

# The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 54, Issue 7

May 2011

## Randolph Hills: Who are we?

by Brian Hooker

Recently both the Washington Post and the Gazette have run stories featuring some newly released data from the 2010 Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)). These stories caused me to wonder if the Regional, State, and County data was also reflective of how our neighborhood has changed in the past 10 years. As a relative new-comer to the neighborhood I can honestly say that I don't know what it looked like back then because I wasn't here.

What I can do is look at the Census data. Luckily RCA-land pretty much follows a specific census tract (census tract 7012.01 if you are inclined to do your own research). I was hoping to dig into some deeper numbers than what had been reported in the local press, but pretty much the only thing that has been released thus far is what has been reported. So with that said, please see the snapshot of Randolph Hills in Figure 1.

Our total population did not increase very much, from 5,889 to 6,012, which one would expect since we have added few, if any, new residences. Randolph Hills is no different than the rest of the County in that it now has a "minority-majority" since the largest single group - white residents - is now less than half the total population at about 44%. The next largest group is that of residents claiming Hispanic or Latino origin - they account for about

29% of the population. It does appear that Randolph Hills has grown slightly more diverse over the past 10 years but not in any dramatic way.

I also decided to take a look to see how we compare to North Bethesda, which is a Census

designated place, and the County as a whole. RCA-land sits on the far northeast edge of North Bethesda.

From Figure 2 it appears that Randolph Hills is more diverse than the rest of North Bethesda and the County with the exception of black residents, which is 10% greater at the County level. *(continued on page 11)*

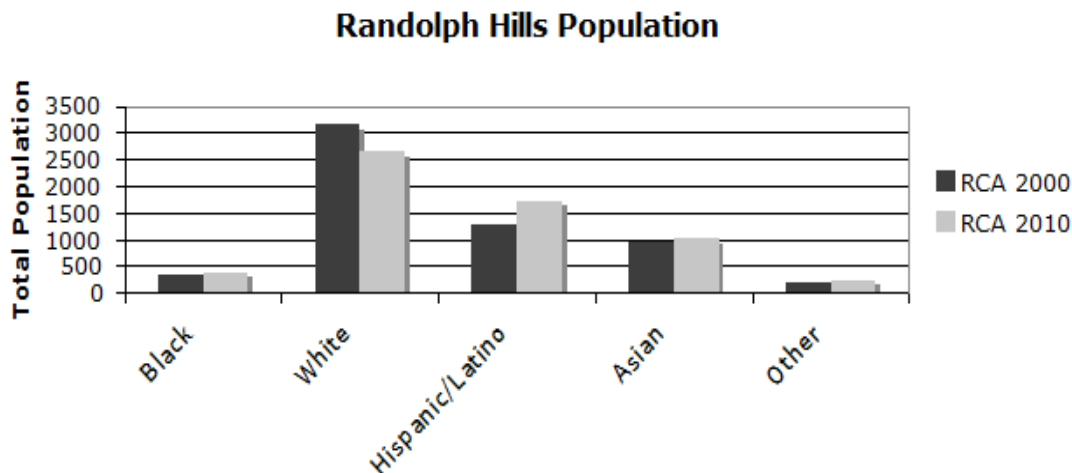


Figure 1: Randolph Hills Population

## Upcoming Events

### **RCA Executive Board Meeting**

May 5th, 2011 8:00pm-9:30pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

### **RCA Community Bazaar (formerly the Yard Sale)**

May 7th, 2011 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.

### **RCA MusicFest**

June 12th, 2011 4:00-6:00pm, Mem Sahib Restaurant, Randolph Hills Shopping Center

A fundraiser to benefit the RCF Beautification Fund

## RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2010-2011

### OFFICERS

President  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494  
dan@randolphcivic.org

Vice President  
Chad Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
202-359-6158

2nd Vice President  
Amber Tedesco  
12114 Otis Drive  
301-641-2946

Secretary  
Christiana Drapkin  
11813 Ashley Drive  
chdrapkin@aol.com

Treasurer  
Nick Kriesle  
4302 Star Lane  
301-770-0119

Directors  
Matthew Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

Brian Hooker  
5003 Macon Drive  
brian.r.hooker@gmail.com

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND POINTS OF CONTACT

Echo Editor  
Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957  
marknensel@yahoo.com

Echo Production  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Echo Advertising  
Erin Meitzler  
For more info contact  
echo@randolphcivic.org

Communications Committee  
(Primary Contact for Media Requests)  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Membership and Welcome Committee  
Cindy Zelaya  
5018 Macon Road  
301-984-1006

Environment and Services Committee  
Matthew Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

Education Committee  
George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

Yard Sale Signs  
Lorena Moyer  
4802 Macon Road  
301-984-8727

Webmaster  
Chad Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
202-359-6158

Public Safety Committee  
David Matera  
safety@randolphcivic.org  
202-412-6820

External Affairs Committee  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Ways and Means  
Nick Kriesle  
4302 Star Lane  
301-770-0119

## President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

Our cover article is enlightening. It confirms what many of us already noticed. Over the past ten years our neighborhood, and this County, have changed. The change has occurred and the question is, "How will we react?" Personally, I feel diversity brings strength. This question is playing out in various places on a national level, and typically it is not focus of a local civic association. If you read the cover article though, you will see that our neighborhood has experienced greater change than much of the surrounding area. We are now a minority-majority neighborhood.

