

# The Echo

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

Volume 49, Issue 7

May 2006

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*McMansionization -- will it come to RCA-land? (The original house is the brick section to the right.)*

## Remodeling your Home? Even Moving a Wall One Inch Requires a Permit

*by Richard Zierdt*

### BIG RCA Meeting set for Thursday, May 4, 2006!

Plan now for attending the RCA's General Membership Meeting, Thursday, May 4, 2006, 8 PM at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center, entrance at the intersection of Ashley Drive and Macon Road.

The Program: How to (legally) remodel, enlarge, build, etc., any structure, deck, shed, garage, home, carport, driveway in RCA-Land. The County's Department of Permitting Services (DPS) will have FOUR staff members at our meeting, representing all aspects of property management – from asphalt to zoning.

If you ever thought about changing any part of your property, THIS IS THE MEETING to attend! \*ANY\* structural change to your home requires a permit from the County's DPS. Get to know NOW how high, how close, how wide, how deep, how much, and where you can build BEFORE you build or remodel. Are existing structures – like your house – grandfathered from existing regulations? We don't know – but we will after May 4. We will show some examples of properties for discussion. If you have a project in mind, send a picture of it to me and we'll try to incorporate it.

Also, McMansionization is a phenomenon throughout the County. Will it come to RCA-Land? Discuss all these issues at the May 4 meeting! ■

## RCA Yard Sale! May 13th!

The Spring RCA Yard Sale is **Saturday, May 13, 2006** at Loehmann's Plaza. See page 14 for details!

## Upcoming Events

### RCA General Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 2006, 8:00 p.m.

*Guest speakers from Montgomery County Permitting Services*

### RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, June 1, 2006, 8:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center at the corner of Ashley Drive and Macon Road on the **first Thursday of every month at 8 p.m.**, except January, July, and August. Usually, we alternate between General and Executive meetings. All are welcome at every meeting.

## RCA Executive Committee for 2005-2006

### OFFICERS

**President**  
Open

**Vice President**  
Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

**2nd Vice President**  
George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

**Secretary**  
Kevin Kline  
4808 Randolph Road  
301-230-1486

**Treasurer**  
Richard Zierdt  
4707 Coachway Drive  
301-881-0283

**Directors**  
Jack Stillwell  
5106 Macon Road  
301-231-4934

Frank Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

Matthew Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Echo Editor**  
Eileen White  
11225 Ashley Drive  
301-984-2579

**Echo Advertising**  
Mauro Biondo  
11508 Monongahela Court  
301-770-7590

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS (continued)

**Membership**  
Carol Brown  
4615 Olden Road  
301-770-7440

**Environment**  
Matt Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

**Education**  
Elinor Walker  
12111 Galena Road  
301-468-6335

**Yard Sale Signs**  
Lorena Segura  
4802 Macon Road  
301-984-8727

**Special Projects**  
Kim and Cary Williams  
4710 Topping Road  
301-881-4554

### COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

**Scout Leader, Troop 1083**  
Dave Talbott  
12104 Foley Street  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
301-933-0048

**Cub Master, Pack 1081**  
Mark Kibbe  
4306 Emden Street  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-946-6393

**Scout Liaison**  
Frank Rossomondo  
15133 Vantage Hill Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-598-5772

**Scout Unit Commissioner**  
Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

**Girl Scout Leader, Troop 1487**  
Stephanie French  
11012 Schuylkill Road  
301-770-3171

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:  
Kevin Kline, Matthew Shore, Eileen White, Richard Zierdt  
[www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org)

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

### MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):  
Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964  
email: [Councilmember.Denis@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Denis@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Mr. Denis's aide: Ken Hartman

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

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive: Douglas Duncan 240-777-2500

Montgomery County Public Schools: 301-279-3000

School Board Offices: 301-279-3617

School System Information: 301-279-3391

School Board Member for District 3  
(representing all of RCA):

Ms. Patricia O'Neill 301-320-7600

Maryland Legislative District 18 (representing all of RCA):

Senator: Sharon M. Grosfeld 301-858-3137

Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181

Jane Lawton 301-858-3638

Richard Madaleno Jr. 301-858-3130

Maryland General Assembly Website: <http://mlis.state.md.us>

Montgomery County Delegation Office:  
All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8:  
Christopher Van Hollen 202-225-5341  
email: [chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov](mailto:chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov)

