in addition to being unsightly, disrupts the habitat of critical plants and invertebrates (that's

"bugs" to most of us). Check back next month for news about our PowWow and Webelos II graduation and our bike ride through Rock Creek Park.

If you can't wait, visit our websites at www.yalich.com/pack1081 or <http://hometown.aol.com/jph3190/1081.html>.

RCA Meetings

RCA meetings are held the **first Thursday of every month** (except January, July and August) at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center at 8:00 p.m. Usually we alternate between General and Executive meetings. If you are unsure about meeting times and dates, please call the RCA Hotline (301-881-2722) for verification. All are welcome at every meeting.

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The History of RCA-land

During the US Civil War, your house was located near the seat of the Federal Government, and just across the Potomac from the Confederacy. This led to an early occupation by Federal Troops.

In the last *Echo* we reported that on October 9, 1861, RCA-land locals learned that young Levin Hoskinson, the apprentice printer at the Sentinel newspaper, had been killed the previous July at the Battle of Bull Run. He was the first Rockville boy killed in the Civil War. We continue with daily Civil War reports of actual events.

Tuesday, November 5, 1861. John DuFief is the owner of a warehouse at Pennyfield's Lock on the C & O Canal. Yesterday he publicly complained that Union cavalry rendered it nearly impossible for him to conduct his canal shipping business, by occupying several of his properties. Union infantry regiments have been camping on his farms, consuming his crops and woodlands, and denying him the use of his own property. He was advised Union quartermasters were authorized to compensate "loyal" property owners for such damages. He was further advised to "strike while the iron was hot" because once the troops left, his compensation would be long in coming.

Thursday, November 28, 1861. The Rockville jail-house burned down yesterday morning. Jailer Lawrence Lyddane rescued all 19 prisoners, including the soldier who set the fire in an escape attempt. The prisoners will be lodged in an old log cabin until transported to Frederick.

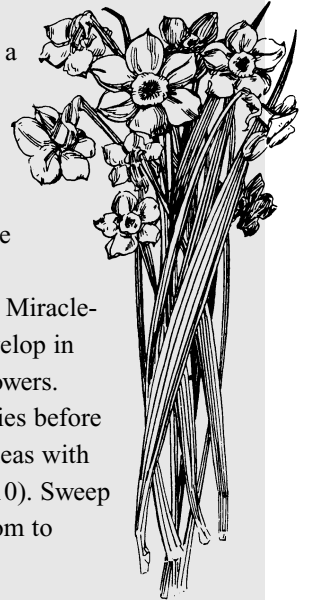
Tuesday, December 3, 1861. Various units of Union troops encamped at the [Rockville] fair-grounds have christened it "Camp Lincoln." Some of the New England units find local customs, dress, and houses strange. The off-duty troops are pre-occupied with augmenting their daily rations of bread, soup, coffee, and salt pork with fresh food. Local farmers must closely watch their eggs, chickens, pigs, and milk to prevent "disappearance."

Source: The Montgomery County Historical Society

Gardening Tips

Tent caterpillars (not gypsy moths) have exited their egg clusters and will weave silken tents in the crotches of trees. They will not go far until late May. Then they will devour your foliage day and night. For high-up tents, poke a hole in the tent and direct a stream of water to break it apart and knock it down. A propane torch works best if you can reach the tent. Kill the remaining caterpillars.

Fertilize hydrangeas with Miracle-Gro so dormant buds will develop in late summer. Do not prune flowers. Stake your fast-growing peonies before flowers develop. Fertilize azaleas with acid-loving plant food (10-2-10). Sweep off dead blossoms with a broom to allow new growth to start.



Health Tip

So you're lounging in your yard when you're bitten by a mosquito. You are all too aware of recent reports about the West Nile virus. You watch the welt rise, and you wonder: Do I call the County? Head to the ER? Suck the deadly venom from your flesh?

None of the above, according to Carol Garvey, Health Officer for Montgomery County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concurs. Even where the West Nile Virus is established, fewer than 1 percent of the mosquito population carry the virus. Most people, when infected, will not experience symptoms. The body's natural immune system will overpower the virus. "Early intervention," says Garvey, "is not necessary."