You may remember the article about RCA priorities in the March edition of the Echo. One of our three priorities for 2011 was to continue to develop our 'Community Identity'. We can't do that without the people who have made our neighborhood a culturally rich, diverse place. So personally my reaction to the question in the first paragraph is to embrace this change and encourage the new members of our neighborhood to get involved with the RCA. To start, our meetings could definitely stand to be a bit more reflective of the neighborhood. We had good attendance at our meeting in April, and I was even happy to see some new faces, but it could stand to be more representative. Our next general membership meeting is in June. I encourage ALL residents who care about improving our community to attend.

We do have plenty of activities on the horizon for new folks to get involved with, including a great fundraiser in June. Many of our aging neighborhood signs will be replaced this year; to help cover some of the cost we are holding a benefit concert featuring local musicians at Mem Sahib (the Indian restaurant in Randolph Hills Shopping Center). More information is available in this issue of the Echo. Monies from the RCF beautification fund are being paired with donations from people in and associated with our neighborhood. I'd like to especially recognize two people who have stepped up early to cover our initial costs. Resident Don Linthicum has generously donated \$1500 to the fund and our neighbor-

(continued on page 8)

**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](mailto: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](http://www.randolphcivic.org)**

## Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Welcome Erin Meitzler as our new Echo Advertising Coordinator!** Erin answered the call at our last RCA meeting and is our new Echo Advertising Coordinator. She will fill an important role in our organization as advertising revenue makes Echo publication possible. If you own a business or know of someone who does and you feel they could benefit from some effective local exposure, please contact Erin. We've set up a new email address for advertising inquiries: [echo@randolphcivic.org](mailto:echo@randolphcivic.org). We only have one more Echo after this one for the 2010-2011 year, but we will be seeking new advertisers this summer as we prepare for 2011-2012. Welcome and thank you Erin!
- **Montgomery County's "Village Blueprint," a step-by-step guide created to support communities within the county and throughout the region that want to start a senior Village organization in their neighborhood, is now available at all of the County's public library branches.** Senior "Villages" provide grassroots services to combat social isolation, improve mobility and enhance access to services for seniors. In addition to public libraries, copies of the Blueprint will be available at the County's five regional service centers. For an electronic copy, go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rsc/bcc](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rsc/bcc) and click on the link for "Senior Information."
- **Traffic Calming on Ashley Drive** - As you may recall, nearly three years ago the RCA mounted an effort to get the county to implement traffic calming measures on Ashley Drive. While many of the problems on Ashley remain unaddressed, I'm pleased to report that we will be getting one small improvement. The pedestrian crossing at Macon and Ashley at the Park entrance will be upgraded for improved safety. In addition to new paint, the concrete curbs will be extended to narrow the roadway. This visual chokepoint will encourage drivers to slow down, and decrease the crossing distance for pedestrians. We don't know exactly when work will begin as yet, but hopefully we will have more information in time for the June *Echo*.

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](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) by the deadlines posted on page 5 of this issue. Thank you!



## YOUR FULL SERVICE SIGN RETAILER

Vehicle Graphics • Banners • Magnetics  
Illuminated Signs • Digital Graphics • A-Frames  
Awnings • Window Graphics  
Monument Signs • Trade Show Booths

5541-C Nicholson Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 770-8575

[sales@sar-rockville.com](mailto:sales@sar-rockville.com)  
[production@sar-rockville.com](mailto:production@sar-rockville.com)

**Mention that you saw our ad in the Echo Newsletter  
and receive 10% off your order over \$200.**



---

## Community Fixtures: Jerry's Music

*By Christiana Drapkin*

If you drive like me, you probably go too fast when you enter Boiling Brook Parkway, coming downhill from Nicholson Drive or Parklawn. As soon as I make that curve and shoot past the corner building, I've lately caught a glimpse of a shiny new sign, "Jerry's Music," illuminated in blue and white. Before I know it, though, I've passed it, whizzing by the "Randolph Hills" sign at the entrance to our neighborhood. It took three drive-by missed opportunities until I made myself slow down enough so I could safely pull into the parking lot on the right to check out the new business.