U.S. Senate:  
Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654  
Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

Election Precinct:  
04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 240-777-8500  
751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20851  
[www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org)

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

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich  
Office of the Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-974-3591  
[governor@gov.state.md.us](mailto:governor@gov.state.md.us)  
[www.gov.state.md.us](http://www.gov.state.md.us)



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$5.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)

## God Bless Nancy Grasmick

by Blair Lee

(Reprinted with permission from the Friday, April 7, 2006 Gazette)

[Note from Richard Zierdt: Mr. Lee writes a weekly column for the Montgomery Gazette that is published on Fridays. This is not the Bethesda edition that is distributed free on Wednesdays in our neighborhood. Mr. Lee covers Maryland politics with a lively writing style.]

I never thought I'd praise Nancy Grasmick. You see, I've been fighting Grasmick tooth and nail for over 15 years. Grasmick, Maryland's first female state school superintendent, graduated from Baltimore city public schools and became a special ed teacher working with deaf children in the city's school system. Later she became a classroom teacher, principal, supervisor and superintendent in Baltimore area schools.

Along the way Grasmick earned a reputation for her tireless, almost obsessive advocacy of improving schools, particularly Baltimore city's. When Don Schaefer became governor he appointed Grasmick his special secretary for children, youth and families and in 1991 she became the state school superintendent.

I smelled a rat. Governor Schaefer's main reason for being governor was to flood as much suburban money as humanly possible into his beloved city and Grasmick sure looked like one of his worker bees. And that's exactly what happened. In 1992, she helped Schaefer and the city delegation repeal a 60-year-old state program that paid the counties' share of teacher's Social Security taxes. Then the state money was recycled to Baltimore leaving the suburbs with huge budget deficits.

In 1997, she led the charge for a special \$254 million school aid grant to Baltimore city with nothing for the rest of the state. And in 2002, she helped mastermind Thornton, the largest school aid increase in history with Baltimore as its chief recipient.

Nancy Grasmick did her job well. When she first came on the state scene Baltimore ranked 14th among Maryland's 24 subdivisions in total classroom spending (\$4,107 per pupil). Today, Baltimore ranks second (\$11,584 per pupil). Only Montgomery spends more (\$12,294 per pupil) with the county's taxpayers paying 78 percent of the tab. By contrast, Baltimore city taxpayers pay only 19 percent of their school budget.

I opposed Schaefer and Grasmick because they seemed more concerned with pumping our money into the city's schools than worrying about how it was spent. I was right about Schaefer who simply wanted to shift Baltimore's

(continued on page 4)

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## God Bless Nancy Grasmick

(continued from page 3)

school costs from city to state taxpayers. But I was wrong about Grasmick. She's been waging an ongoing war to fix the city's schools so we don't continue pouring money down a mismanaged, corrupt, dysfunctional rat hole.

Years before Congress enacted the No Child Left Behind law, Grasmick was already establishing a similar accountability program in Maryland with performance testing and sanctions for failing schools. And for more than a decade she's been warning Baltimore that its schools would be taken-over if progress wasn't made.

In 1994, 1996 and 1997 she put four city high schools on the danger list. Later she placed several city elementary schools under outside control and in 2003 Grasmick and the state school board ruled the city's entire school system needed "corrective action" with 54 schools approaching state takeover.

Then, last week, Grasmick and the state board finally lowered the boom – they put the city's four worst high schools and seven worst middle schools under state control.

The reaction has been (to make a pun) extremely educational. All the same folks – the mayor, the city council, the Baltimore Sun, the ACLU, the city teachers unions, etc. – who routinely demand that the state fulfill its constitutional duty to provide an "adequate education" to the city's school kids are united against Grasmick's takeover. They even rushed a bill through the state legislature delaying the action until next year.

God bless Nancy Grasmick. She's finally blown the whistle on a shameful con game and the hypocrites who run it. You see, when the city, the Sun, the ACLU and the unions sue the state for adequate education they mean more money, not real school reform because real reform means fixing the city school system's bloated, mismanaged, white collar welfare system and confronting racial politics. It means exercising fiscal and political discipline and admitting that the city hasn't and can't fix its school system by itself.