If symptoms appear, they will do so three to 10 days after the bite. These could be mild and flu-like: fever, headache, body aches, and/or a skin rash. Even then there is no need for medical attention unless the symptoms persist, Garvey said.

The worry is that in people with compromised immune systems (the old and infirm), West Nile virus could develop into encephalitis (swelling of the brain) or meningitis. The West Nile virus has been present in Europe for many years, if not centuries.

WATERY EYES?? SNEEZING?? WHEEZING??

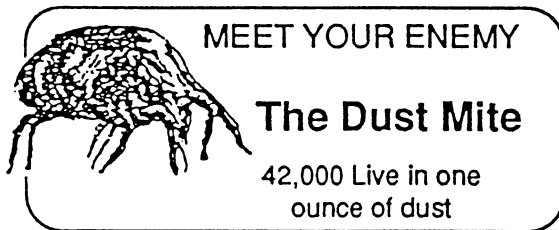
**IF YOU SUFFER FROM ALLERGIES IN THE WINTER IT COULD BE RELATED TO
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Here's Why:

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

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

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



Benefits to you:

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

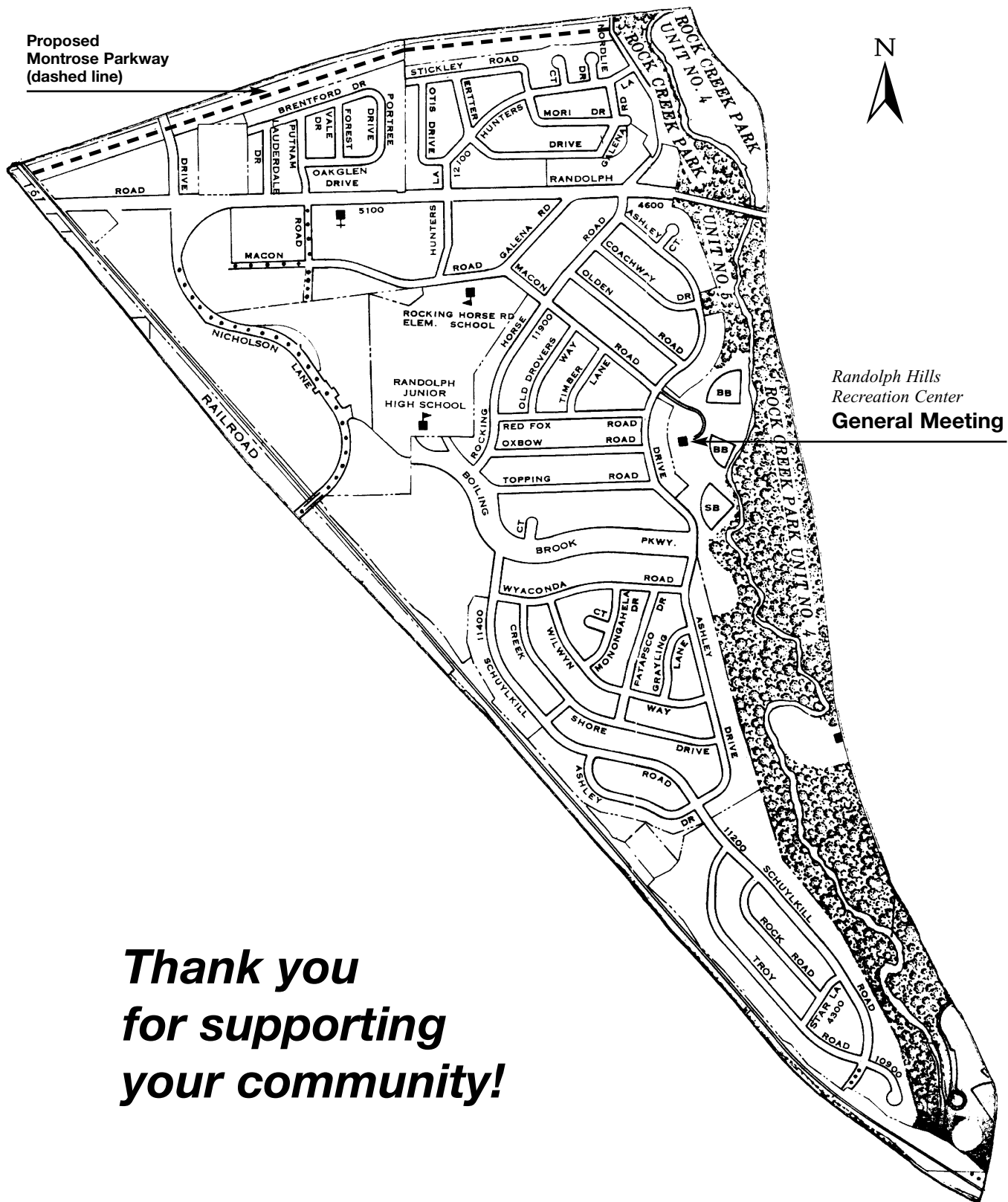
Here's how:

