

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 53, Issue 7

May 2010

White Flint Sector Plan Passes

by Dan Hoffman

On March 23rd the White Flint Sector Plan passed the County Council with a unanimous vote, marking almost four years of struggle for RCA leadership as they sought to help shape the biggest commercial development neighboring our community. White Flint is a place many of us work in or visit daily, and the details of the plan have been well chronicled in the Echo over the years. The Sector Plan helped galvanize a large group of RCA members in a campaign to re-open Rocking Horse as our community elementary school. Ultimately we were unsuccessful, but we did manage to bring the overcrowding at our current elementary school to light and secure an addition. The other key prize was a new MARC station at Nicholson Court with a pedestrian bridge and access from the Randolph Hills Shopping Center. This station came only after countless meetings with neighboring communities and County leaders and will be a cornerstone of the redevelopment plan for the shopping center, which will come in the development phase known as 'White Flint Two'. For more detailed information about the Plan you can visit www.friendsofwhiteflint.org but for now I'd like to share some of my personal insights on how the Sector Plan came to be and who fought hard for RCA.

Aside from the dozens of dedicated RCA volunteers who emailed the Council and showed up at hearings, many County leaders really went to bat for RCA interests and the common good of the County. Their names are in bold. First, I'd like to recognize the Planning Board members who saw Rocking Horse as a valid location for an elementary school and really kept us engaged in the process.

Planning Board members Joe Alfandre, Amy Presley, and the late Jean Cryor

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RCA Welcomes New Board Members

by Mark Nensel

At the RCA General Membership Meeting on April 1, 2010, the new RCA Officers were elected. In an effort to learn a bit more about the personalities behind our tenacious and hard-working RCA Officers, the Echo has queried them with a brief biographical questionnaire. Here's what they had to say about themselves.

Dan Hoffman, President (Thirty-something). As President I'd like to continue building on our accomplishments from the past couple years. What we heard from RCA membership as we laid out our priorities last fall was to continue advocating for our schools, improve safety in the neighborhood

with a focus on the parks, and revitalization of the areas around RCA-land, especially

the Randolph Hills Shopping Center. My family moved into a house on Wilwyn Way almost five years ago. We moved here because of the location and value. These are solid homes, with great yards, near great jobs.

My favorite thing about living here in RCA-Land? The parks, the trees, and most of all the people. We've got a great group of families and residents in RCA-land. As I've advocated for RCA positions in various parts of the county over the past few years, I've found that every neighborhood has a handful of folks you'd rather not live near.

What makes RCA-land great

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A big thank you goes out to exiting Board members, Matt Tifford and Frank Shore, for all their hard work and leadership. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do!

Upcoming Events

RCA Executive Board Meeting

May 6th, 2010 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center
Planning for summer activities and 2010-2011 RCA membership year

RCA Community Bazaar (formerly the Spring Yard Sale)

May 8th, 2010 8:00am-1:00pm, Loehmann's Plaza

Show up early and claim a good spot! RCA members get a free space; Non-members pay \$10 per space.

RCF Annual Meeting and Spaghetti Dinner

May 17th, 2010 6:30pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

Come join your neighbors for dinner! The event is free and all are welcome. RCF will also be hosting the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board. Speakers will be State Senators Richard Madeleno and Rob Garagiola and a representative from Friends of Rock Creek.

RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2009-2010

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301-770-0119

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301-230-1486

VACANT
(Brian Hooker has been
nominated and this will be
voted on at the May meet-
ing.)

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President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

"...there has been active involvement of about 25 people, lesser involvement of 25 others and a broad-base of support through membership of between 600-700 households - which constitutes about half of the 1300 homes in the community. For this involvement everyone in the RCA is grateful. My statement today is a direct appeal to the 'non-involved' whose involvement is not only needed, but essential, if the RCA is going to have a voice in the self-determination of its own community in the future."

On the night I became RCA President I was coincidentally given a gift by good neighbor Bob Walker. He gave me a trove of RCA history that had been given to him by his mother, who had been involved with the RCA. This trove included old *Echo*'s which I read over. The quote above was from then RCA President Alvin Rivera over 23 years ago in the January/February 1986 *Echo*. I was struck by how similar the need was then to the need we have now. Our current membership is not far off (our last report was about 530 homes, and in that same *Echo* it actually states that the current membership was 545). Our current volunteer base is not far off either. The need is similar, but the circumstances are not.

In the 23 years since that *Echo* was published our neighborhood has had its ups and downs. Some elements have never changed. We remain in a great location, close to good jobs, parks and transit. However, we continue to face questions regarding our schools and safety. What I perceive as a relatively new element is the questionable vitality of the industrial/commercial areas around our community. So it is no wonder that RCA members have identified these three elements (safety, schools, and revitalization) as a priority for RCA volunteers. These elements, whether real or perceived, are well within our span of control ...only if we have a voice and show strength. That's where you come in, both the involved and "non-involved."

So why should you be involved when you have so much else

(continued on page 6)

RCA Telephone Number: (240)668-4722.

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

The *Echo* is the official publication of the Randolph Civic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. The *Echo* is published 8 times a year and distributed free to all residents of Franklin Park, Hilltop Square, Montrose Park, Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, and Westminster. Deadline for submission of articles varies; the next deadline is noted in each issue. If you would like to send an article in for consideration, please email the article to info@randolphcivic.org.

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

Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Montrose Parkway Update:** After a particularly harsh winter and rain-soaked March, crews resumed excavating for the new ramp from Montrose Parkway to northbound MD 355. They also began constructing the concrete median on MD 355 to the north of the bridge and continued with storm drain installation. Through May 2010 the ramp excavation will continue, along with storm drain work. Other work includes building the median on MD 355, pouring concrete for the curbs, gutters, and sidewalk. Street lights will also be installed. Later in the summer the remaining landscaping that will be done. Weather permitting, this phase of the project should be complete in the fall 2010.
- **Thank you to everyone who participated in the Rock Creek stream clean-up day on April 10th!** About 70 people participated in the annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day, sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation and the Friends of Rock Creek. The weather was amazing and so was the turn out from the different Scout troops and surrounding community. A special thanks goes out to George Gadbois for organizing the volunteers for our site and again acting as 'site leader' for the event.

Do you have a quick bite of news you'd like to share with the neighborhood? Please feel free to submit a few sentences to info@randolphcivic.org by the deadlines posted on page 15 of this issue. Thank you!



Volunteers gather prior to the Rock Creek Stream Clean-up Day

Community Fixtures: The Lourie Center

by Mark Nensel

With the Community Fixtures section, The Echo highlights organizations or resources in our community about which people may not be familiar.