The city has no stomach for any of this, especially in an election year. Instead, city leaders say that these schools are "in their next wave of reform" and that Grasmick's motives are political – she's trying to make Mayor Martin O'Malley look bad to help Governor Ehrlich.

This is preposterous. Grasmick is backed by a state school board whose membership is two-thirds Democrats. And last year federal judge Marvin Garbis ordered the state takeover of the city school system's entire special ed program after two decades of non-compliance. Is he part of the conspiracy, too?

"This move is entirely political," says O'Malley who claims his schools are undergoing the greatest turnaround in the nation. Yet O'Malley's police chief recently explained that the city can't recruit cops because "many officers have young children and can't afford to send them to private schools." Wow!

O'Malley likes to brag about the city school system's improved graduation rate. But at the four high schools slated for takeover the number of students who are able to "read proficiently" is 21 percent, 18.5 percent, 15.8 percent and 8.9 percent respectively.

It takes a lot of nerve to brag about the graduation rates of high school students who can't even read their diplomas.

*Blair Lee is CEO of the Lee Development Group in Silver Spring and a regular commentator for WBAL radio. His column appears Fridays in The Gazette. His e-mail address is [blair@leedg.com](mailto:blair@leedg.com). ■*

## Washington Redskins 2006 Football Season Schedule

You heard it first in the *Echo* – before all the real estate agents send you their lists! Last month we listed all the opponents the Redskins will face this year – now we have the actual dates for the regular season (but not the preseason). All dates are Sunday unless otherwise indicated. All times are Eastern. Beware of Beltway traffic on home game days!

### Preseason:

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 13	at Cincinnati	8:00 pm (NBC)
Aug. 17-21	NY Jets	
Aug. 24-28	at New England	
Aug. 31-Sept. 2	Baltimore	

### Regular Season:

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept 11 (Mon)	Minnesota	7:00 pm
Sept 17	@Dallas	8:15 pm
Sept 24	@Houston	1:00 pm
Oct 1	Jacksonville	4:15 pm
Oct 8	@N.Y. Giants	1:00 pm
Oct 15	Tennessee	1:00 pm
Oct 22	@Indianapolis	4:15 pm
Week 8	BYE	
Nov 5	Dallas	1:00 pm
Nov 12	@Philadelphia	1:00 pm
Nov 19	@Tampa Bay	1:00 pm
Nov 26	Carolina	1:00 pm
Dec 3	Atlanta	1:00 pm
Dec 10	Philadelphia	1:00 pm
Dec 17	@New Orleans	1:00 pm
Dec 24	@St. Louis	1:00 pm
Dec 30 (Sat)	N.Y. Giants	8:00 pm

## Treasurer's Report *by Richard Zierdt*

As of April 8, 2006, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$5,658.69. I wrote a \$220 check to MNCPPC (Parks Department) to rent the Recreation Center for our monthly meetings. This should have been done last July (!) for the 2005-06 season. The actual rental costs \$45. The rest is a \$25 key deposit, and a \$150 damage deposit, both of which we get back in the summer. The refund for 2004-05 has been received (\$154), and will appear in my next report. ■

RCA Checking Register					
03/16/2006 through 04/08/2006					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 03/16/2006			6,620.40
03/17	787	Diane George	bulb refund	17.20	6,337.90
03/20	E-xfr	Verizon	Feb 22 telephone	25.08	6,312.82
03/21		RCAssociation	inc:advertisement	36.00	6,348.82
03/22	788	Quick Printing	April ECHO 20 pgs	1,050.00	5,298.82
03/29		RCAssociation	Rosa's Beauty Salon	34.00	5,332.82
04/06		RCAssociation	inc:membership	51.00	5,383.82
		BALANCE 04/08/2006			5,383.82
		Suntrust Bank statement, March 27, 2006: 6,366.02			

RCF Checking Register					
03/16/2006 through 04/08/2006					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 03/16/2006			274.85
03/31		RCFoundation	interest received .09%	0.02	274.87
		BALANCE 04/08/2006			274.87
		Suntrust Bank statement, March, 31, 2006: 274.87			

Total RCA+RCF cash assets					5,658.69
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## Loehmann's Plaza