At first, all I noticed was a dumpster at the back of the small parking lot, and a commercial tinted glass front that barred my curious gaze from noticing the new store. I rattled on the wrong door of the adjacent shuttered business, before I found the correct entrance leading to Jerry's Music. The life-size cut-out figures of two guitar players made me realize I'd finally find the right entrance. After that certain lack of "curb appeal" it was a pleasant surprise to enter a spacious, well-lit, and inviting store. Apart from the beautiful and shiny guitars on display, there are keyboards, amplifiers, loudspeakers and plenty of other music paraphernalia and instruments for sale. There are stacks of music instruction books for piano, guitar and other instruments on display right by the door.

Ben, a senior at Walt Whitman High School was

behind the counter with Brad, another staff member, while Jerry Lynn himself welcomed me with a beaming smile. I was impressed by the beautiful renovation of the large space, including the eight teaching studios in the back, where students can come for their individual music lessons. Jerry has teachers on the premises who give individual music instruction in piano, voice, drums, electric and upright bass, and guitar, from beginners to intermediate and advanced levels, in all styles. At the moment, the lessons go for \$30 per session when buying a multi-lesson package -- quite a bargain.

I loved that "new car smell" that was still in the air at the store, with the sound-dampening carpet, and the spacious layout. Jerry showed me the large upstairs room, not quite finished yet, which will serve as classroom for group music instruction. And I shared his enthusiasm for an extra-large space back on the main floor, separated from the sales area: what a perfect spot for a small performance stage, to showcase students and teachers, or to give his customers a chance to come and have jam sessions or practice group sessions. There is enough space for audience seating, and a sound system and house drum set are already in place. What fun potential. As soon as Jerry is finished renovating that area, Jerry's Music will be able to offer something special that is sorely lacking in our neighborhood: a neat hangout in a warm, supportive, and creative environment; a learning place that might really appeal to our neighborhood's budding musicians, boys, girls, teens, and adults; young beginners as well as older players.

Jerry and his wife Jessica are the co-owners of Jerry's Music, and they relocated their business from its previous Bethesda location just last month. The store reflects their long-time involvement and expertise in all aspects of the music business. Jerry is an accomplished guitarist himself, specializing in classical guitar and Jazz. He plays and teaches in all genres, Rock, Pop, or Folk. Jessica, who works for a musical booking agency and also performs as a vocalist, gives voice lessons and piano instruction for beginners at the store. They run their own wedding band and have music groups available for all kinds of special



*Jerry and Ben are ready to assist you!*

*(continued on page 15)*

## April General Membership Meeting Minutes

by Amber Tedesco, Acting Secretary

Call to order: 8:05am

Sabrina Pirtle regarding Park Watch Program

### Board Elections:

Chad Salganik announced the full slate for Officers and Board for RCA:

Dan Hoffman – President: 2nd term

Chad Salganik – Vice President: 2nd term

Amber Tedesco – 2nd Vice President: 1st term

Christiana Drapkin – Secretary: 2nd term

Matt Tifford – Board: 1st term

### All in favor, passed by unanimous voice vote

Kevin Kline is stepping down from Director's position after many years of service, thank you for all you have contributed. Dave Matera is stepping down because of work load but will still be helping with public safety. Brian Hooker will be helping Dave with public safety issues.

Training for neighborhood watch: 1 day training has been negotiated from the original 3 days required. More information to follow as details are worked out.

### Old business:

Neighborhood sign update: The company in Georgia has designed new signs and the Board looked at samples and agreed on a design. The sign is made from sign foam which is an industry standard. It is stronger than previous ones. No questions were raised about the process.

There are 5 signs that are to be replaced right away and the RCA/RCF is looking to host a musical fund raiser in June for sign beautification. *[RCA Note: See details in this issue of the Echo]* The Franklin Park sign will not be replaced at this time since it was just replaced a few years ago. Each sign will cost \$1,200, plus \$500 shipping. Because of code the signs cannot be as high as they use to be and the RCA will need to install new posts. Also because of code the posts can no longer be made out of masonry.

Question was raised about insurance covering the cost of damaged signs and the RCA will look into sign coverage.

Question was also raised about lighting the signs via solar power and having the lights anchored into the ground so they could not be tampered with. This will also be looked into by the RCA.

The vote on colors was passed by voice vote: forest green with yellow-gold lettering. One vote was received for navy blue.

The RCA is looking to have the 5 signs by early July and installed by summer. There will be a permit process for some of the installations.

New Advertising Coordinator: Currently the RCA is without an Advertising Coordinator. Kendra Fletcher has stepped down. There has been a slight decrease in money because of advertising. *[RCA Note: After the meeting we received and accepted an offer from Erin*

*Meitzler to become our new advertising coordinator. Her contact info is on page two of this Echo. Thank you Erin!]*

### New Business:

Stream Clean-up Team: April 9th is the annual stream cleanup. Will be meeting at Boiling Brook and Randolph Hills Park from 9-12pm. Doing a lot of other cleanup thought the year; this is the first of many.