In this issue we're focusing on The Lourie Center, located at 12301 Academy Way, Rockville MD 20852. The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children is a multi-faceted non-profit organization that concentrates on administering to the well-being and treatment of children with neurological, developmental, physical and social disabilities. The Center is quite near RCA-Land: go west on Randolph, turn right on Parklawn, then right at the traffic light onto Braxfield Court - heading toward the Bethesda Park apartments - then make a left onto Academy Way. The Lourie Center is at the end of the road.

According the Center's website, www.louriecenter.org, the agency's mission is "to understand and strengthen emotionally healthy parent-child relationships within our community through early prevention, intervention, education, research and training."

The Center was founded in 1983 by the late Dr. Reginald S. Lourie -- a world-renowned leader in the fields of pediatric child psychiatry and infant mental

health -- as an outgrowth of a six-year clinical research project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and overseen by Dr. Lourie and several colleagues. In July 2006, the Center affiliated with Adventist HealthCare, Inc. Having served over 4,000 children and families in the Washington metropolitan area, regardless of their ability to pay, the Center prides itself as "a pioneer and leader in the field of infant and child mental health".

The Echo asked Elizabeth Franzino, the Lourie Center's Director of Development, to elaborate on the Center's focus and offerings, and benefits the Lourie Center can provide.

ECHO: What would you say to parents in our community who may be experiencing or noticing developmental and social disabilities in their children?

Elizabeth Franzino: Montgomery County offers an extensive network of resources to help parents whose children are coping with developmental and social disabilities. We would encourage parents to reach out and contact the Lourie Center or Montgomery County Child-Link, one of many clearing houses that exist to ensure that families receive the services they need. In fact, many services, such as Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program or Early Head Start, are free.

ECHO: What trouble signs should parents be looking for with their children? When does a trouble-sign become serious-enough to warrant involving the Lourie Center?

EF: Trouble signs include *(continued on page 6)*

Point-Counterpoint on the Ambulance Fee

The following information was provided by the County Executive's Office:

An EMS transport fee will raise \$14-\$17 million a year in revenue that will be dedicated to maintaining and enhancing Montgomery County's world-class emergency medical services.

County residents will not pay anything under the new fee. The fee will be billed directly to residents' insurance companies, which have already factored the cost of patient transport into their rate schedules. The fee will be waived for uninsured residents.

Montgomery County is one of the few jurisdictions in the region that is not already (or in the process of) collecting an EMS fee from insurance companies. Fairfax County collects the fee, as well as Frederick, Prince George's, Carroll, Charles, Arlington, and Washington counties. Cities such as Alexandria, Baltimore, and the District of Columbia also collect the fee.

There is no evidence that those in need of transport will be dissuaded from calling 911 because their insurance is going to be billed or because they are uninsured. In the jurisdictions that have been collecting this fee, there is no evidence of that happening. Montgomery County will fund a public education campaign to make sure that residents know there are no charges to them for emergency medical services and no changes in service.

There is no evidence that EMS transport fees will raise insurance rates. Ambulance bills are in the "hundreds" of dollars, compared to hospital, physician, surgeon, rehab, device, and drug bills, which are typically in the "thousands and tens of thousands." Ambulance expenditures account for less than 1 percent of insurance expenditures. Since most insurance companies determine rates on a regional basis – and most jurisdictions in the region bill insurance companies for this charge – in most cases County residents may already be paying for ambulance service as a part of their premiums.

The quality of patient care will continue to be the highest priority for Montgomery County's Fire & Rescue Service. A resident's ability or non-ability to pay will never be considered when providing service.

When a resident makes that 911 call, the first priority will be to take care of that patient's immediate medical needs. If deemed necessary, the patient will be transported to the hospital. If not, the EMS fee will not be charged to the insurance company.

[RCA President's Note: The RCA has taken no official position on the Ambulance Fee, but this information is being provided as a service to residents.]

Eric Bernard is Executive Director of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association and Marcine Goodloe is the President:

The County Executive proposed to charge county residents and others \$300-\$800 when they call 911 and are transported to a hospital. Such fees are wrong from a policy and philosophical perspective, which is why the County Council wisely rejected such fees in 2004 and again last year. The arguments against imposing an ambulance fee are even stronger this year, and the Council should reject this plan again.

While we oppose ambulance fees for many reasons, the most important reason is also the most obvious: Charging residents and others up to \$800 for transport to a hospital will discourage people from calling 911 when help is needed most. Public health agencies have spent decades educating the public about the importance of early activation of the emergency medical services (EMS) system. When someone is experiencing a heart attack, stroke, or other life-threatening emergency, they (or their loved ones) shouldn't be forced to consider whether the call will result in a bill for hundreds of dollars.

While proponents say there's no evidence that ambulance fees won't deter 911 calls, they've offered no evidence or studies to back up their claim. Indeed, last year we submitted testimony to the County Council showing that in Fairfax County, EMS calls (adjusted for population) dropped in the year ambulance fees were imposed – and have remained below pre-fee levels. Whether or not ambulance fees contributed to this drop, ambulance fee supporters are simply wrong to cite Fairfax County's experience to show that fees won't deter 911 calls.

Fairfax County is, however, a good place to see how ambulance fees work in practice. The County Executive has promised a "soft" billing approach where residents and others won't face aggressive bill collection efforts. That's not how it works in Fairfax County. There, people who can't afford to pay the EMS fee receive up to three demand letters for payment. To be eligible for a fee waiver, a person has to submit detailed financial records. For those on the receiving end, this doesn't feel like "soft" billing.

Finally, proponents point to the County's budget problems and say we need the money. But ambulance fees are the last place we should look for more revenue when other safety net programs are being cut. The EMS system is the ultimate safety net. People call when they are in crisis and need emergency assistance. The burden will fall most heavily on the poor, elderly, and uninsured members of our community. Regardless of the budget situation, we shouldn't charge people for using the most basic of government services.

White Flint Sector Plan Passes

(continued from page 1)

were the three votes that put Rocking Horse back in the spotlight and ignited our community. Without them, it is unlikely that we would have been able to mount a sustained effort. **All five Planning Board members voted for our MARC station location at Nicholson Court.** I was, however, disappointed at the lengths at which we had to go to get any kind of acknowledgement of the Rocking Horse concept from some members of the Planning Board staff and the Montgomery County Schools' long-range planning staff. Only after getting a School Board member involved did we get an audience with the MCPS staffers. **School Board member Laura Berthiaume worked with us, giving us guidance along the way.** At a school budget hearing at which RCA testified, Ms. Berthiaume went on record to ask for more information and to bring attention to the idea of opening Rocking Horse. School Board member Pat O'Neill went on record seeking information that would show the cost benefits of operating one super-sized elementary school, rather than operating a slightly smaller community-based elementary school. I was very disappointed with O'Neill's apparent position, which she continued to hold onto at a recent RCA meeting.