5200 – 5290 Randolph Road, Rockville, MD 20852

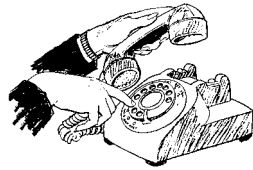
Blockbuster Video	(301) 468-1096
Boat U.S.	(301) 230-0945
Boston Market	(301) 984-0990
Care Cleaners	(301) 816-2092
Chuck E. Cheese	(301) 468-2491
Foot EFX	(301) 816-4663
Hair Systems	(301) 881-0338
Kumon U.S.A.	(301) 231-6977
Lifestyle Spa	(301) 468-9770
Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
SunTrust Bank	(301) 998-8580
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-2477

JBG Rosenfeld Retail Properties  
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## The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

Calls Received March 16, 2006 to April 8, 2006



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

*If anyone notices that the hotline is not working, please call Richard Zierdt at 301-881-0283, and/or e-mail the RCA at [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) Thanks!*

**2006-03-28 (Tue) 9:17 am** Franklin Park. Wants to use RCA Yard Sales for a yard sale this weekend. Caller has heard that RCA-provided signs must be used. *[RCA would prefer that its signs be used, but residents are not required to do so. However, RCA signs are free, so why not use them? Call the RCA Yard Sale Sign coordinator Lorena Segura at 301-984-8727 (always on page 2) to arrange pick-up.]*

**2006-03-29 (Wed) 7:35 pm** Is there a place where caller can go to pick up a copy of the *Echo*? Caller knows it is available on-line, but does not have access to a computer. Please call. *[Computers are available at any public library. If caller lives in RCA-land, the ECHO is delivered free to every house. If caller lives outside of RCA, the ECHO can be mailed.]*

**2006-03-31 (Fri) 6:32 am** Not anonymous. Caller reports a lot of garbage in front and side of the house at 115xx Patapsco Drive. There is a mattress, some furniture, and some junk. Lots of different people living in the house. We've had rat problems. Caller doesn't have energy to keep calling. Caller appreciates the work that the RCA does. *[We'll look at the property ourselves. Please call Housing Code Enforcement at 240-777-3600 anytime and everytime there's a problem. Yes, it's a pain, but squeaky wheels get the grease.]*

**2006-03-31 (Fri) 11:18 am** Schuylkill Road. Hasn't received (April's) *Echo*. *[The Boy Scouts have until the Sunday before the first Thursday to deliver. Read on.]*

**2006-03-31 (Fri) 12:59 pm** Anonymous 30-year Franklin Park resident. Caller wonders about extra streetlights that were supposed to be installed and a replacement sign for the

(continued on page 8)

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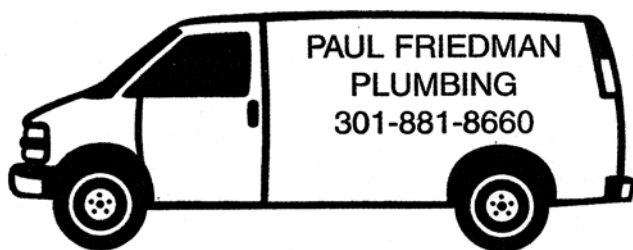


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## RCA Hotline

(continued from page 7)

one at Hunters and Randolph. Is Franklin Park being forgotten? [No. All sections of RCA are waiting for the extra streetlights. The sign replacement is an ongoing project of at least two Franklin Park residents.]

**2006-04-02 (Sun) 10:20 pm** Schuylkill Road. Caller received the *Echo*.

**2006-04-03 (Mon) 9:19 pm** Anonymous. Calling about a house in the 11000 block of Rock Road. This house has children's gym equipment and buckets of sand in the driveway. It's very unsightly, and it makes the neighborhood look trashy. Caller would like the neighborhood to look more proper, and asks the RCA to check it out.