Bag Tax: Plastic grocery bags end up the creeks and this is an effort to reduce the amount that we see. It has been passed by the District and now the county is proposing a \$.05 bag fee. Question was raised about what happens with the money that the stores collect and for the 1st year it is used to give free cloth bags to residences. The 2nd and subsequent years the money goes to the county for general fund.

Passed by unanimous voice vote that Dan Hoffman will draft a letter to back the tax and request the money that is collected go to the parks in general fund.

### Standard Business & Reports:

- Prior meeting minutes approved
- Treasurer's report: advertising money is down. Normally advertising budget is \$5,500; currently the budget is \$3K.
- Next meetings: May – executive meeting & June is community meeting.
- There is a neighbor with dementia who has been stealing kid's toys out of people's front yards. Make sure to put your kids stuff away. Matt has been in touch with the family.
- Nothing new to report on public safety. It was recommended that if the neighborhood watch does start up again that volunteers wear brightly colored shirts and/or hats that say "neighborhood watch."
- RCA membership is at about 500 members. We are down a little from last year and may do a door-to-door every other year, but not every year.

Attendance: 23

Meeting adjourned 9:25pm



**King's Way Care Pharmacy**

4701 Randolph Rd Ste G-4  
Rockville, MD 20852

**Phone: (301)770-5545**  
**Fax: (301)770-5547**

**Free Local Delivery**

**We carry Durable Medical Equipment!**  
Mention this ad and receive 20% Off your Over-the-counter Purchase!

### Note to Echo Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2010-2011 Issue year are:

June/July/Aug 2011 ..... May 20th

---

## Meet the New Board Members

by Mark Nensel

Two new members of the RCA Executive Committee were elected this past April 7 at the General Membership Meeting. Amber Tedesco was chosen as Vice President Two, and Matt Tifford was chosen one of the three Board Directors. As RCA President Dan Hoffman mentioned in last month's Echo, "Amber has been an RCA volunteer for years and has been active in the Viers Mill Elementary School PTA ... Matt is [the] environmental chair and served as RCA President for the two terms prior to mine". We asked both Amber and Matt to elaborate a bit more about themselves and our community.

Echo: Congratulations on your election to the RCA Board. What made you decide to become active on the RCA Board?

Amber: Thank you, I'm excited to be on the RCA Board. I've lived in Franklin Park for seven years and have been a volunteer for many years, but wanted to be more involved in the community and help make a difference. I've always said I can complain about what I don't like, but the only way to make a difference or to get my voice heard is to be part of the solution.

Matt: I first got involved with the RCA when I realized that our local parks were unusual in their state of disrepair. I was driving to Kensington and Bethesda to find nice playgrounds where my kid could play, and I just didn't understand why our parks were so lousy compared to our neighboring communities. This led to my successful effort to get our playgrounds replaced, and I haven't looked back since.

Echo: How long have you lived here in RCA Land? Do you have a family? What do you do for a living? Where did you grow up?

Amber: We have lived in RCA Land for seven years. I live with my husband and two boys. I am a Director and VP, Operations for a Qualitative Market Research and Training company. We are based in Rockville. I grew up in Montgomery County, not too far from here...Silver Spring and Bethesda.

Matt: I've lived in Randolph Hills with my wife Jennifer since 1998. Since then, we've added three children to the family, with a fourth due in July. I am a cellist, primarily teaching private lessons in the evening and weekends, and freelancing when I have time. During the day, I home-school our

children. I am originally from College Park.

Echo: Have you had previous civic experience, i.e. were you ever elected to anything before?

Amber: No, this is my first official civic experience other than being secretary for my elementary school.

Matt: My experience with the RCA has been my first in civic involvement.

Echo: What do you think are the strengths, and possibilities, of the RCA?

Amber: I feel the strengths of the RCA are the people. It seems that there are so many people who are willing to pitch in and make a difference in their community. It's important that our voices are heard in the county as those decisions affect each and every one of us.

Matt: I think that the more people get involved, the more is possible. We've done some terrific things in the last few years, and I'm excited about what's to come.

Echo: Do you think there are any weaknesses, or lack of effectiveness, with the RCA? What can be done to improve it?

Amber: I can't pinpoint any weakness or lack of effectiveness at this time, but I know that things can always improve.

Matt: Well, like any volunteer organization, we really need volunteers! The more people involved, the better we will be.

Echo: What do you hope to bring to the RCA Board?