Once the plan reached Council things quickly went downhill for Rocking Horse. Neighborhoods in the Walter Johnson cluster, enflamed by the word 'redistrict' in the Plan, quickly mounted a challenge and had the support of MCPS. I should state that no RCA representative ever asked for the suggestion of redistricting to be put in the plan. In fact, we asked that it be stricken, but Planning Board staff kept the language. Again I was disappointed that a very feasible solution was overlooked based on fear, and I was very disappointed that no Councilmember or School Board member was willing to go to bat for Rocking Horse. Although some were sympathetic to our cause, the Rocking Horse concept quickly lost momentum. Given the importance of the Plan as an economic engine for the County and its vision for transforming White Flint, RCA continued to support the Plan and our MARC station.

Of course keeping the MARC station in the plan once it got to Council was no easy task. When the subject of the MARC station reached the Council subcommittee on Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) it hit a major road block. Council President Floreen rallied against the station location because it might negatively impact Garrett Park. Although the Town of Garrett Park had taken no position on the station location, President Floreen, who lives in Garrett Park and is the former Mayor of the town, swayed her colleagues, Councilmembers Knapp and Elrich, to vote for moving the MARC station to a location out of walking distance for most of our neighborhood. We were again disappointed. Years of meetings, hearings, and hard work were wiped away in ten minutes with the PHED

committee. Then came a break for RCA. We reached out to the town of Garrett Park and had a very positive meeting with the Mayor, Chris Keller, and a member of the Town Council, Phil Schulp. After a couple more meetings we came to an understanding that the Nicholson Court MARC station would be good for both communities. **The RCA deeply thanks the Mayor and Town Council of Garrett Park for their openness and willingness to listen.** In the end both Garrett Park and RCA sent letters supporting the Nicholson Court site. **Councilmember Valerie Ervin made the motion that Nicholson Court be the MARC site and Councilmember Roger Berliner seconded it. Councilmember Berliner's staff worked tirelessly for us behind the scenes and the entire Council voted for the motion.** We once again had a MARC station. In one final, minor bit of annoyance however, the needed zoning for the station was voted down. This will be rectified in White Flint Two, but still makes more work for RCA. **We owe a thank you to Councilmember Trachtenberg for making the zoning motion and Councilmember George Leventhal for seconding it.** Councilmembers Berliner and Knapp also voted for the zoning but the motion failed 4-5. Councilmembers Floreen and Elrich led the opposition.

It was a long four years, but we now have a blueprint for White Flint that will enhance our community. White Flint Two will offer even more direct benefits if planned properly. We look forward to beginning that effort and revitalizing our community. We will also continue to build upon the solid working relationships that have been created among the County Council, School Board and the Planning Board. Although I may have expressed or indicated some disappointment in some County leaders in this article, it stems solely from a respectful disagreement on positions or policies. For example, Councilmember Elrich has a perspective on growth and development that was sometimes at odds with RCA positions during the course of Plan development. However, he is also one of the primary champions of the Bus Rapid Transit concept in the Plan and this transit infrastructure would be a very positive enhancement for our neighborhood. We may not have always agreed with all County leaders or representatives from neighboring communities, but the Plan really was a blend of the best of a diverse set of ideas. The result was an award-winning plan and a White Flint community that is stronger because of it.

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Community Fixtures

(continued from page 3)

short attention span, frequent aggression or tantrums, withdrawal, excessive fears, hyperactivity, inability to get along with peers and adults. Contact the Lourie Center when there is a significant change in the child's ability to function at home, in their school, or out in the community.

ECHO: Does the Center help parents dealing with autism? What other kind of neurological / psychological / physical problems can the Center help with?

EF: The Center is focused on helping to support parents whose children are coping with social, emotional and behavioral difficulties. Children and families coping with autism and other neurological and physical problems are referred to agencies such as Children's National Medical Center, Jewish Social Service Agency, the ARC of Montgomery County, and Georgetown Hospital.

ECHO: What process should a parent follow if they are considering the Lourie Center? Is an evaluation required? How does one schedule an evaluation?

EF: For families experiencing social, emotional and behavioral problems, please call the Lourie Center at 301-984-4444 ext. 310 for our Intake Specialist, Ruth Migler. She can help connect the family to appropriate resources, either at the Lourie Center or other providers in the community. Ms. Migler and the Lourie Center receptionist are both Spanish-speaking as well. For families whose children attend Luxmanor or Garret Park Elementary Schools, the Lourie Center also offers a before and after school program that is separate from our (continued on page 15)



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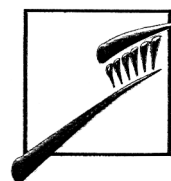
Presidents Message

(continued from page 2)

going on in your life? It's easy to bump RCA-related activities down our list of priorities. However, given that your home is probably your largest investment, the urgency in protecting that investment has never been greater. Our neighborhood is without a doubt at a crossroads. The County is currently making major decisions regarding our community that will determine the style and quality of life here over the next 30 years. The White Flint Sector Plan has recently passed. White Flint Two, which will cover the Randolph Hills Shopping Center and industrial property to the west of our community, is on the way. The County budget is in severe turmoil, and to top it all off, it's a bad time to sell your home due to housing prices. Don't assume that someone else will protect your investment in these turbulent times. Help yourself by helping us to revitalize and transform this neighborhood.

The simplest way to help us, the RCA leadership, to show strength of numbers and voice is to come to RCA meetings or events. You don't need to show up at every meeting, but we only have about five general membership meetings a year. If you can come to three or four RCA meetings in the coming twelve months, it will make a huge difference. We will continue to bring County leaders to you and arrange forums on topics relevant to our community, but we need you there. For years I have worked with the Council to advocate for our neighborhood, and I can say with certainty that when a Councilmember attends an RCA meeting, they are assessing our strength as much as we are assessing theirs. Like it or not, when a Councilmember or State Delegate comes to a poorly attended RCA meeting it reflects badly on our community. Meetings are the first Thursday of the month and advance notice is posted in every Echo. Please put them on your calendar, make plans to attend, and help us make a difference.

DAVID S. SCHLUTZ, D.M.D.



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Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 770-7369
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DENTIST

RCA March Executive Meeting Minutes

By Christiana Drapkin

Attending Officers: Matt Tifford, outgoing President; Dan Hoffman, Vice President; Chad Salganik, Vice President; Steve Feehan, outgoing Secretary; Nick Kreisle, Treasurer; Kevin Kline, Director. Officers not attending: Frank Shore, Karen Helfert.

Attending Committee Members: Mark Nensel, Echo Editor; George Gadbois, Education Committee; David Matera, Public Safety Committee.