**2006-04-04 (Tue) 5:18 pm** Anonymous. Basically the same message as the last one. [Richard Zierdt here. The RCA appreciates all neighbors who take interest and pride in how the neighborhood looks, and calls to report apparent violations of housing codes. And while the RCA will "check it out," it would help if the callers weren't anonymous, and would provide an exact address. Since caller(s) presumably live close by, that doesn't seem like a lot to ask. For everyone's information, Housing Code Enforcement (HCE) can be reached at 240-777-3600 and you don't have to leave your name. This number is in every ECHO. From the caller's description, I can't tell if there's a violation or not. Unfortunately, there's no law against being simply "ugly." I don't want to list all the ugly things residents can do legally for fear that someone would actually do them! But unless something attracts rats, or causes water problems for another neighbor, or has broken windows, or uncovered, bare lawn, or inoperative cars, etc, there's nothing illegal about it, so I'm reluctant to say whether "buckets of sand" and "gym equipment" qualifies as illegal, even if it is in the front yard. Ugly? No doubt. Illegal? Unclear. But, we'll check it out and call HCE for a ruling. In the meantime, callers are also urged to call HCE themselves. It helps when that department gets multiple complaints. On another tack, while it can be uncomfortable, sometimes simply approaching the neighbor and asking her/him about the situation can fix it right there.] ■

Check out the RCA's Web Site at  
**[www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)**

Keep up on the latest RCA news over the summer!  
Back issues of the *Echo* are available for download.



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Listen. It's disgusting how some plumbers treat you when you have a problem. When you call you end up talking to an answering machine...or worse, "voice mail".

And when you do talk to a live person they don't want to give you a real appointment. They say "We'll be there between 10 and 4". Even at that, a lot of them don't show up at all.

But that's not all. When you are lucky enough to get a plumber to show up he can talk rude, smell like a goat, leave your house in a mess, charge you "an arm and a leg"...and as a final insult, act like he's doing you a favor. I believe...

### Enough is Enough

I'm fed up with the bad image some plumbers are giving the rest of us.

That's why, 12 years ago, I started a "one company revolution" to give picky Washington Metro Area home owners the opportunity to call a plumber who will treat you with courtesy and respect. In fact, over 1,000 of the pickiest people in the Washington Metro Area have already discovered how to solve their...

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

...problems with ease and comfort.

**HIDDEN SEWER ODORS?**  
SMOKEY, OUR ODOR DETECTOR FINDS THE PROBLEM.

**BLOCKAGES?**  
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### One More Thing

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## News from Pack 1081

by Mike Mulcahy



The Thursday, March 16th, "St. Patrick's Day" Eve Pack Meeting was abundant with boy-baked cakes and pies at our annual Parent-Son Bake-Off event. The pleasant aroma of cookies, fudge and other baked items filled the air as they were judged for taste and appearance. Most scouts participated in baking a treat with their adult partner, and many won awards. Among the Award-Winners, were, for "Taste" in the "Cakes" category," 1st place, **Brad Gessford** for his Angel Lemon Fluff Cake; 2nd place, **Brandon Wagner** for his Strawberry Shortcake; and 3rd place, **Preston Polk** for the Tellytubby Cake. In the "Cake's Appearance" Category, 1st place was awarded to **Carlos Delcid** for the Sponge Bob cake; 2nd place, **Max DeMulder** for the Arrow of Light cake; and 3rd place, **Sawyer Kibbe** for the Good vs. Evil cake. For "Cupcakes, Muffins and Small Cakes," in "Taste," 1st place was earned by **Joshua Murtagh** for the Leprechaun cupcakes; 2nd place, **Aidan Gibbons** for the Over the Rainbow cupcakes; and 3rd place, **Matthew Kimball** for the Campfire Cupcakes. In



*The annual District Pinewood Derby.*

"Appearance," 1st place was awarded to **Matthew Kimball** for the Campfire Cupcakes; 2nd place, **Aidan Gibbons** for the Over the Rainbow cupcakes; and 3rd place, **Joshua Murtagh** for the Leprechaun cupcakes. In the "Pies" category, **Mateo Streed** was recognized for taste and appearance, and in the "Brownies and other Chocolate Goods" category, in "Taste," 1st place was awarded to **Esteban Hernandez** for his Webelos Rampage; 2nd place, **Adam Levensgard** for his Cocoa Brownies; and 3rd place, **Patrick Owen** for his Cornflake

Krispies. In "Appearance" for this category, 1st place was earned by **Esteban Hernandez** for his Webelos Rampage; 2nd place, **Patrick Owen** for his Cornflake Krispies; and 3rd place, **Adam Levensgard** for his Cocoa Brownies.

