

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 52, Issue 7 May 2009

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Upcoming Events

RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2009, 8:00 p.m.

RCF Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck Spaghetti Supper

Thursday, May 28, 2009, 7:00 p.m. (see page 13 for details)

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 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.

President's Message

by Matt Tifford, RCA President

Well folks, after months of construction, the Waverly-Schuylkill Streambed Restoration project is now complete. There will be some follow-up work over the coming months – there's still a retaining fence to remove, frog and fish eggs to bring in, and more native plantings. However, the park is now ready to be enjoyed by all. Thanks to the efforts of RCA officers, the contractor placed several large rocks around the park to serve as benches and natural play areas. There's now a family of mallard ducks setting up a home in one of the more secluded ponds, the deer have returned, and we suspect there will be a lot more wildlife to come. We are also pushing for a water fountain to be installed at the Schuylkill Road entrance to the park – we'll keep you posted on any developments.

On May 2nd at 3 p.m., there will be a Ribbon Cutting ceremony in the park. MNCPPC will be inviting local politicians, Park and Planning Board officials, and the local media to the event. The work done in Waverly-Schuylkill Park is the first of its kind in Montgomery County, and will serve as a model for future efforts. Please mark this event on your calendar and try to join us in the celebration. The details haven't all been ironed out yet, but it should be a fun time for all! A strong showing by the residents will also help demonstrate our support for county investment in the community.

Our efforts to resurrect Randolph Hills Park continue. In April I testified before the Planning Board, requesting consideration of a Dog Park and a covered Picnic Shelter. There is a great deal of interest in the community, and we have the support of Parks staff. If we really want to seal

(continued on page 3)

Don't Miss These Upcoming RCA Events!

The Spring RCA Yard Sale

Saturday, May 2, 2009, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Loehmann's Plaza.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Waverly-Schuylkill Park

Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the streambed restoration project at Waverly-Schuylkill Park. On hand will be local news crews, our local politicians and officials, and activities for the kids. Please join us!

RCA Executive Committee for 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President

Matt Tifford 11235 Ashley Drive 301-770-4377

Vice President

Dan Hoffman 4602 Wilwyn Way 301-938-7494

2nd Vice President

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Angelee Marques 4704 Creek Shore Drive 301-984-7514

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Environment

Matt Tifford 11235 Ashley Drive 301-770-4377

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(continued)

Education

George Gadbois 4718 Topping Road 301-770-5386

Yard Sale Signs

Lorena Segura 4802 Macon Road 301-984-8727

RandolphCivic Webmaster

Karen Helfert 11429 Ashley Drive 301-468-0236

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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Dave Talbott 12104 Foley Street Silver Spring, MD 20902 301-933-0048

Cub Master, Pack 1081

Sandra Kimball 13504 Coachlamp Lane Silver Spring, MD 20906 301-603-9078

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

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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: Cindy Gibson, Lou D'Ovidio, Miti
Figueredo, Susan Buffone, Julie Genn, Chad Bolt

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

Election Precinct:

04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 240-777-8500 751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20851 www.777vote.org

Maryland State Board of Elections: www.elections.state.md.us

Governor Martin O'Malley Office of the Governor

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-974-3591

governor@gov.state.md.us www.gov.state.md.us



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$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 noted in each issue. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Eileen White, 11225 Ashley Drive, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852, 301-984-2579, email *eewhitedesign@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)

the deal, we need to form a neighborhood Dog Club. This would be an organized group of dog owners who would serve as a liaison between the community and Park personnel with regard to Dog Park issues. Talk of putting together a Dog Club has begun on the RCA yahoo group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/, so if you want to take part, make sure you join the group.

For all interested in Randolph Hills Park issues, make sure you come to the June 4th RCA General Meeting. Our guest speaker will be Dr. John Hench, Director of the Park Planning and Stewardship Division. Dr. Hench will be addressing plans for the future of Randolph Hills Park, including vagrant problems, underbrush cleanup, the Dog Park, and the Covered Picnic Shelter.

Finally, don't forget about the RCA Yard Sale, to be held on May 2nd from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Loehmann's Plaza. This is always a big event for the community, and fun for the whole family. Hope to see you there!

Montgomery County Planning Board Shows Little Respect to Randolph Hills at Hearing

by Dan Hoffman

The Montgomery County Planning Board continued a disturbing trend on Monday, March 30th when they failed to recognize the importance of the neighborhoods represented by the Randolph Civic Association. At a work session regarding the White Flint Sector Plan, the RCA was on the agenda to speak on school and transportation issues. At this meeting, other communities were given their chance to speak, with Garrett Park Estates using up approximately 45 minutes. When Garrett Park Estates finished, the Planning Board abruptly ended the meeting, and RCA was sent home without any opportunity to speak. RCA has been told it will be able to speak at a future hearing, only after Garrett Park Estates speaks again.