Community members of Randolph Hills

Guest speakers: James R. Shannon, Unit Manager and Deputy Warden, Department of Correction & Rehabilitation, Pre-Release Services; Montgomery County Police Captain Darryl W. McSwain, Commander of the 1st District; Montgomery County Police Officer Michael Prather, a Community Relations Officer; Maryland-National Capital Park Police Chief Darien L. Manley and Assistant Chief Daniel McNickle, Montgomery County Division.

1. Meeting called to order at 8:10 p.m.

2. Elections: As first order of business, the floor was open for nomination of volunteers to serve as officers on the RCA Executive Board for two-year terms, to fill upcoming vacancies. The Slate of RCA Candidates for Office, as published in the April 2010 Echo, except for Steve Feehan, who had withdrawn his candidacy, was voted in by unanimous voice vote. The new President is now Dan Hoffman; Chad Salganik is Vice President One; David Matera is Vice President Two; Christiana Drapkin is Secretary; Nick Kreisle is Treasurer. A Director's Seat remains unfilled. Karen Helfert and Kevin Kline remain Directors – their seats were not up for election this year.

Dan Hoffman thanked the outgoing officers, and especially outgoing RCA president, Matt Tifford, for his long and dedicated service, and for his continued involvement and future work with RCA as an ad-hoc voting member of the Board.

3. Guest Speakers: "Public Safety in Our Community". David Matera, our Public Safety Chair, organized today's meeting, "Public Safety in Our Community" and invited an impressive roster of guest speakers:

James Shannon, of the Montgomery County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Pre-Release and Reentry Services Center (located at Nebel and Marinelli streets, just east of the White Flint Metro station), described the work of his agency, which trains and mentors convicts who are serving out the remainder of their prison sentences, and guides them to reintegrate into civilian life after their release. The Pre-Release and Reentry Services' work release program is the mainstay of their efforts since their founding in the late 1960's. Over 15,000 individuals have been served, and the program has gained national recognition. Shannon handed out an information sheet, which can be found at: <http://www.montgomery-countymd.gov/doctmpl.asp?url=/content/docr/PRRS/PRRSmain.asp> Shannon

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PLANNING ON SELLING YOUR HOME?

KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING TO BUY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Why not choose someone who knows your neighborhood personally?

My Grandparents were original owners in Randolph Hills. They purchased their home on Topping Rd. in 1955, where I spent extensive amounts of time growing up. Sadly, it was sold in 2009 as part of my Grandmother's estate.

Put my extensive knowledge of your neighborhood to work for you! Contact me today.

COREY GAQUIN



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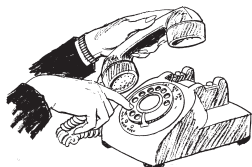
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The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received March 12th, 2010
through April 14th, 2010



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 on the website. 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.

03-23-10 (Tues) at 4:01pm. Via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Not anonymous. I am an Employee of Dynamite Gymnastics Center, a new business in the Randolph Hills shopping center. We have been there since September of 2009 and even did an event for you guys. I am concerned about the safety in the neighborhood as we have well over 400 kids registered for classes now! Yesterday when I was going to work, I noticed our sign at the corner of Schuylkill Rd and Wyaconda Road was gone... along with another business's sign a brief search located both signs in the gutter on the opposite side of the road. I cleaned them up and put them back up. This AM going to work the signs were again gone. This concerns me very much...these signs are very expensive and we can't afford to replace. Do you have any suggestions as to what can be done about this if anything?? (RCA Note: We're thrilled to hear that Dynamite now has over 400 kids registered! We will continue to follow-up with you individually and work with the property owner to address this. Do be aware though that a sign in the County right of way may be removed by the County or any individual because they are technically not permitted.)

03-23-10 (Tues) at 4:24pm. Via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Same e-mailer from earlier in the day. That sign has been out there since we opened.....no problems.....I see there are a bunch of cars down there on that lot.....I will go down there tomorrow and ask them. I went all over the neighborhood today and didn't find the Sign this time. The first customer in this morning, that was the first thing out of her mouth..... what happened to your sign! We called the property Manager and told him. I guess a police report will be filed also..... I also found what looks like a Homeless shelter about 200 feet from the GYM in the brush by the Railroad tracks..... Very Concerned!

Thanks for your reply and post in your Yahoo page.

03-24-10 (Wed) at 1:02pm. Via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Not anonymous. Last night our van was broken into on Old Drover's Way and thousands of dollars of equipment was stolen. The burglars disabled the alarm and busted out the back lock. Please be careful and on the lookout for any suspicious activity.

03-24-10 (Wed) at 6:44pm. Anonymous. Youth sure is grand, isn't it? To be young and footloose and fancy-free. And spring is here again - we made it through a long, tough winter. It's been a long time since caller's been to a good ol' fashioned party. So, 119xx Rocking Horse Road, caller looking forward to seeing you guys have a good party. Caller wishes caller could leave caller's phone number so you could and invite caller. The best way to keep your neighbors from being upset when you have a party is invite them - so hope to see you there! Caller is very much inclined to live and let live. When you bought your house, you saw that the tennis courts were there. So, caller hopes to see you at the party. Thank you very much.

03-26-10 (Fri) at 1:25pm. Not anonymous. Sometime early this morning, somebody got into caller's car. Caller thinks they had a remote. They unlocked caller's car and stole a white bag and a Crown Royal bag that contained money and mail. Caller thinks the neighbors need to be alerted to this. Caller doesn't normally leave things in caller's car and caller always locks the car which makes caller think someone had their own remote.

03-29-10 (Mon) at 12:25pm. Anonymous. Caller is seeking information on the business that seems to have gone in next to Marv and Mike's, where Bethesda Plumbing and Heating used to be. There's a bunch of nice-looking cars, either new or used, with no tags, and caller doesn't see any prices on them. So, caller doesn't know if it's a dealer with an overflow lot or if we have a dealer that's unauthorized and operating illegally or what the situation is. Caller has seen one or two people coming in and out of the doors on occasion so the building is being used. The cars have no tags on them, so caller assumes it's not Marv & Mike's overflow. There's no advertising - either signs on the building or on the grounds. So they're not really telling the community what they are either. Thank you for any information you can provide. Have a good day. (RCA Note: This was a topic at the April membership meeting. The new owner of the property in question has been contacted and we will continue to work with the property owner. Please note this property is not owned by the same person who owns the Randolph Hills
(continued on page 15)

RCA Board

(continued from page 1)

is the large number of caring neighbors who are willing to help out. We can always do better though, and I hope to see more and more people get engaged. As for hobbies, special skills, interests, activities -- between two kids, a time intensive job, RCA, and other volunteer activities, there isn't much time for anything else. As for my favorite book and favorite movie, it's hard to pick one favorite book, but one that has always stuck with me was *Black Rain* by Masuji Ibuse. That one and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon was also very good. Best movie is easy: *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Chad Salganik, First Vice President (36). During my tenure, I plan to continue to expand the usefulness of the neighborhood website. Also, I will continue to build relationships with our locally elected officials, to ensure that our neighborhood's needs are being met. We moved to Franklin Park five years ago. My wife and I loved the location. Our favorite thing about living here in RCA-Land would have to be our neighbors. We've met some great folks here. The thing that bothers me the most about living here in RCA-Land? The blizzards. As a community, the biggest challenge we face is ensuring that the county provides acceptable levels of service given the current budget crunch. Professionally, I am an IT manager, and I take the Metro to Bethesda. I enjoy riding my bicycle, and I'm an avid Orioles fan. My favorite book is David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*. My favorite movie is *The Goonies*. And my favorite band is Guided By Voices.