Amber: I hope to bring my values and sense of teamwork to help the board make smart and strategic decisions. In my everyday work I have to weigh the pros and cons and make some tough decisions that affect a lot of people. It has been done with thought and process and not just jumping the gun. Too

*(continued on page 8)*



*Vice President Two Amber Tedesco and Director Matt Tifford*



## Community Garden Coming to Rocking Horse Center

by Mark Nensel

Montgomery County's Community Gardens Program is coming to the Randolph Hills area. A large swath of the field to the west of Rocking Horse Center at 4920 Macon Road has been set aside for creation of a community garden. 70 plots will be offered. Each plot is either 200 square feet or 400 square feet. Water and deer fencing are available. For more information, contact Ursula Sabia Sukinik, Community Gardens Coordinator for Montgomery Parks, [Ursula.SabiaSukinik@MontgomeryParks.org](mailto:Ursula.SabiaSukinik@MontgomeryParks.org), phone: 240-876-7598. Permits for the Community Gardens program are issued online at [www.parkpermits.org](http://www.parkpermits.org), or via visiting the Park Permit Office, at 9500 Brunett Avenue in Silver Spring during operating hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm). An application form must be filled out, and a fee for reserving the plot is required. As of April 18, the county's website is not detailing the fees to be charged for plot reservations at Rocking Horse Center (but for other County Community Gardens, a 200 square foot plot costs \$30, and a 400 square foot plot costs \$50). Visit the website [www.montgomeryparks.org/permits/find/community\\_gardens\\_program.shtm](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/permits/find/community_gardens_program.shtm) for additional details, as well as the link to the application form. Visit the Rocking Horse Center website for a look at the planned layout for our local Community Garden: [www.montgomeryparks.org/permits/find/rockinghorse.shtm](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/permits/find/rockinghorse.shtm).

## Where is Westminster?

by Brian Hooker

At the April RCA meeting, Board Member Matt Tifford presented a proposal for new signs at primary entrances to Randolph Civic neighborhoods. This of course led to a discussion regarding signs for the different subdivisions within RCA-land. What about Franklin Park, Hilltop Square, Montrose Park, Randolph Farms, and Westminster? Hold on, Westminster? Where is Westminster? From the best I can tell Westminster is Hunters Lane on the south side of Randolph Road and continuing onto Macon Road. However, if that is Westminster, then where is Randolph Farms? As a resident of Westminster/Randolph Farms I can tell you that according to MLS listings and County records we all live in Randolph Farms and Westminster does not exist. Some long-time residents maintain that the name "Westminster" was a marketing gimmick used by the developer to try to get higher home prices through a fancy-sounding name. The lack of any mention of Westminster in county records seems to support this. So, in the pursuit of accuracy, shouldn't the new sign read "Randolph Farms?" Or, to be nostalgic, perhaps the sign should read "Randolph Farms", with a smaller "Westminster" underneath in quotation marks? Fellow residents of Westminster/Randolph Farms, please email us with your thoughts at [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org).



# Call 311 To Get It Done!

**311 is Montgomery County's phone number for non-emergency government information and services.** For emergency calls, residents should continue to call 911.

A new website is available 24/7 at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311).

### Phone Numbers for MC311

In Montgomery County, call 311 ■ Outside of Montgomery County, call 240-777-0311

The TTY number is 240-773-3556

Reminder: Call 911 for emergencies

### Website:

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311)

---

## Pedestrian Safeguards Needed at Randolph and Hunters

by Matt Tifford

One thing I have learned in my time with the RCA is that getting the county to improve pedestrian safety is almost impossible, particularly if it involves measures that will slow vehicle traffic. However, we RCA'ers must confess to being slow learners, having once again embarked on a mission to improve pedestrian safety.

Our newest concern (and one that the RCA has pursued in years past as well) is with the lack of safe crossing at the intersection of Hunters Lane and Randolph Road. There are bus stops on either side of Randolph here, and folks wishing to catch the bus have to either walk 1/3 of a mile each direction to cross at the nearest traffic light, or run across five lanes of traffic with speeding cars bearing down from either direction.

We are not expecting the county to put in a traffic light, though that would be ideal. What we would like to see is a pedestrian island placed in the center lane, and a painted crosswalk. This is a common feature not just for busy roads in other communities, but for Randolph/Montrose in its entire length across the county. With one notable exception, the stretch of Randolph between Rock Creek Park and Loehmann's Plaza is the only place in Montgomery County where Randolph/Montrose Road cuts through a neighborhood without a grass or concrete island in the center. The only place where you normally see a continuous center turn lane is in commercial areas. This holds true from where Montrose begins as a highway at 270, all the way through to the border with Prince Georges County. The one exception I found was just east of Colesville Road, between Broadmoor Road and Laurie Drive. They have pedestrian islands with painted crosswalks -- which are exactly what we are asking for.

---

### New Board Members

*(continued from page 6)*

many people live in the RCA community and the decisions we make affect a lot of people.

Matt: I've been on the board continuously for the last three years.

Echo: What do you view as the greatest challenge to the RCA and RCA-land these days, and in the coming years? What do you think the RCA should do to address that challenge?