Throughout the development of the plan, the staff and Planning Board have come down against the positions of RCA. After making a strong case against the proposed locations for a new elementary school, and pointing out the proximity of Rocking Horse Center as a possible location, planning staff member Nkosi Yearwood rejected the possibility because it was not within the boundaries of the sector. However when the public hearing draft of the plan was released in January (the plan is available at www.mont gomeryplanning.org), RCA was struck with another blow. Not only were multiple school sites listed that sit outside the sector boundaries, but Rocking Horse Center (a former elementary school) was not one of them. In fact, none of the

schools listed as potential sites had the proximity to White Flint that Rocking Horse has.

RCA has also been a strong supporter of a proposed new MARC stop at Nicholson Court. It would provide us parking, a walking bridge and more frequent stops. It also would provide us with MARC access if the Garrett Park MARC stop were closed due to low usage (currently it has the third lowest usage in the MARC system). In a meeting with Maryland Secretary of Transportation John Porcari, RCA outlined the logic for the MARC stop at Nicholson Court. He showed great interest, and knew exactly how well used the current stop at Garrett Park was. The planning staff, however, came down in favor of another location for the MARC stop, one that would put it out of walking distance for most of the residents living within the RCA territory.

So on March 30th, when the largest civic association surrounding the White Flint sector (RCA) came to speak, many attendees were perplexed when one civic association was allowed to dominate the process so much. The RCA is in favor of all civic associations being given a voice, but when a large block of residents who will be directly effected are shut out, something is wrong. When confronted as they left, the commissioners of the Planning Board, although apologetic, did not offer any solutions, but merely asked us to come back later. When the RCA comes back later, will we actually be allowed to speak?



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Minutes of the April RCA General Meeting

RCA Requests Dog Park & Picnic Pavilion; White Flint Sector Planning Staff Q&A

by Angelee Marques, RCA Secretary

April 2, 2009

The meeting began with Dan Hoffman, 1st Vice President, welcoming everyone in attendance on behalf of RCA President Matt Tifford, as Matt was testifying in front of the Montgomery County Parks & Planning Board.

The agenda for the evening was:

- 1. Guest Speaker: Nkosi Yearwood, Montgomery County Planning Department
- 2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes
- 3. Treasurer's Report
- 4. Committee Chair Reports
- 5. Old Business
- 6. New Business

1. Guest Speaker: Nkosi Yearwood, Montgomery County Planning Department

Dan Hoffman introduced Guest Speaker Nkosi Yearwood, of the Montgomery County Planning Department, to the audi-

ence at 8:10. Dan explained that he had invited Nkosi to speak to the RCA about the White Flint Sector Plan (WFSP) as they work together through Dan's involvement with the White Flint Sector Steering Committee (a group of 10 local area residents that provide a community voice in the development of the WFSP; Dan was elected to the Steering Committee by his peers on the White Flint Sector Advisory Committee and represents the interests of the RCA). Nkosi, a Senior Planner for the Montgomery County Planning Department, works integrally with all stakeholders of the WFSP where he provides his knowledge of countywide development, architectural direction and plan recommendations to the White Flint Planning Board and County Executives.

Nkosi introduced himself and thanked the RCA for inviting him to speak. He provided the audience with an information packet on the WFSP project and described the goal of the plan to make the White Flint area a boulevard for working, living and playing, one that is pedestrian friendly, "Green", livable and will take advantage of both the local and regional marketplace. He explained the "staging plan"



for the project as starting with phase 1, which lays the public groundwork for phase 2 and private development. A series of prerequisites must be done before building can start, such as the identification of implementation hurdles of the boulevard design, traffic monitoring, establishment of public-private partnerships and the staged development of needed facilities.

He proceeded to provide a brief overview of each section of the information packet (for more information on the WFSP, please visit www.whiteflintplanning.org):

Section 1, Pages 1-9: Current land use and zoning, future proposed buildings, density calculations: concentric & elliptical, development to date: current, approved, and passed by the latest hearings.

Section 2, Pages 10-18: Existing road network, road capacity, proposed road structure, visual renditions of "Boulevard" format, and bike network within the area.

Section 3, Page 19-25: Approved and proposed building heights, parks and green space framework, new facilities such as school placement, library, fire and rescue facilities.

In closing, he opened up the floor for Ouestions and Answers: (please note questions and answers have been edited due to space constraints)

Q: Are the traffic figures in the plan based on current or proposed traffic flow?

A: Figures are formed from current and potential build; assume 25% of residents will use public transit.

Q: I see bike parking, but do they also offer scooter parking? A: Yes, all personalized motor vehicle parking is included in the bike areas.

Q: How does the planning board evaluate school sites? Looking at drawings in the packet, I see our existing school site fits or exceeds parameters of the proposed sites.