A big "Thank You" to all the Scouts who baked a tasty treat to raise money for the Pack: **Esteban Hernandez, Joshua Murtagh, Maxwell DeMulder, Brenton Polk, Matthew Luong, Patrick Owen, Sawyer Kibbe, Brad Gessford, Luis Mayorga, Jose Valasquez, Preston**

*Left: Show car "parking lot." Right: Scouts enjoy the derby.*





*Congratulations!*

**Polk, Aidan Gibbons, Christopher Mulcahy, Adam Levengard, Alex Mayorga, Carlos Delcid, Brandon Wagner, Mateo Streed and Matt Kimball.** All the boys received a ribbon for their creations, and once again, this year, the bidding was fast and furious. All the baked items were auctioned to generous parents who contributed over \$364 towards our fundraising efforts at the event. Many thanks to our coordinator, **Andrea Kibbe** and to **Jane Owen**, as well as to our judges, **Brian McGahey, Dave Talbott, George Gadbois and Jack Levengard** for all their time and hard work.

On March 17-19, Webelos II scouts **Joshua Murtagh, Max Demulder and Matthew Luong** joined Troop 1083 at Cabin John Park for the weekend. They practiced map and compass, learned fire-building and how to use propane stoves and lanterns. On Saturday evening, they went to the Rockville Swim Center for a dip before retiring to camp for a campfire and S'mores.

Pack 1081's Webelos Scouts came inside from the outdoors for the annual indoor science exploration adventure weekend on March 25-26. The Cub Scouts "camped" overnight at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore and enjoyed the theme of solving a "crime" using clues found at a crime scene, including taking testimony from suspects, discerning fingerprints and footprints and deciphering DNA through blood and hair "samples" and other scientific techniques used by law enforcement to solve crimes. (The pilfered pearls were actually pinched by Dan the Dapper D.J.). The boys also saw a show at the planetarium and an IMAX movie, *The Beavers*. Although the Webelos and chaperones slept near the digestive system exhibit which was a bit noisy, they still woke up in time for breakfast the following morning at 7 am. Our new junior scientist scouts are: **Patrick Owen, Matthew Luong, Maxwell DeMulder, Steve Hernandez, Sawyer Kibbe, Brad Gessford, David Villareal, Patrick Loberg, Luis Mayorga and Steven Escalante.** Congratulations, guys! A big round of thanks goes out to the Chaperones: **Andrea and Mark Kibbe, Geoff Owen, Lorna Luong and Matt DeMulder.**

On Saturday March 25th, the Rock Creek District held its annual District Pinewood at Millian Memorial United Methodist Church in Rockville, and the top finisher from each den and "Best Show" car from Pack 1081 were entered: by name, they were Webelos II **Patrick Owen**, Webelos I **Gabriel Hernandez**, Bear **Aidan Gibbons**, Wolf **Matthew Kimball** and the "Best Show" car of **Max DeMulder**. **Patrick, Matthew and Aidan** competed in the races, while **Max** competed for the "Show" category. **Aidan** placed third in the Bear division! All boys were recognized for making it to the finals with a commemorative patch. Congratulations on making the Districts, Scouts, and to you **Aidan** on your third place finish!

At the March Pack Meeting, the awards earned by both the Bears and the Webelos I Scouts show that the month was a busy one indeed. Bear Scout **Danny Mbutailye** was awarded the Bear Badge; Bear **Adam Levengard** earned an Arrow Point (for Electives completed); and Bear Scouts **Adam Levengard, Aidan Gibbons, Colin McLean, Christopher Mulcahy, Preston Polk, DJ Terry, Alex Mayorga, Brandon Wagner and Carlos Delcid** were all recognized with the Whittling Chip Patch. Webelos I Scouts were active in March as well. Webelo **Patrick Loberg** was awarded the Communicator Activity Badge, and **Sawyer Kibbe** and **Brad Gessford** both were recognized with the Geology Activity Badge. In addition, Webelos I Scouts earned the following Sports and Academic Pins and Beltloops: **Sawyer Kibbe**, Heritage, Languages and Cultures, Geology and Music; **Brad Gessford**, Heritage and Computer beltloop; and **Patrick Loberg**, Communicating and Computer beltloop. Lastly, the following Scouts were recognized for participating in the visit to the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, March 4th: **Diego Carrillo, Brad Gessford, Jose Velasquez, Gabe Hernandez, Sawyer Kibbe, Adam Levengard, DJ Terry and Christopher Mulcahy.** Congratulations, to all on a job well done!