Amber: One of the greatest challenges that I currently see for many RCA-land individuals is car and home theft. Maybe because it has been brought more to our attention but there seems to be an awful lot of break-ins over the past few years. The RCA has been working on getting the neighborhood watch back up and running and has run into some road blocks. Some issues are not enough volunteers and the only way to keep our neighborhood safe is to get those living in the community involved any way they can.

Matt: Our greatest challenge is getting more people

involved in the community. There are almost 1400 homes, and not even half are members. I hope through our continued efforts, those who are not members will begin to see the value in what we do.

Echo: What do you like most about living here in RCA-land?

Amber: I like the friendships my kids and I have made. We have talked about moving and one of the things that have held us back is the relationships that we have built over the years. I love that when we pull up my son has friends that run up to the car and ask if he can play. I feel safe leaving my kids at my neighbors to play while I'm inside making dinner. I also love being close to almost everything. Regardless of the direction I go, there is something I need.

Matt: I have great neighbors.

Echo: What is your biggest peeve about living here in RCA-land?

Amber: My biggest peeve about living in RCA land is the congestion on Randolph Road. What worries me the most is the safety of pedestrians as they cross Randolph where there is no crosswalk or light especially when it's dark out.

Matt: I was going to say traffic, but our power outage problem with Pepco is even worse!

Echo: What is your favorite local restaurant, and why?

Amber: Wow, this is a hard one since we love to go out and eat. Amalfi's is my favorite local Italian restaurant. They know us when we walk in and treat us like family. My oldest son will ask "can we go to John's house for dinner?" John's parents own Amalfi's and he is typically our waiter. They have a great outside patio to sit and eat which is our favorite when it's nice outside.

Matt: My current favorite is Cafe 20/20 in Randolph Hills Shopping Center. They are open late every night and have great food.

Echo: What do you like to do in your free time, on weekends?

Amber: My weekends are filled with sporting events for my kids and an occasional cookout with the neighbors.

Matt: My family has recently gotten interested in geocaching. This is a kind of treasure hunt using a GPS device to find the coordinates of the treasure. Its lots of fun, and there's plenty of local geocache's to find in our community and others nearby.

Echo: Good luck to you both. And thank you for stepping up to actively serve your community.

---

### President's Message

*(continued from page 2)*

hood realty specialist Denise Sczur has added an additional \$500 (she gave \$500 last year as well). Don is a longtime RCA-land resident and you all know Denise from the back cover of this and every Echo. Thank you Don and Denise, for your tremendous donation and commitment to our neighborhood.



# RCF NEWS

## RCF President's Message

by Matt Tifford

Well, where to start? So much to report on! A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers who helped clean up the sign areas. On two separate Saturdays we met up at the Schuylkill Road and Hunters Lane sign areas. After much weeding, digging, planting, and mulching the sign areas were looking pretty sharp. We will be doing more planting in mid-May, so if you are interested in helping out, please let me know. We are using RCA services to organize volunteers, so contact us via e-mail at [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org), or the RCA Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>. On to the next item! We want to thank Elmer Sichert for giving us permission to erect a new sign on the public right-of-way in front of his house at the corner of Rocking Horse Road and Ashley Drive. Just one house down from the traffic light, this will give our community a much needed sign area at the intersection of Rocking Horse Road and Randolph. We've never had a sign at this entrance, so this will be a big improvement. And there's more! Thanks go out to resident Don Linthicum for a huge \$1500 donation to the sign project. Two more of those and we're done! And toward that end, I will get to my final item. As detailed elsewhere in this issue, we will be having the RCA Musicfest on Sunday June 12th at the Mem Sahib Restaurant. Musicians from around the neighborhood (including yours truly) will perform to help raise money for the signs. We hope you will come and help us to raise the remaining funds needed. We do have help! In addition to the \$500 she gave last year, former resident and current neighborhood Real Estate Agent Denise Sczcur has put up another \$500 in matching funds. Denise will match 50% of every dollar up to \$1000 that we raise at the RCA Musicfest. Thanks again Denise!