A: The Board analyzes the area to define a typical prototype for a school which is generally 10-12 acres; however, given the dense real estate in the White Flint area (and in other urban areas of the county), a realistic size is 5-6 acres. The group originally looked at four properties within the Walter Johnson school district as school boundary issues are a constraint, but found through analysis, that the two proposed sites meet the needs the best. Proposed sites are: 1. Wall Park adjacent to the Montgomery County Aquatic Center and 2. (Recommended by the Board) An area of current parking behind White Flint Mall and the Shoppers Food Warehouse shopping center.

In continuation of Above Topic:

Q: What is the acreage of the recommended site? A: 4-5; this has proven to be able to accommodate schools of 600 students, such as Garret Park Elementary, Somerset in Chevy Chase, and Takoma Park.

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April RCA General Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 5)

Q: Did the Board look at the Rocking Horse Center School?
A: Yes, but the focus is on the Walter Johnson (WJ) Cluster and the Board does not want to get involved with redistricting.
Q: I was under the impression that the area had been approved in the past to be redistricted into the WJ cluster?
A: This idea has been floated around by several groups but nothing has been approved.

Q: I am concerned about the traffic the amount of new residential units will bring; are density calculations realistic that 25% of people will use public transport – not own and use their own cars?

A: Upon studies, they have found that the majority of new residents in these urban centers, up and down the Red Line for example, do not have cars as they pay the higher price of real estate for the access to public transport. They anticipate that people will make financial tradeoff choices; residents paying more for real estate in an urban area tend to forgo the cost of housing their own car, often using shared car services to replace the personal vehicle needs.

Q: Why is it that most of the public infrastructure is not in place until phase 2?

A: The phased approach allows for public funds to distribute traffic over time, forming the basis for the private sector to come in and assume infrastructure responsibility. The timing for the second entrance to the Metro station will be reviewed again and a new Marc station location will be voted on shortly.

Q: What are the impacts on other infrastructure? In particular water and sewer as we are already dealing with aging issues.

A: The Board is aware of where the major water mains are and as the private sector builds out, they are responsible for inadequacies of the public infrastructure. For example, North Bethesda Center and Marketplace are both contributing to upgrades to public water and sewer.

Q: How does the Board feel about the proposal by a group of land owners to increase the building height to 300 feet (versus 289)?

A: The Board feels 300 feet is practical and reasonable, however they do not agree with the group's elliptical calculation for density.

Q: What is the population of a new city?

A: White Flint now has about 1.35 persons per unit; typically in these areas, the capacity is 1-1.25 per unit. They see the area moving to 1.25 persons per unit with about 10,000 new residents. The White Flint plan is a redevelopment plan versus a development plan like areas such as King Farm where they developed from nothing in existence.

2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Dan Hoffman raised a motion for approval of the February RCA General Meeting Minutes; the group unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Lauren Lehman provided an update on the status of RCA Funds. She relayed that little activity has taken place with RCA accounts over the past month; the ending balance of accounts is \$3,387.59. Upon review of historical expense and revenue flows, Lauren feels that with the current balance, the RCA will have sufficient funds for *Echo* printing for the remainder of the year.

Attention RCA Residents! A Friendly Reminder to please send your \$10 Membership Dues to John Kehoe, RCA Membership Chair, at 4814 Red Fox Road, North Bethesda, MD 20852.

4. Committee Chair Reports

A. Environment

A. I. RCA Land Clean-Up

George Gadbois provided a reminder and information regarding the combined effort of the RCA, RCF and Boy Scouts, to clean up RCA territory from Boiling Brook Parkway down and around the Randolph Hills Park. The clean-up will run from 9am-noon. Volunteers should meet at the Randolph Hills Shopping Center where George will meet them to provide gloves and bags for the debris. *The RCA thanks all of the volunteers for helping to keep our community clean and beautiful!*

A. II. Playground

Frank Shore provided an update on the status of the new Randolph Hills Playground being installed in the Randolph Hills Park. He had spent the morning down at the park speaking with the Contractor and crew who were busy cleaning up the area in preparation for the removal of the construction fencing. The park is expected to open the week of April 6th. Please come visit the new playground! *The RCA is hoping to plan a Grand Opening event in the warmer weather – watch the Echo and the RCA yahoo group for more details!*

A. III. Randolph Hills Park

RCA President Matt Tifford walked into the meeting right as the status of the Randolph Hills Park was being discussed. Matt had spent the earlier part of the evening testifying at the Montgomery County Parks and Planning Board Meeting on behalf of the RCA. Matt requested the installation of a dog park to replace the 2nd baseball field in the park (the baseball field behind the tennis courts and the tree lined stream), a covered picnic area near the new playground, and a water fountain for the Waverly-Schuylkill park. Matt has received overwhelming support for all of these amenities from the

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April RCA General Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 7)

neighborhood and upon testifying, also received positive support from the Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission.