Our Cub Scouts, along with the Troop 1083 Boy Scouts, will pick up trash in the area along Boiling Brook Parkway on the annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day, Saturday, April 8th. Last year, Cub Scouts participating weathered the pouring rain. Let's hope for sunshine this year!

We would like to note a correction from the April edition in that the date for the Potomac Watershed Cleanup was stated to be on Saturday, April 1st, when in reality, the Cleanup is taking place on Saturday, April 8th. We apologize for this error and hope that this has not caused much confusion.

We are looking forward to our April bike ride outing scheduled for Sunday, April 23rd and to our annual Native American Pow Wow where our Webelos II scouts will graduate to Boy Scouting on Thursday, April 27th. If you are interested in learning more about the Cub Scout program for your 1st – 5th grade son, please stop by Viers Mill ES any Monday evening at 6:30 or call Mr. Mark Kibbe at (301) 946-6393. It's never too late to join! Please enjoy a visit to our website: <http://hometown.aol.com/pack1081>. ■

## Troop 1083 News

by Jaime Todaro

In March, Troop 1083 delivered mulch, camped out at Cabin John, and in early April hiked the Appalachian Trail and participated in a clean up of the Potomac Watershed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our Mulch fundraiser. It was a huge success! We had a few minor mix-ups, but for the most part, we delivered 3 tractor trailer trucks of mulch to our neighbors fairly smoothly.

The Cabin John campout served as a High Adventure training for some of our older scouts. The purpose of High Adventure is to perpetuate faith, self-reliance, integrity, and freedom through strenuous outdoor activities. Many campouts are spent preparing for the ultimate High Adventure event. Scouts spent time preparing and reviewing their equipment, and testing out their packs on a day long hike. The Cabin John campout was the first time for some of the graduating Webelos II cub scouts to join Troop 1083 on a campout. As an introduction to boy scouts, some time was spent covering basic outing skills. Scouts had a chance to participate in many fun activities, including swimming. Webelos II scouts from Pack 1081 who joined us for the Cabin John Campout are: **Max Demulder, Matthew Luong, and Joshua Murtagh.** Scouts preparing for Lenhok'sin High Adventure who

*The mulch delivery crew.*



*The Lenhok'sin High Adventure crew at the Cabin John campout.*

attended the Cabin John Campout: **Kyle Blakely, Anthony Gadbois, Scott Johnson, Johnny Hilderbrand, Joseph Owen, and John Pitkin.** Other scouts who attended: **Jason Beam, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart, Scott Levengard, David Santos, Steven Santos, Scott Talbott, and Andy Wood.**

In April, the Philmont Crew had a shakedown hike/campout along the Appalachian Trail. The hike began near Gathland State Park in Burkittsville, MD and proceeded south to Weaverton Cliffs near Harpers Ferry, WV. The hike totaled about 11 miles, on a day that was perfect hiking weather. Scouts who hiked: **Matthew Binsted, Edward Huggins, Hafez Taghavi, Scott Talbott, and Andy Wood.**

Did you know that things like plastic bottles, coffee cups, tires, toys, lawn fertilizers, and anything else that can be carried by water could end up in the Potomac River?

These items can come from yards, streets, playgrounds or anywhere else in the watershed. Trash is an indicator of the respect we have for our communities, our environment and our heritage. A healthy river is a sign of a responsible and involved community. As part of the Boy Scout commitment to community service, Troop 1083 joined Pack 1081 in cleaning up Boiling Brook creek, which is part of the Potomac Watershed. Scouts and leaders gathered 68 bags of trash and assorted debris including a ski, a stereo



*Scouts gathering trash and debris from Boiling Brook creek.*

receiver, and a computer CPU, while enduring some very rainy weather. Scouts who participated in the cleanup: **Jason Beam, Matt Fieller, Anthony Gadbois, Gregory Gadbois, Edward Huggins, Joseph Owen, John Pitkin, Scott Talbott, and Andy Wood.** Adults who participated in the cleanup: **Fred Beam, Richard Fieller, George Gadbois, Geoff Owen, Ben Pitkin, Greg Skolnik, Dave Talbott, Ken Wood and Brian McGahey.** Other volunteers include: **Jack Marshall, Vicky Surles, and Jen Wood.** Thanks to **Mark Evers** for donating snacks.