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

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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.

FREE: 3 ft x 4 ft plate glass mirror. Looks new. (2) 32 gal. used Rubbermaid trash containers on wheels. Call 301-468-0673.

Community Yard Sale

**Saturday
May 12th
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at Loehmann's
Plaza**



Cost is \$5.00 for RCA members,
\$10.00 for non-members.
No need to pre-register;
just show up, rain or shine.
No rain date.

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EMERGENCY: (301) 949-3010
NON-EMERGENCY: (301) 949-8010**

Note to Contributors:

The deadline for the
June/July/August 2001 issue of *The Echo* is
May 4.



Important Phone Numbers



Police: Non-Emergency301-279-8000
(Police Reporting Areas (PRA): Franklin, Montrose Park: #306;
Westminster, Randolph Farms: #308; Randolph Hills 1st & 2nd sections
#308; Randolph Hills 3rd section: #309)

Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station) ...301-279-1591

Police: Emergency911

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

Animal Control301-279-1823

Building Permits240-777-6200

Consumer Affairs240-777-3636

Crisis Hotline (24 hours)301-315-4000

Department of Natural Resources800-442-0708
(wildlife nuisance problems)

Disability Resources240-777-1246

Fire Non-Emergency240-777-0744

Housing Code Violations240-777-3600
(use this number for calls about tall grass, broken windows,
trash in yard, etc.)

Large Item Pick-up240-777-6410

Libraries: Hours, etc.240-777-0002
Telephone Reference240-777-0001

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

Montgomery County Humane Society301-279-1823
Emergencies only301-279-1694
Volunteer Info301-279-1026
Licensing Dept.301-279-1249