The Commission recommended the RCA form an organized "Dog Club" to help promote and maintain the proposed dog park. They (the Commission) have found organized groups to be very beneficial and influential in forming public-private partnerships to assist with the continuity of a dog park. Dogtopia, our neighbor and supporter of the RCA (they have installed dog waste clean-up stations around RCA land), has shown interest in assisting in this effort with the support of a Dog Club. Stephanie Bozzo has offered to manage the creation of an RCA Dog Club. If you are interested in joining and helping out with this effort, please contact Stephanie at msbozzo@yahoo.com or reach out to any of the RCA Board Members.

5. Old Business

A. White Flint Sector Plan Update

Dan Hoffman provided an update on the status of his work with the White Flint Sector Steering Committee. The group is in the "work sessions" phase. Dan relayed his great disappointment with the Committee's attention to our neighborhood's concerns. He was slated to present the RCA's position on Schools and Land Use for the Sector Plan at Monday night's (Monday, March 30th) Committee meeting and after waiting 3 hours for his time to present, the Committee failed to moderate the prior speaker's (Garrett Park Estates) comments and allowed 45 minutes to pass, reaching the end of the meeting time. Dan strongly voiced his disappointment to the Committee who were quite apologetic for letting the time run over.

Dan relayed his strong concern to the RCA audience with the Committee's lack of attention to our voice and cautioned that the Committee is very westerly facing, disregarding RCA-land as a key stakeholder in the WFSP. Dan intends to bring this matter to the Planning Board and County Councilman, Roger Berliner, to show the RCA's continuous involvement with the planning process, but lack of attention from key leaders. He would like to see the RCA become more aggressive in its efforts to lobby the WFSP for our needs and concerns. RCA is by far the largest collection of homes bordering the WFSP and receives support for our two main requests, the re-opening of our Rocking Horse Center School, and a MARC stop within walking distance to the RCA, from local property owners.

A question from the audience arose on the two proposed spots for a new MARC train stop. The two proposed stops are: 1. **RCA SUPPORTED** - at Nicholson Court (behind the Shoppers Food Warehouse where the Barwood Taxi service is located) and 2. In a wooded lot next to the new Harris Teeter grocery store.

B. Grand Opening of the Waverly-Schuylkill Park – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd at 3 p.m. for the Grand Opening of the Waverly-Schuylkill Park. The ceremony will be attended by RCA Board Members, Montgomery County Parks Staff, the Project Manager for the park restoration, local politicians and local area media. All RCA residents are encouraged to attend this exciting event!

6. New Business

A. RCA Board Election Cycle

Dan Hoffman discussed the need for a new election cycle for members of the RCA Board. Ideally, elections would be complete before the summer break, allowing for the Board to use the summer to plan the upcoming year. As such, we would like to do a call for elections now with a vote in June. If you are interested in running for a position or have someone you would like to nominate, please reach out to the RCA Secretary, Angelee Marques at angelee marques@yahoo.com or 301-984-7514.

B. RCA Support of the effort to remove the Parks Department from the Planning Board

A proposal to support the larger community effort to remove the Montgomery County Parks Department from the Montgomery County Planning Board was raised by Mike Saunders. The RCA Board agrees with this effort and nominated Mike to be the point person for this effort. The RCA feels this is a positive step as the current Planning Department is not elected nor do they report to elected officials. If the Parks Department is moved into the Parks and Recreation Department, greater oversight and community influence can be levied with our elected officials.

C. Yard Sale Signs Available for RCA Residents – Free! The RCA has a number of Yard Sale signs for the use of RCA residents at no cost. If you are interested in utilizing these, please contact Lorena Moyer, Yard Sale Coordinator, at 301-984-8727.

D. EcoBeco

EcoBeco, a new neighbor of the RCA, was on hand to promote and answer any questions regarding their business and products. EcoBeco is a "Green" provider of home energy audits, products and services to make your home more energy efficient. They recently completed a home energy audit on an RCA-land home and found a number of simple, low cost ways to improve its efficiency; these simple changes can be used throughout any of the RCA community areas. If you are interested in learning more, please visit EcoBeco at 5465 Randolph Road, 240-396-2141 or www.ecobeco.com. Don't forget to tell them you are an RCA resident!

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

Our current balance is \$3,387.59. ■

RCA	Checking	Register
03/10/20	000 through	04/03/2000

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 3/10/09			4,105.59
3/24/09	1083	ECHO:printing		-1,166.00	2939.59
3/30/09	dep	dues		205	3144.59
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The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

Calls Received March 10, 2009 to April 8, 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 March 10, 2009 to April 8, 2009. In addition, two e-mails were included that were sent to info@randolphcivic.org. This is another way to send a message. 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.