**Steven Santos** passed his board of review and achieved the rank of Eagle on Friday, March 17. The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 4 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. Congratulations Steven!

Upcoming events include a weekend campout at Gettysburg, the Webelos II Bridging Ceremony, and an Eagle Court of Honor for Steven Santos. If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday night at 7:30 at Viers Mill ES, or call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org). ■

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## RCA Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 13th  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Loehmann's Plaza

Cost is \$5.00 for RCA members,  
\$10.00 for non-members.

No registration required, just show  
up. No rain date. Bring your own  
table(s) if necessary. Great  
opportunity to get rid of that trash  
in the basement and attic.

*The Fall yard sale (below) was a popular event.  
Don't miss the Spring yard sale!*



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# CLASSIFIEDS

The Echo publishes classified ads free for community members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes every effort to ensure the quality of goods or services offered.

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

**Note to Contributors:**  
The deadline for the June/July/August issue of the *Echo* is Saturday, May 6th.



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

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

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

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

**Alex Cassel** 301-770-8757 Macon Road

**Steven Santos** 301-468-1756 Wilwyn Way

**Chris Geerman** 301-230-1386 Ashley Drive

**Mark Bushong** 301-942-5890 Bennion Road

**Andy Wood** 301-946-4634 Idlewood Road


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



## Important Phone Numbers



Police: Emergency ONLY	.911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	.301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	.301-279-1591
Park Police	.301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)</i>	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	.240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	.301-840-2454
Animal Control	.240-773-5960
Building Permits	.240-777-6200
Consumer Affairs	.240-777-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	.301-315-4000
Department of Natural Resources	.800-442-0708
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Resources	.240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	.240-777-0744
Housing Code Violations	.240-777-3600
<i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	.240-777-6410
Libraries: Hours, etc.	.240-777-0002
Telephone Reference	.240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info.	.202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	.240-773-5960
Emergencies only	.240-773-5900
Licensing Dept.	.240-773-5946
Motor Vehicle Administration	.1-800-950-1682
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance	.240-777-7700
<i>(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)</i>	
Parking Tickets	.240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	.301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out	toll free 1-877-737-2662
Emergency/Life Threatening	.202-872-3432
Post Office, Rollins Ave., Rockville	.301-231-5973
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)	.240-777-3986
RCA Hotline	.301-881-2722
Recycling Info ( <a href="http://www.mcrecycles.org">www.mcrecycles.org</a> )	.240-777-6400
Recreation Information	.240-777-6804
School Information	.301-279-3391
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)	.301-468-4448
Street Light Out	.240-777-2190
Transportation (Highway Services)	.240-777-7623
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Transit Information Center ( <a href="http://www.dtwp.com">www.dtwp.com</a> )	.240-777-7433
Trash Collection	.240-777-6410
Tree Maintenance (ask for county arborist)	.240-777-7623
Voter Registration	.240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	.301-206-8000
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	.240-777-6400



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

### **Neighborhood Home Sales Settled Since January 1, 2006**

Address	Orig Price	List Price	Sold Price	Dom	Subsidy	Date Settled
11820 Rocking Horse Road	\$519,900	\$479,900	\$479,900	111	\$2,000	1/23/2006
12003 Galena Road	\$395,000	\$395,000	\$405,000	7	\$10,000	1/31/2006
4805 Wyaconda Road	\$485,900	\$450,000	\$450,000	120	\$0	2/17/2006
4721 Boiling Brook Pkwy	\$429,900	\$429,900	\$435,000	45	\$0	2/21/2006
11822 Rocking Horse Road	\$479,900	\$484,900	\$484,000	54	\$14,000	2/28/2006
4711 Topping Road	\$479,000	\$479,000	\$479,000	4	\$0	3/03/2006
4714 Red Fox Road	\$410,000	\$410,000	\$410,000	13	\$5,000	3/31/2006
11414 Grayling Road	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	5	\$0	3/31/2006

Currently there are 19 homes listed for sale and 12 homes under contract.

The Average Sale Price for the homes that have been sold (listed above) since January 1, 2006 is \$446,738 and the average number of days on the market is 42.

*Denise*  
**Szczur**

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