## RCF Executive Committee for 2010-2011

### OFFICERS

#### President

Matt Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

#### Vice President

Lindsay Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-775-9807

#### Secretary

Bob Walker  
11813 Ashley Drive  
[amorworks1@aol.com](mailto:amorworks1@aol.com)

#### Treasurer

Richard Zierdt  
4707 Coachway Drive  
301-881-0283

#### Directors

Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

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](http://www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org) - Phone: 240-389-4723

## Save The Date RCA Musicfest

Benefiting the RCF  
Beautification Fund

June 12th, 2011 - 4-6pm  
Mem Sahib Restaurant  
Randolph Hills Shopping Center



Featuring music from  
neighborhood artists!  
For information about  
sponsorships and  
tickets please email  
[info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org)



**Nominated As  
#1 Shop In America**

LUBE, OIL & FILTER \$24.95 (most vehicles)  
**10% Off Any Repair up to \$30**  
**One Discount Per Vehicle**

12356 Wilkins Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20852

Phone: 301-881-8530

Fax: 301-881-2249

[www.preferredautomotive.com](http://www.preferredautomotive.com)

---

## Troop 1083 News

*By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster*

Troop 1083 is proud to share news about its most recent Eagle Scout. On March 18, Scott Levangard passed his Eagle Board of Review, which is the formal presentation of the candidate before a panel that judges his Eagle rank application. It is the final step in the long climb to Scouting's highest rank, and it's a very significant achievement. Congratulations to Scott and his family!

Also in March, Troop 1083 Scouts and Crew 1083 Venturers finished the last phase of their spring mulch sale by delivering (for free!) all those orders. Both groups thank all of our customers for making this year's sale a success—and for supporting a program that gives so much to its members and also gives right back to the community through service projects.

One example 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- and environmentally-minded neighbors. This year's event took place on April 9. The volunteers were divided into multiple clean-up crews that were dispatched to Boiling Brook, for the entire length of the Parkway and all the way down to Rock Creek; to the Winding Creek section of Rock Creek Park, along Dewey Rd north of Randolph; and to Waverly-Schuylkill Park, near the Garrett Park MARC train station, from the tracks

to Schuylkill Rd. Our efforts were covered by the Montgomery Gazette, a Washington Post blog, and Montgomery County's Green cable channel.

On March 25 and 26, Troop 1083 hosted WEBELOS II scouts from Cub Scout Packs 1081 and 493 for the annual WEBELOS Weekend campout at Cabin John Park. The older Scouts taught the WEBELOS about fire building, axe safety, and hiking. Two separate High Adventure crews went on "shake-down" hikes—one crew is going to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico this summer, and the other will go to Philmont in 2013. In the evening, all the campers broke camp for a few hours to go swimming at the Rockville Swim Center, and then returned to the campsite for some toasted marshmallows before turning in.

On April 13, selected Troop 1083 Scouts assisted with the solemn ceremony in which the four WEBELOS IIs in Pack 493 and the five WEBELOS IIs in Pack 1081 bridged into Boy Scouting and officially joined the Troop. We are excited to have these new young men joining our Troop. Perhaps one day, six or seven years from now, an ECHO article will begin by announcing one (or more) of their names as a new Troop 1083 Eagle Scout!

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](http://www.troop1083.org).



*Troop 1083 Scouts perform the solemn Arrow of Light ceremony*

## Venture Crew 1083 News

by Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

The Venture Crew's youth leaders know a thing or two about preventing boring meetings (if only they could teach your boss!). That's why they mix up their meeting locations and activities on a fairly regular basis. For example, the Crew staged its March 21 meeting at the Bauer Drive Recreation Center. After finishing the regular planning session, there was a little time left over to play some pool, ping pong, air hockey, and basketball. Afterwards we adjourned to the parking lot for a tailgate party featuring cake and soda left over from the previous day's baby shower for Crew advisors Lauren and Carl Barrows.

On April 2nd, Carl and Lauren hosted a special meeting featuring a refresher course on planning an outing—because that's a big part of Venturing, you see. But it wasn't all business...the Crew and advisors also made home-made pizza—including the dough, entirely from scratch. The finished pizza looked a little...unconventional. But who makes pizza to look at it? All that matters is, it was fun to make and it tasted sensational. Then the whole event turned into movie night, when someone popped "This is Spinal Tap" into the DVD player.

Members of the Venture Crew also took part in the Alice Ferguson Foundation 23rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup on April 9th. Along with local Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, other groups, and individual neighbors, Crew members picked up literally tons of bottles, cans, plastic bags, cups, papers, tires, and other trash (even a kitchen range) from the Rock Creek floodplain. A lot of this stuff would otherwise have flowed down into the Potomac and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. RCA-Land is fortunate to have such service-minded citizens among our youth.

At press time, the Crew is putting the finishing touches on its plans for a spring-break weekday matinee visit to the National Zoo; and a May weekend road trip in May to include camping on the edge of New Jersey's famous pine barrens, and a day of sightseeing in Philadelphia—visiting the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall and sampling some local cuisine (Philly cheese steaks, of course).

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.

## Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Tiana Bingcang

Spring has definitely arrived! And Girl Scout Troop 1028 has so many activities to share with you. Cookie Sales have concluded and our troop sold a total of 2097 boxes. This amount includes donations for 20 'Gifts of Caring' boxes that will be donated to a local charity.