2009-03-19 (Thu) at 7:27 pm via e-mail to info@randolph civic.org: I am a resident of Randolph Hills and I park in front of my house on the street. Quite often now, I have had to park up the street one way or another because a visitor has parked in front of my house after being asked not to park so close to our driveway. S/he is making it difficult for my spouse to get into the driveway and it makes me have to walk further in the inclement weather or the dark to get home. It is fine that s/he parks further back and in fact it is closer to the person's home s/he is visiting. I know it is a public street and that s/he can park where s/he likes but it is really inconsiderate when s/he knows that someone else really does need to park there in the evening. I would not allow my guests to park somewhere that is usually used by a neighbor on a daily basis. I think that it is rude and inconsiderate and I am not sure how to handle it. [There is a County parking ordinance that states that a car cannot be parked for more than 24 hours on the street unless it is parked in front of the car owner's home. If the visitor is parked less than that, there may not be much that can be done. One resident used to put traffic cones in the street to save their spot. OK – I looked it up. Here's the actual text:

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Montgomery County Code
Part II. Local Laws, Ordinances, Resolutions, Etc.
Chapter 31. Motor Vehicles and Traffic.
Article III. Parking Regulations-Generally.
Sec. 31-16. Parking over twenty-four hours prohibited.
The parking of motor vehicles and trailers upon the streets in the county for a period longer than twenty-four (24) hours is hereby prohibited; except when not otherwise prohibited adjacent to property lines of owner's residence or business.

Elsewhere in the Code, the fine is stated at \$50.]

2009-03-27 (Fri) at 6:43 pm via e-mail to info@randolph civic.org: Regarding the Dog Park idea, why not clear out the wooded area beyond right field of the baseball field (tennis court side of the park). It used to be cleared out when I was a kid and I think that would please everybody. I for one don't think it's a good idea to eliminate that baseball field. Kids and adults use that area to play baseball, softball, football and soccer in the fall and playing sports can keep them all out of trouble. The other side of the park is often used by organized sports teams. A dog exercise park is a neat idea but I think it should not infringe on keeping our kids from getting their own exercise.

2009-03-29 (Sun) at 6:02 pm Not Anonymous. Caller is responding to last month's call about the welfare of cats roaming in the winter, especially at night. Caller reports that caller's cats have collars and are kept in at night. Caller has seen similar cats as reported last month, but these are not caller's cats. If there is a problem, please telephone the caller at (number).

2009-03-31 (Tue) at 7:48 pm Not Anonymous. Caller is in full support of a dog park in Randolph Hills Park. If caller needs to be contacted, caller can be reached at (number). ■

April RCA General Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 8)

E. TopHat

TopHat homes, a business within RCA-land, was on hand to promote and answer any questions regarding their services. TopHat specializes in second floor additions but also provides general renovation services. TopHat added the second floor addition to 11203 Ashley Drive (top corner of Ashley Dr. and Schuylkill Rd) which they also use as their local area model open to the public every weekend. In an effort to assist the community with resources for architecture, financing and building, they are holding several upcoming weekend information sessions. Please visit TopHat homes at www.tophat homes.com or 703-344-6301 for more information. Don't forget to tell them you read about them in the *Echo!* ■

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RCF NEWS

President's Pen

by George Gadbois, RCF President

Now, more than ever, we are all thinking of ways to cut back on our spending to get us through these tough economic times. Here are a few energy-saving (thus cost-saving) points to consider as we approach the summer months:

- Don't Let High Fuel Costs Drive You Nuts: Observe the speed limit, lighten your load, and keep current with car maintenance.
- Track Your Energy Costs with a Home Energy Audit: Check your home's insulation levels, check for open fireplace dampers, and look for holes or cracks around doors, light and plumbing fixtures, and other places where air may leak into or out of your home.
- Keep Your Energy Bill Out of Hot Water: Repair leaky faucets, use low-flow shower heads, insulate your hot-water storage tank and pipes, and lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees.

- Cut Loads of Energy While Doing the Laundry: wash full loads and use cooler water and cold-water detergents, switch the temperature setting from hot to warm, clean the lint filter after every dryer load, and don't over-dry clothes.
- Lower Your Lighting Costs: Turn off the lights in any room you're not using, consider installing occupancy sensors, use task lighting, and use compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).
- Close the Window on High Energy Bills: consider replacing single-pane windows with double-pane windows with high-performance glass, close your curtains and shades at night and open them during the day, install storm windows, and install white window coverings.
- Save Energy Today: set your thermostat low in the winter and high in the summer, air dry dishes, turn off your computer and monitor when not in use, and take short showers instead of baths.
- Power Your Home, Naturally, with Renewable Energy: If you can't afford to install a full-blown solar collector sys-

RCF Treasurer's Report by Richard Zierdt, RCF Treasurer

As of April 8, 2009, RCF assets totaled \$3524.86. I expect the RCF to have about \$2900 remaining by the end of its fiscal year, June 30. ■

			F Checking Register 2009 through 04/05/2009		
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 03/10/20	009		3524.86
03/13	1110	Steven M. Katz	501(c)(3) legal work	-400.00	3124.86
04/08		Donation	anonymous	400.00	3524.86
		BALANCE 04/05/2009			3524.86

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		

tem, then buy electricity generated by renewable sources from your local utility.