David Matera, Second Vice President (in my 30's). As 2nd vice president, and as chairman of the Public Safety Committee, my main goal is making sure RCA's community is a safe place to live. I have lived in the county for almost eight years, and in Randolph Hills for nearly three years. This area is a great location, and has close proximity to nearly anything one would want. Plus, the residents here are really nice people. Every neighborhood [can] have its negatives; the only ones here are those residents who chose to not take pride in where they live, either because they may be renters, transients, or just plain do not care. One challenge we all face is returning RCA-Land to what it once was in the past. As for proximity to my job, my commute by car averages about 45 minutes; Metro is not yet an option to take to where I work.

Christiana Drapkin, Secretary (A happy empty-nester, just turned 50). I'd like to continue RCA's practice of disseminating information about our neighborhood and about larger issues that impact our lives together here in Randolph Hills. Our neighborhood seems vibrant and exciting, with many young families as well as old-timers. I find the network of our shared experiences a comforting, stimulating and useful safety net that enhances our living together as neighbors. I

moved to Randolph Hills only a year and a half ago. After 26 years, raising my family in Brooklyn, NY, I didn't expect to make such a radical move. But things change, my music and performance business has brought me into the DC area more and more often over the past ten years. Falling in love with my partner, Bob, a longtime resident here, and starting to enjoy the gentler life rhythms here, made my move here a welcome new beginning, and I'm happy to have found such a welcoming community. My favorite thing about living here in RCA-Land is the neighborliness, the diversity of people I meet.

Nick Kreisle, Treasurer. (Thirtysomething). As Treasurer, I am hoping to continue the migration of most Treasurer functions online (reminder: we now accept RCA dues and donations via Paypal!). I'm also looking into a cheaper/more efficient banking option. I've lived on Star Lane since 2006. The best thing about living here is that we've been absolutely blessed with great neighbors, both on our street and around RCA-Land. The most bothersome thing about living here is exiting the inner loop of the beltway -- making the U-turn on Wisconsin seems the lesser of many evils. Otherwise we love the location. Our biggest challenge as a community is continuing to build political capital within the county, and spending it wisely. Professionally, I'm an economist for the federal government. I used to be able to take the MARC into work, but we recently moved offices so it's strictly Metro these days. I still manage to play rec soccer, although the children under five are beginning to outnumber the playing adults at our games. My favorite movie is *Hoosiers* -- by such a margin that naming a favorite book or musician would do it a disservice.

Kevin Kline, Board Director. (55) I'm an RCA Director, elected in 2008 to a 3-year term. Since 1985 I've lived in Randolph Farms. My wife and I love the "Mayberry" feel of RCA-land. Randolph Hills has a close-in "location, location" with great access to parks, stores, and good schools. Cut-through traffic bothers me most. People buy houses out in the country, then expect RCA-land to be paved over so they can drive to work. Our greatest challenge as a community is continued monitoring of nearby zoning, traffic and school upgrades. We must ensure RCA-land is not short-changed. For example, due to budget cuts the State has postponed building a railroad bridge for the CSX trains on Randolph Road. That is an important road project to all of us. I am a Senior Accountant at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Marinelli Rd. My job is just one mile from my house. I bike, kayak, woodwork, and volunteer for the RCA. I read all the latest best-sellers, *Da Vinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*, *The Big Short*, *The Green Zone*. Also, I go to rock concerts regularly (i.e. the Moody Blues). Thanks!

RCF NEWS

President's Message

by Matt Tifford, RCF President

With May upon us, the RCF Annual Meeting and Community Spaghetti Dinner are fast approaching. The meeting will be held Monday, May 17th at 6:30pm at the Viers Mill Recreation Center. If you are interested in finding out more about the Foundation please come out -- and don't forget your appetite! That night, we will also be hosting the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board -- a group of citizens and businesses appointed by County Executive Ike Leggett to monitor and report community concerns.

At the meeting, we will hear from State Senators Richard Madaleno and Rob Garagiola and a representative of the Friends of the Rock Creek Environment (FORCE) to come speak regarding the state of Rock Creek. The Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day on April 10th was a huge success! Volunteers were out in "force" picking up trash, and our waterways are the better for it. Come find out how you can help further the effort.

In last month's Echo, residents Bob Walker and Christiana Drapkin wrote about creating a "community village". If you are interested in learning more, Bob will be there to discuss the idea.

Finally, we are ready to make plans for the neighborhood sign and entrance beautification effort. Many of you made contributions toward this project. Now it's time to move forward. So, please come to help get the ball rolling!

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News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

By Grace Tifford, Brownie Age 7 (and her Mom)

My Girl Scout Troop 1028 enjoyed a nice spring evening in March by going on a hike through the park. We were looking for signs of wildlife and we found duck footprints in the mud. We also saw three deer and many squirrels. We also had a lot of fun making bird feeders to hang in our yards.

On Saturday, April 10th, Troop 1028 met with the rest of the neighborhood in cleaning-up Boiling Brook and Rock Creek. It was nice to get rid of all that trash!

We are also planning our annual camping trip at

Cabin
John
Park in
May.
We are
looking
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sleep-
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tents
and
cooking
over a
camp-



Grace Tifford of Troop 1028

fire. For some of us it will be the first time sleeping away from home!

Troop 1028 is a combined troop featuring Daisies, Brownies, and Junior Girl Scouts, and meets at Viers Mill recreation center every-other Thursday. If you have any questions about our troop feel free to contact Jennifer Tifford at tiffordband@gmail.com

For more information about getting your daughter involved with Troop 1028, contact Jennifer Tifford at tiffordband@gmail.com

RCF Executive Committee for 2009-2010

OFFICERS

President

Matt Tifford
11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

Vice President

Chad Salganik
4818 Mori Drive
202-359-6158

Secretary

Bob Walker
11813 Ashley Drive
amorworks1@aol.com

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Directors

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Dan Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-938-7494

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

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

www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org - Phone: 240-389-4723

Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster

One soggy weekend in early March, you may have noticed the RCA-land streets seemed unusually busy with pickup trucks and trailers stacked high with bags of mulch. You may have seen these mulch bags being delivered to a neighbor's house, or seen neatly piled stacks on a neighbor's driveway. Well, those were Troop 1083 Scouts, Crew 1083 Venturers -- as well as some dedicated parents -- making it all happen. The mulch sale and delivery is our spring fundraiser, and this year it was a great success. Maybe you were one of those who took advantage of the great prices and free delivery. If so, we thank you very much! Besides getting a great deal on mulch, you support a program that gives right back to the community through service projects.