Motor Vehicle Administration301-948-3177

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

Parking Violations240-777-8960

Parks: Information & Permits301-495-2525

PEPCO: Power Out toll free 1-877-737-2662
Emergency/Life Threatening202-872-3432

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

RCA Hotline301-881-2722

Recycling Info (www.mcrcycles.org)240-777-6400

Recreation Information240-777-6804

School Information301-279-3391

Senior Citizens301-468-4443

Street Light Out240-777-2190

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

Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)240-777-7433

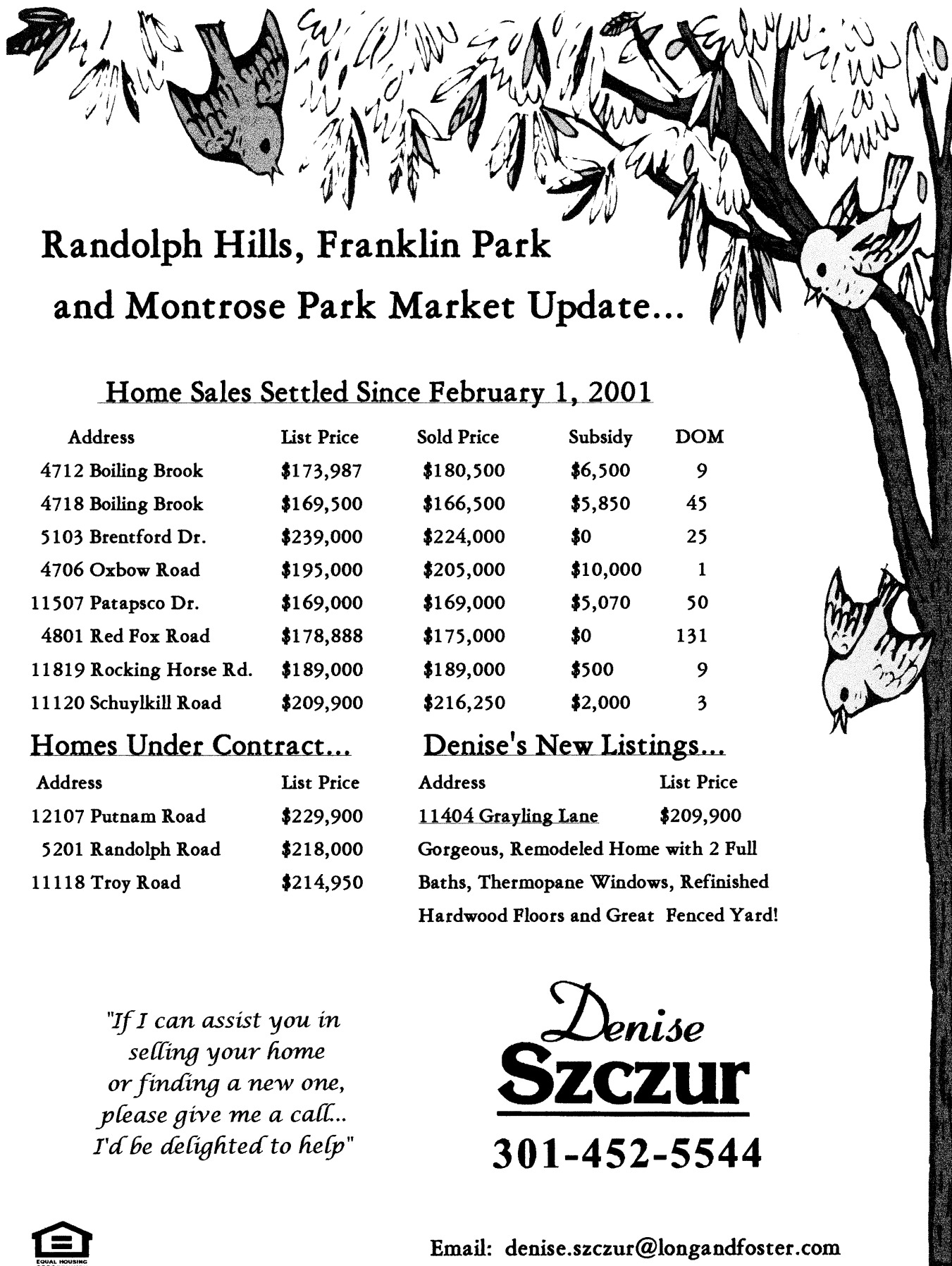
Trash Collection240-777-6410

Tree Maintenance240-777-7623

Voter Registration240-777-8500

Water and Sewer (WSSC)301-206-8000

Weeds/Rubbish Complaints240-777-6400



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

Home Sales Settled Since February 1, 2001

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy	DOM
4712 Boiling Brook	\$173,987	\$180,500	\$6,500	9
4718 Boiling Brook	\$169,500	\$166,500	\$5,850	45
5103 Brentford Dr.	\$239,000	\$224,000	\$0	25
4706 Oxbow Road	\$195,000	\$205,000	\$10,000	1
11507 Patapsco Dr.	\$169,000	\$169,000	\$5,070	50
4801 Red Fox Road	\$178,888	\$175,000	\$0	131
11819 Rocking Horse Rd.	\$189,000	\$189,000	\$500	9
11120 Schuylkill Road	\$209,900	\$216,250	\$2,000	3

Homes Under Contract...

Address	List Price
12107 Putnam Road	\$229,900
5201 Randolph Road	\$218,000
11118 Troy Road	\$214,950

Denise's New Listings...

Address	List Price
11404 Grayling Lane	\$209,900
Gorgeous, Remodeled Home with 2 Full Baths, Thermopane Windows, Refinished Hardwood Floors and Great Fenced Yard!	

*"If I can assist you in
selling your home
or finding a new one,
please give me a call...
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