- Insulate Your Home Against High Energy Bills: check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area.
- Audit Your Home Office for Energy Savings: Look for ENERGY STAR computers, copiers, printers, and fax machines when purchasing new equipment, turn off machines when not in use, and make sure power management features are activated.
- Stay Cool This Summer While Saving Energy: set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer, lower shades during the real hot days, and consider a whole-house fan or ceiling fans to keep cool.

Energy tips were taken in part from www1.eere.energy.gov, where additional information can be found.

Our annual spring Stream Clean-up community service project was another tremendous success this year, with windy but very pleasant weather. We had great participation from our local Scout groups as well as several residents and other community volunteers. Over 85 bags and 2500 lbs of trash and debris were removed from our RCF Parks and waterways. A big thank-you goes out to all who participated.

On the school front, Wheaton High School's Academy of Engineering was awarded a \$10,000.00 grant from Lockheed Martin to support engineering activities and instruction and the WJ Science Olympiad Team won the Maryland State Championship. Congratulations to both schools!

Minutes of the RCF Board Meeting

by George Gadbois

March 19, 2009

President George Gadbois called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 pm at a local restaurant. Treasurer Richard Zierdt gave an informal report indicating that the only activity since the March *Echo's* RCF treasurer report was a \$400 donation received and a \$400 payment made to attorney Steve Katz for work pertaining to our IRS 501(c)3 application. This transaction should appear in this *Echo* edition.

Other officer reports included discussion of possibly using Pay Pal on the web page to make donating easier. Vice President Chad Salganik volunteered to research this. Making a specific web link "To make a donation" was introduced, but Director Karen Helfert noted that the link to membership accomplished that, and once you made a donation, you became a member. Discussion followed pertaining to those wanting to donate that may live outside RCF-land, and that a donation avenue should exist for them since the bylaws prohibit non-residents from being members. The board will be looking into creating a non-member donation link and form.

RCF Annual General Meeting And Pot Luck Spaghetti Supper

Thursday, May 28, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held at the Veirs Mill Rec Center 4425 Garrett Park Road.

All are welcome.

Please bring a side dish, salad, rolls
or dessert to share.

Meeting topics will be elections,
a review of the past year's activities,
and a look-ahead to next year.

Member questions and concerns
will also be addressed.

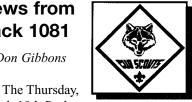
A reminder of the upcoming Stream Clean-up on April 4 was mentioned as a method for continuing beautification. Similarly, President Gadbois will be contacting the JDS to discuss possibilities of student community service to keep up the Boiling Brook Sign planter.

From old business, a decision was made to hold board meetings on a bi-monthly basis on the third Wednesday. The Annual General Membership Meeting will be held in May on a date determined each year. This year the General Membership Meeting will be on Thursday May 28 (originally proposed for the 21st) at the Viers Mill Recreation Center at 7 pm. A pot luck spaghetti supper will be served. Treasurer Zierdt volunteered to confirm building availability. Additional old business included adopting a 600 word minimum to *Echo* articles to keep costs down and to accept member Kevin Kline's suggestion to become a member of FORCE (Friends of Rock Creek Environment). Further old business discussion on bylaw changes was tabled.

New business included Treasurer Zierdt's confirming from counsel that "pass through" (named) donations were allowed, so a tax-deductible donation can be made to the RCF for the specific purpose of being donated by RCF to a board-approved, worthy group or cause; the board decided it will accept member Kline's offer to provide a draft budget for review; Treasurer Zierdt offered to investigate possibilities in renaming Waverly-Schuylkill Park, but probably not in time for the ribbon-cutting; Treasurer Zierdt is in the process of applying for a sales tax exemption for the RCF; the RCF needs to settle with the RCA on a fair payment for Echo space, which has initially been valued at \$200 per edition, \$1600 per year, but not finalized. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m. Present were Gadbois, Salganik, Zierdt, Helfert, and Directors Dan Hoffman and Mike Saunders. Secretary Matt Tifford was not present. ■

News from Pack 1081

by Don Gibbons



March 19th 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. In the Pie division, Victor Guerrero won 1st place "Most Delicious" for his famous Apple Pie. In the Cake division, Devon Parker won 1st Place "Best Appearance" for his spidery apple cake and **David Ghunaim** won 1st Place "Most Delicious" for his White Chocolate w/raspberry cake. In the cupcake/muffin division,