One such project is the annual Potomac Watershed Stream Cleanup. The scouts have been participating in this program for years. In more recent years we have been joined by an ever-growing group of civic-minded and environmentally-conscientious neighbors. This article went to press just before this year's stream clean took place.

On March 20, several Scouts from Troop 1083 assisted Pack 493 with their annual Pinewood Derby. The Pack had a great turnout for the event and the racing was very competitive.

April will be a busy month for the Troop, starting with the annual WEBELOS Weekend at Cabin John Park. WEBELOS II scouts from Packs 1081 and 493 will join Troop 1083 and meet their future scouting colleagues. The older Scouts will teach the WEBELOS about fire building, axe safety and hiking. They will spend Saturday morning working on the stream clean, and go swimming at the Rockville Swim Center Saturday evening to top off a great weekend. On April 21 and April 22, Troop 1083 will assist with the bridging ceremonies for the WEBELOS IIs for Packs 1081 and 493, respectively, as they officially bridge into scouting. We are excited to have these new young men joining our Troop.

Later in April, the Troop will be camping at Wye

River Island in eastern Maryland. Last year was the first time we'd camped there. We're hoping to see more of the reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic birds we saw there last year, as well as the bald eagles!

Speaking of eagles -- we've been saving the best news for last. On March 16, **Joseph Owen** passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Congratulations to Joseph for reaching the highest pinnacle of scouting!

If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday night at 7:30 at Viers Mill ES, or call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the Troop's web page at www.troop1083.org.

For more information about getting your son involved with Boy Scout Troop 1083, contact Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048 or visit www.troop1083.org

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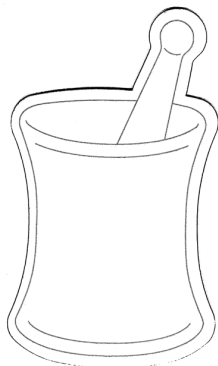


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Sunday, May 16, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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News from Venture Crew 1083

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

On March 27, Venture Crew 1083 welcomed four new members with a hike on the National Mall, perfectly timed to enjoy the cherry blossoms. Officially joining the crew were **Joseph Owen, Kyle Blakely, Jake Blakely, and Sawyer Kibbe**. The investiture ceremony began with a visit to the Boy Scout Memorial on the Mall – the only memorial in Washington to commemorate a living cause. Founding Crew Advisor **Lauren Barrows** explained some of the symbolism of the memorial's statues. She then recited the Venture Oath and presented Venture pins to the existing Crew members. Then the existing Crew members were given pins to present to the new Crew members.

With the ceremony completed, the group hiked past the Washington Monument to the Tidal Basin, where they found a cherry tree to sit under for a snack and to socialize. The hike resumed to the Jefferson Memorial, where the Crew paused to read the inscriptions and snap a few pictures. On the way back to the Metro there was time for a quick visit to the gardens behind the Smithsonian. It was a good day!

At press time the Crew was preparing to go to VentureQuest in Rising Sun, a weekend campout with activities as varied as blacksmithing, archery, pottery, first aid/CPR, and caving -- and that's not the half of it! In addition, Crew 1083's own **Kyle and Jake Blakely**, along with Advisor **Carl Barrows**, will lead a program on American Sign Language.

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 21. Crew meetings are every second Monday night, from 6:30–7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Why not join us? Bring a like-minded friend so you'll already know someone else at the meeting! For more information, contact crew advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755.

For more information about getting your child involved with Venture Crew 1083, contact Crew Advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755

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Important Websites

Randolph Civic Association	http://randolphcivic.org
Montgomery County	www.montgomerycountymd.gov
Montgomery County Parks	www.montgomeryparks.org
Montgomery County Schools	www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
Washington Metro Area Transit Authority	www.wmata.com



Important Phone Numbers

Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	240-773-6070
Park Police: Emergency	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)	240-773-6411
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6260
Consumer Affairs and Protection	240-777-3636
Crisis Center Hotline (24 hours)	240-777-4000
Department of Natural Resources	877-463-6497
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Services	240-777-3000
Fire Marshall (Non-Emergency)	240-777-2457
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3785
<i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Locations, Accounts, Etc.	240-777-0001
Metrarail and Metrobus (wmata.com)	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society (Non-Emer)	240-773-5960
Montgomery County Humane Society (Emer)	240-773-5900
Motor Vehicle Admin (mva.maryland.gov)	800-950-1682
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Report Power Outages	877-737-2662
PEPCO: Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Pollution Complaint (Dumping, Noise, Burning)	240-777-7700
Post Office: Rollins Ave, Rockville	301-231-5973
Montgomery County Public Schools K-12	301-309-6277
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept)	240-777-1245
RCA Hotline	240-668-4722
Recreation Classes	240-777-6870
Recycling Info	240-777-6410
Senior Programs (55+)	240-777-4925
Street Light Out	240-777-6000
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Tree Maintenance	240-777-6000
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-4001
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-7700

If any of these websites or phone numbers are incorrect, please email info@randolphcivic.org or call the RCA Hotline at 240-668-4722.

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Equal Chance	(301) 770-4658
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
Royal Martial Arts	(301) 770-1007
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-4672
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Community Fixtures

(continued from page 6)

programs for children with social, emotional and behavioral problems. This program was developed to provide a needed service for families in our immediate community. We are currently enrolling students. Please call the Center for more information.

ECHO: Is any sort of financial aid available, or recommended? Is enrollment in the Lourie Center covered by health insurance plans? How can low or moderate-income families utilize the Lourie Center?

EF: The Lourie Center is a Medicaid provider and also is an out-of-network provider for all major insurance companies. Currently, financial aid is extremely limited due to the economic climate. Through Medicaid, low-income families have access to a full range of high-quality services.

ECHO: Does the Center address issues with parents as well, i.e. do parents receive education, and /or training?

EF: The Lourie Center's mission is to help strengthen healthy emotional parent-child relationships and supports all parents in raising their children. This is done through a variety of activities based on the particular Lourie Center program and the needs of the family.

The Lourie Center's Executive Director is Marcel Wright. His job is to provide strategic direction for the Lourie Center's core offerings: the Parent-Child Clinical Services Program; the Lourie Center School; the Therapeutic Nursery Program; Early Head Start; and the Before and After School Program.