Matthew Kimball took 1st Place for "Most Delicious & Best Appearance." In the cookie/bars division. David Ghuniam won 1st Place for "Best Appearance" for his Peanut butter fudge, and Devon Parker won 1st Place for "Most Delicious" for his Cinna-choco fudge. A big "Thank You" to all the Scouts who baked a tasty treat to raise money for the Pack! 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 \$400 towards our fundraising efforts at the event. Many thanks to our coordinator, Shelia Crawford, as well as to our judges, George Gadbois, Brian McGahev and Adel Milne for all their time and hard work.

At the March Pack Meeting, the awards earned by the Scouts show that the month was a busy one indeed. Wolf Scouts earned Gold Arrow Points as follows: Adrian Streed, Galen Gibbons, Thomas Alder, Daniel Hernandez, David Ghuniam and Nathaniel Harley. Wolves earn-

ing the Gymnastic beltloop were Thomas Alder and Galen Gibbons, while **Nathaniel Harlev** earned the Chess beltloop. Bear scouts Mark Kimball, Pedro Cerriteno, Wolfie Woolard and Victor Guerrero each earned 1 Gold and 1 Silver Arrow Point, while Jordan Pitts earned 1 Gold and 2 Silver Arrow Points. Mark Kimball also earned Gymnastic beltloop. Webelos Scout Matthew Kimball earned Gymnastic beltloop. Webelos scout Cameron Lett earned Family member and Scientist activity pin, Matthew Kimball earned Communicator activi-

ty pin and compass point, Devon Parker earned Scientist and Engineer activity pin, while Sebastian Jardine earned Scientist and Engineer activity pins. Congratulations, to all on a job well done!

On Saturday, March 14th, the following Scouts went to the Verizon Center in Washington, DC and had a blast watching the Harlem Globetrotters dazzle with the round ball: Matthew Kimball, Cameron Lett, Devon Parker, Mark Kimball, Woolfie Woolard, Pedro Cerriteno,

(continued on page 16)

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News from Pack 1081

(continued from page 14)

Nathaniel Skirvin, Jordan Pitts, David Ghunaim and Thomas Alder.

On Saturday, April 4th, Cub Scouts Thomas Alder, Galen Gibbons, Adrian Streed, Sebastian Jardine, Mateo Streed, Stas Mitchell, Devon Parker, Matthew Kimball, Mark Kimball, Victor Guerrero, Pedro Cerriteno, David Ghunaim, Nathaniel Harley along with the Pack 1081 Adults Leyden Streed, Tim Jardine, Karen Tincknell, Sandra Kimball, John Kimball, Erik Streed, Jackie Ghunaim, Jud Woolard, Rachel Bibee and Sheila Crawford and Troop 1083 Boy Scouts helped make the world (and the local area) a better place to live by picking up trash in the area along Boiling Brook Parkway on the annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day.

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.

Troop 1083 News

by Dave Talbott, Scoutmaster

In March, Troop 1083 delivered mulch, camped out at Cabin John, 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 five tractor-trailer trucks of mulch to our neighbors smoothly.

On March 20–22, the Troop held its annual WEBELOS Weekend at Cabin John Park. The older Scouts taught the WEBELOS about fire building, axe safety and hiking. They took a hike during the afternoon and went swimming at the Rockville Swim Center Saturday evening to top off a great weekend. WEBELOS IIs from Packs 1081 and 493 participated in the campout and were very excited to get their first taste of being a Boy Scout.

The Cabin John campout also served as High Adventure training for a crew 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 High Adventure Crew is preparing to spend a week this summer at Lenhok'sin High Adventure Camp and is looking forward to the ultimate challenge of a two-week backpacking trek to Philmont during the summer of 2011.

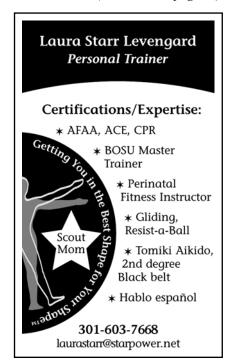
On March 15, Troop 1083 held yet another Eagle Court of Honor, this time in honor of Anthony Gadbois. The Court was held at the Forest Glen Knights of Columbus with a reception hosted by The Gadbois family immediately following the ceremony. Hunter Wyatt, as the Master of Ceremonies, led the Court of Honor. The ceremony made its way down memory lane through the personal remarks of Assistant Scoutmasters Moses Hart and Ben Pitkin and Scoutmaster Dave Talbott. Many of Anthony's family, as well as other Troop 1083 Scouts and Leaders, participated in the program through the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Call of the Eagle, One Hundred Scouts, Eagle Challenge and Eagle Charge. His mother, Mary Anne Gadbois, presented Anthony his Eagle Medal; his father George Gadbois, Jr., presented his Eagle Certificate, and his Grandfather, George Gadbois, Sr., presented his Eagle Scout Neckerchief. Congratulations Anthony!