ECHO: Mr. Wright, [you] appear to have arrived at the Lourie Center recently - what are some of the more fulfilling experiences you've had at the center since your arrival?

Marcel Wright: My more fulfilling experiences would include seeing the support from our community and long time supporters as we celebrated 25 years of services last year. It was truly inspiring to see the commitment to the work that we do by political leaders, former governing board members, and past families of those who have received care at the Lourie Center. It has also been wonderful to see the level of commitment that our staff have to the work that we do. In the midst of challenging economic times, I have watched our staff continue to be creative in managing our limited resources so that the services we provide can be maintained.

ECHO: Conversely, what are some of the more difficult experiences you've had at the center?

MW: One of the more challenging experiences is to continuing to maintain our high standards of care in the midst of a payment system not designed for early childhood services. Although the models that we use at the Lourie Center come out of over 30 years of proven research and strong outcomes, the current Medicaid and private insurance structures are not in line with best practices for early childhood services. This makes the support that we receive from individual donors and foundations critical to our success.

To explore and examine more of the functions and programs offered at the Lourie Center, visit their website: www.louriecenter.org.

Hotline Calls

(continued from page 8)

Shopping Center.

04-05-10 (Mon) at 11:10am. Anonymous. Caller wants to make two complaints about caller's lovely place. Ashley Drive has many many holes on the street. Caller has called the government but received no attention or response. Also, on the day after leaf collection in December, some neighbors created two big mounds of leaves near the road that are still there. Caller would like to be directed where to call about this. Spring will not be as nice with leaves everywhere and holes in the road. (RCA Note: Recently the County Department of Transportation came through and patched many of the holes. Please let us know if there are any other significant potholes that have not been fixed.)

04-07-10 (Wed) at 2:10pm. Not anonymous. Caller would like to file a complaint. Caller lives at 48xx Boiling Brook Parkway. Today, caller cut the grass for the first time and something irritating happened. Caller has a little bush in front of the house. For over a year now, somebody down the road deposits trash – a beer can or cola can – everyday. Every time, caller puts it in the trash and, the next day, there's another can. Now today, it was a green beer can and caller cut the grass and didn't see it. Caller ran over it with the lawnmower and got splinters all over the place. Caller doesn't know where the splinters are and whether caller found them all. It could be a hazard to all the little kids around here. This has been happening for over one year and today with the beer can, caller had to report it. Caller would greatly appreciate it if you could find out who is doing this. Caller hopes RCA can do something about it. Caller wanted to call the police but first thought caller would try RCA. (RCA Note: Please note that the RCA has no legal authority to investigate or enforce even minor violations of the law such as littering. However, the newly reformed Neighborhood Watch, should be able to help improve neighborhood vigilance against crimes like burglary and auto theft, but activities such as vandalism and littering too.)



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April Membership Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 7)

invited interested community members to participate in their well-organized mentoring program, which is in need of teachers and tutors, and for residents to consider serving on their Advisory Board. When asked about impending budget cutbacks, Shannon expects about 30-34 positions to be cut from the overall 560-570 workforce, mainly administrative staff. They hope to retain their case managers and officers. In the open question period, Shannon stated that the most common offenses people had served time for were drug possession and distribution, and domestic violence. There are some sex offenders, who do receive ongoing supervision, have a GPS tracking device, and continue to be screened, according to their risk-needs assessment guidelines. Residences of sex offenders are subject to State and Federal law, and are publicly listed on the Federal website. Shannon is proud of the long history and track record of the important services his agency provides to the community.

Officer Darryl McSwain of the Montgomery County Police, who works out of the Seven-Locks Road station, gave an overview of the department, which has about 140 officers, including Education Facilities Officers, a traffic unit, etc, in charge of 135,000 residents, covering an area of 85 square-miles, which is divided into eight "beats". RCA-land is in Police Beat A-1, if you want to look up area crime facts on the county, visit their website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police. McSwain reports the good news that overall crime is down in the area. Asked about impending budget cuts, McSwain informed us that two police sub-stations are slated to close, Sligo Creek and Piney Branch, but that patrolling will remain a priority. Trying to stave off actual layoffs, they will consolidate some positions and implement some furloughs, while trying to retain long-serving personnel through the "Draw" program. County police has long been understaffed with 1.2 officers per 1,000 residents, compared to the national staffing average of about 2 officers per 1,000 residents. Recruiting challenges lie ahead: Last January's class of recruits had been cancelled, and the next class in July may have only 30 recruits. There are volunteer opportunities and internships for residents in their Special Operations Division: be "eyes and ears" in the community, perform administrative tasks, join a specific detail at a fair or special event, become part of a citizen's surveillance team. Additionally, Montgomery County Police conducts a Citizens Academy, a special training program that runs over a ten-week period.

Officer Daniel McNickle, in charge of support operations at the Park Police, spoke next and described their ongoing efforts on park safety and community involvement. Just like a Neighborhood Watch, residents are encouraged to participate in a Park Watch. Last year, his colleague, Sgt. Lauren McNeill, had spoken on that issue at RCA. Patrols are out on foot, on horseback and bicycles, and in vehicles.

Darien Manley, Chief of Park Police, informed us that the Park Police services cover 34,000 acres, with 97 positions when fully funded. Currently there are 82 staff members on duty, but a projected 22% Dept. of Parks budget cut has already "frozen" vacant positions, with 17 "sworn" vacancies already unfilled at present. Manley describes their police activities as pro-active policing, or "hunting". Their mission is to protect patrons and natural resources, to educate the public, and to prevent nuisance, environmental, and quality of life offenses. They also address violations of park land use when activities are carried out without a permit. Be aware that sports games are only allowed by permit, during approved periods. Before April 1, the grass areas are off-limits (no special exceptions were granted this year), to help conserve the grass areas. Violations can carry a \$50 fine per occurrence.

Call in all non-emergency matters (that are not 911) to the Park Police Communications Center at (301) 949-3010. Although some situations may take precedence, each call will get addressed. The sooner they hear from us, the sooner they can direct their resources.

The biggest safety issues: thefts from cars and lockers. Manley reminds us to prevent opportunities: lock your car, don't leave GPS, CDs and other valuables, even small change, in the open. The second issue is vandalism and destruction, 40% may be gang related, while 60% is just mischief. Report destruction and damage promptly. Other calls come in about "persons crimes", often sports-related altercations that can be classified as second-degree assault. There are limits to what an officer can do: if the officer is not at hand to observe an incident, he cannot make an arrest. Still, calling the police when a conflict arises is encouraged. The Park Police is focused on educating, non-confrontational, compliance-focused intervention. Keep the Park Police phone number handy in your cell phone and call when you need to: (301) 949-3010.

There are many ways to participate as a volunteer with various Park Police details, after the obligatory vetting process and background checks. Park Police and trained volunteers can also participate in traffic and speed camera details. Apart from mobile radar stations, expect the County to install about 60 more cameras in the coming year.

We can also call the Park Police when concerned residents want to alert them to possibly homeless people camping out in the woods. Together with the help of the Dept. of Health and Human Services they will try to intervene effectively. During the open question period, some RCA members pointed out an encampment close to the railroad tracks, which is CSX property, behind the Randolph Hills shopping center. County Police is asked to patrol these secluded areas.

County and State budget cuts to the tune of an additional \$13 million will have an impact on Park Police operations, and they fear loss of civilian staff and officer positions. RCA and local residents are asked to send letters of support of our police services.

(continued on page 18)

April Membership Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 17)

Traffic Safety issues: several participants complained about the traffic backup in the morning, when many parents drop off their children at the Charles E. Smith Day School. Unsafe driving, disregard of stop signs, poor visibility due to double-parking, and the added commuter traffic volume make this a congested hazard point. Although the Day School and their principal do a great job at the beginning of each school year, alerting parents and students to the traffic dangers, drivers and pedestrians must be reminded to be courteous and vigilant. The RCA and our residents have repeatedly asked for a stop sign to better regulate the intersection at Schuylkill. We will again put in a request to the Central Traffic Unit to have the site re-evaluated. All concerned residents are encouraged by our guest speakers to also make their individual requests, to add urgency. Go to the Montgomery County Website to file your complaint <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov>. Also contact your Council Member again.

There is a new law in effect since last July that prohibits certain recreational vehicles being parked on private properties, when they impede sightlines. Police will initially inform and educate, before levying fines. Also, check there on information on no-parking rules for commercial trucks in residential areas. Go to <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/pol/districts/FSB/parking/vehiclepark.pdf> for more information.

4. Minutes of the RCA March Executive Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

a) Treasurer's Report approved by unanimous voice vote;

b) Committee Chair Reports:

Environmental Committee: Matt Tifford pointed out the vagrant encampment at the railroad tracks. There were reports in the past that some of them kept trying unlocked car doors to scrounge for cash and valuables. One participant suspects that some petty crime activity may spill over from the Veirs Mill area.

Another nuisance, panhandlers on the median strip of Parklawn and Randolph Road, may be unpleasant, but it's not against the law.

One participant inquired about subsidized housing rentals in our area. There are about 10 to 12 Section-7 subsidized rental houses in Randolph Hills. There is no problem with the presence of subsidized houses, some of which are supported by local church groups. However, if there are nuisance problems at any residence, residents can contact RCA. For example, some participants reported renovation debris being dumped in the Schuylkill / Boiling Brook creek area, including a large mattress, which was called in and removed the next day.

Public Safety Committee: We thanked David Matera and his guest speakers for today's informative and engaging Public Safety information session. David

calls for as many volunteers as possible to participate in Neighborhood Watch. He reported 12 incidents in March, related to car break-ins, theft from vehicles and the like. He urges neighbors who see any non-emergency or quality-of-life issue, to be active and make that phone call 301-279-8000.

Education Committee:

George Gadbois briefly reported on: Wheaton HS is gearing up for the design of new school, and their effort to attract some Magnet or Signature Programs in math and science. Other area high schools have a performing arts magnet program. Veirs Mill ES is getting their addition built. Garrett Park ES is going through construction. Walther Johnson HS is nearly finished with their construction. The Maryland State government will cut \$137.7 million from the Superintendent's budget.

Membership Committee:

RCA membership is up from the previous year to 530 residences. During our membership drive, we recorded many new email addresses. We will send out one or two blast emails, inviting the new addressees to join the RCA listserve group.

5. New Business

Our Echo advertising editor advises to keep ad rates at the same level. She also suggests that we can strike the \$50 budget item for postage, which used to cover mailing a hardcopy to advertisers. The electronic copy suffices and saves us the money. RESOLVED by unanimous voice vote: to strike the \$50 budget item for postage.

Complaints were voiced by neighbors about the appearance and unsightliness of some areas at the shopping center: a used car dealer business has moved in, some cars get parked on the green strip that separates the sidewalk from the street. Some large car-carriers arrive after 9:00 p.m. to unload cars (quiet ordinance goes in effect at 10:00 p.m.). A dumpster is placed right at the entrance to the shopping center, making it look less inviting. An informal call went out to see who might be interested in working as a group, together with the shopping mall owner, to develop a better vision for an attractive and commercially viable area. In light of the repositioning of the MARC train station, and as part of the White Flint II development stage, we're perfectly positioned to bring in our ideas for a thriving entrance to the Randolph Hills neighborhood, and to develop a comprehensive master plan.

Aging In Place: Robert Walker followed up on his article in the April Echo, with a call to establish an exploratory task force, with the goal of creating a community-wide project that addresses growing older in our neighborhood. This will be a key topic at the next RCF meeting.

Speed Bump: Matt Tifford reported a speed bump removal request on Schuylkill. Speed bumps were installed in the neighborhood in the mid-1990s.

6. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

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Advertisement

CLASSIFIEDS

The Echo publishes classified ads free for RCA members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes no claims or guarantees regarding the quality of goods or services sold.

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, 27 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

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Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2009-2010 Issue year are:

June/July/Aug 2010 May 3rd

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

<u>Sold...</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>DOM</u>	<u>Subsidy</u>	<u>Date Settled</u>
11403 Patapsco Road	\$249,900	\$250,000	5	\$0	29-Jan-10
11803 Ashley Drive	\$370,000	\$340,000	87	\$5,000	26-Feb-10
4708 Oxbow Road	\$214,900	\$225,018	5	\$0	05-Mar-10
11202 Troy Road	\$365,000	\$365,000	13	\$0	16-Mar-10
 <u>Under contract...</u>					
4817 Mori Drive	\$369,900		23		
11415 Schuylkill Road	\$338,900		13		
4702 Wilwyn Way	\$349,900		48		
11013 Troy Road	\$375,000		6		
4704 Coachway Drive	\$334,999		12		

Denise's recent listings, sales and homes under contract...

7059 Wilson Lane, Bethesda \$830,000 (L)
 3906 Underwood St., Chevy Chase \$915,000 (S)
 10500 Rockville Pike #410, Rockville \$275,000 (L)
 11415 Schuylkill Road, Rockville \$327,000 (L)
 4718 Mori Drive LP \$369,900 Settles 4/29
 11013 Troy Road LP \$375,000 Settles 4/30
 11510 Patapsco Drive LP \$335,000 Settles 4/30

If you're thinking of selling or buying a home this year, call Denise for advice, timing and marketing strategies. Denise has more than twenty years of experience as a realtor in the area.

Denise
****Szczur****
301-452-5544



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