On March 29, several Scouts from Troop 1083 assisted Pack 493 with their annual Pine Wood Derby. The Pack had a great turnout for the event and the racing was very competitive. On April 24 and April 30, Troop 1083 will assist with the bridging Ceremonies for the WEBELOS IIs for Packs 1081 and 493, respectively, as they bridge into scouting. We are excited to have these new young men joining our Troop.

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 with Pack 1081 on April 4th in cleaning up Boiling Brook Creek, which is

part of the Potomac Watershed. Scouts, leaders and members of our community gathered dozens of bags of trash and assorted debris. Overall,

(continued on page 18)







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Troop 1083 News

(continued from page 17)

there were more than 50 volunteers from the Scouts and the community who participated in our cleanup.

On May 2nd, the youth from Venturing Crew 1083 who are going to Philmont this summer, will be raising funds at the Randolph Civic Association Annual Yard Sale held in Loehmann's Plaza. Stop by and purchase a burger or a hot dog and ask them about their upcoming adventure.

The Troop's next activity will be a campout at Wye Island State Park the weekend of April 25–27. May 15-17 will find us camping in Harpers Ferry; the highlight of this campout will be whitewater rafting.

If you are interested in any of these events and if you are a boy who has finished 5th Grade, you can join us. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Viers Mill ES, or call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. ■

Report Crime Tips Online

Want to give the Montgomery County Police information about a crime or a criminal suspect anonymously? You can now do it on a secure online website at:

https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=758">WebTips







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CLASSIFI

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.

Attention RCA-land Graphic Designers!

Your community newsletter, The Echo, is looking for a new Editor. The Echo provides a great opportunity for you to exercise your creative skills, to be a critical part of what's happening in our neighborhood, and to work with great people who care about our community. You'll need to have professional layout software (QuarkXpress or Indesign), PhotoShop, the ability to make press-ready PDFs, and a knowledge of preparing graphic files for print. If you're interested, please email Eileen White at eewhitedesign@comcast.net, or RCA President Matt Tifford at mtifford@me.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Note to Contributors:

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

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

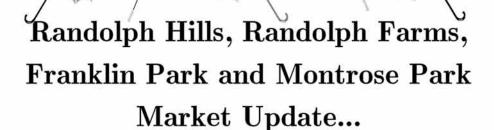
(also available for babysitting and petsitting)



Important Phone Numbers



important r none Numbers
Police: Emergency ONLY911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)240-773-6070
Park Police301-949-3010 (for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)
Abandoned Cars (on private property)
Abandoned Cars (on the street)301-840-2454
Animal Control
Building Permits240-777-6200
Consumer Affairs
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)
Department of Natural Resources800-442-0708 (wildlife nuisance problems)
Disability Resources240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency
Housing Code Violations
Large Item Pick-up
Libraries: Hours, etc
Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society 240-773-5960 Emergencies only 240-773-5900 Licensing Dept. 240-773-5946
Motor Vehicle Administration
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance240-777-7700 (noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)
Parking Tickets240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out
Post Office, Rollins Ave., Rockville
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)
RCA Hotline
Recycling Info (www.mcrecycles.org)
Recreation Information240-777-6804
School Information
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)240-777-4999
Street Light Out (metal poles)
Street Light Out (wooden poles)
Transportation (Highway Services)
Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)240-777-7433
Trash Collection
Tree Maintenance (ask for county arborist)240-777-7623
Voter Registration
Water and Sewer (WSSC)
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints



Address	$List\ Price$	$Sold\ Price$	DOM	Subsidy	$Date\ Settled$
4808 Oxbow Road	\$334,950	\$318,000	18	\$0	20-Jan-09
4901 Boiling Brook	\$299,000	\$258,000	49	\$10,350	$09 ext{-} ext{Feb-}09$
12003 Galena Road	\$250,000	\$250,000	305	\$7,500	17-Feb-09
4602 Stoneleigh Court	\$256,900	\$270,000	15	\$5,000	27-Feb-09
4619 Creek Shore Dr	\$299,000	\$289,000	133	\$1,750	05-Mar- 09
4819 Topping Road	\$350,000	\$330,000	7	\$0	31-Mar-09

Currently there are 8 listings in the area
ranging in price from \$275,000 to \$365,000. The market
has been picking up... there are 7 homes that
have gone under contract since February 10th and open houses
have been busy. If you are considering selling or buying a home,
call me for a thorough discussion of the market and pricing trends,
and we can plan your next move!





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