To prepare for the season, the girls have been making bird houses. They decorated their own bird house by painting, by coloring and just by simply bringing out the artist in them. And speaking of art, the Stand with Japan movement for which girl scouts are offering their support during these difficult times for Japan. The girls each tried their best in making paper origami cranes which will be sent to the president of the Girl Scouts of Japan. During the September 11th tragedy, the Girl Scouts of Japan created thousands of their own origami cranes and mailed them to the United States as an expression of peace and friendship. Also, each of our girls collected spare change around the house and put them in their own little decorated containers which will be donated to a save the organization: Donate to Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Children in Emergency fund. Thank you to all the scouts and their families for supporting this cause.

Last but not the least, our troop plans to attend a Spring Fling event along with other troops in our service unit area. It will be on May 1, 2011 at Camp Brighton Woods, Brookeville, MD. This will include a lot of activities for our scouts to participate. There will be kite-making, letterboxing, a scavenger hunt, crafts, games and many more fun-filled activities to inspire our girls to go outdoors and keep the spring spirit alive!

### Randolph Hills: Who are we?

(continued from page 1)

I think it is just important to realize that this is who we are and this is who the RCA represents and hopefully we will continue to draw strength from this diversity.

As the Census Bureau continues to publish the 2010 data I hope to be able to take a closer look at the age demographics within RCA-land. So stay tuned.

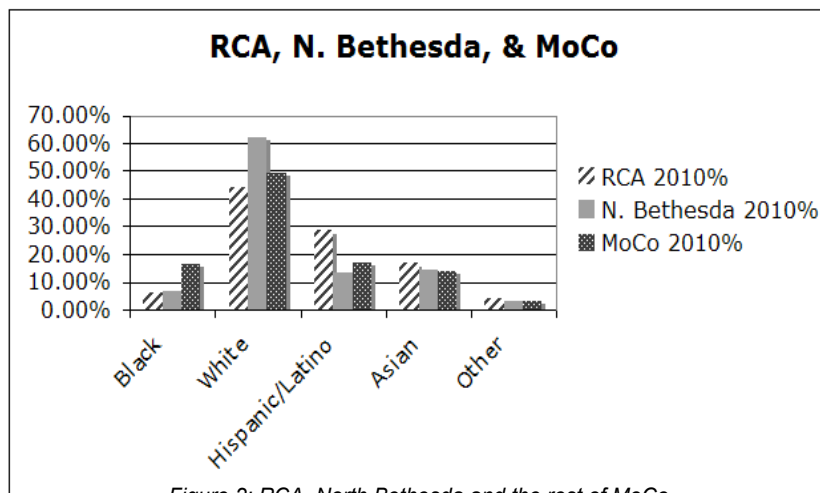
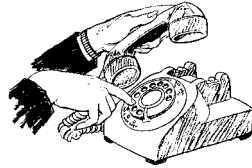


Figure 2: RCA, North Bethesda and the rest of MoCo

## The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received February 17th,  
2010 through March 13th, 2011



*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.*

03-25-11 (Fri) at 1:06pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is a vendor for the community yard sale wondering what date it is scheduled for this spring. *[RCA Note: May 7th from 8:00am until 1:00pm. See cover for more details.]*

03-27-11 (Sun) at 1:15pm. Anonymous. Caller thinks it is totally a waste of money to change the signs. Who cares? They are fine. Give money to hungry people in this area or to the shelters instead of spending money on the signs. *[RCA note: Several signs are rotting and in need of replacement. Also, many members have attended meetings and voiced their desire for improved signage.]*

03-29-11 (Tues) at 10:18am. Not Anonymous. Caller is calling in response to the April Echo article "Kept in the Dark" with household's power outage information. *[RCA Note: The RCA is continuing its collection of power outage data for use when addressing our needs with PEPCO and county officials. Please either call the hotline or email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) with the details of your power outages.]*

03-29-11 (Tues) at 3:11pm. Anonymous. Caller recently read the minutes of the March executive meeting in the April Echo. Under "Priority Discussion" it states a suggestion of looking into having a no-left turn regulation for the morning traffic at the intersection of Randolph Road and Hunters Lane. Unfortunately, if that went into effect there would be no way that the residents living in Franklin Park would be able to get back into their residences because there is a no left turn down at the traffic light at Gaynor Road and there are only two entrances into the neighborhood. Residents would not be able to get in at all if they needed to go out in the morning and then return from that direction. Thank you for listening.

03-29-11 (Tues) at 7:44pm. Not Anonymous.  
Received via [info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:info@RandolphCivic.org). I live in the RH

neighborhood, but I'm not a member. I'd like to run an ad for renting a bedroom. I'm renting a bedroom now, but the owner died, so I need another place, preferably in the same neighborhood. Would the cost be \$5? If so, I'll send you the ad. *[RCA Note: Yes and thank you!]*

04-08-11 (Fri) 1:00am. Not Anonymous. Caller is a friendly neighbor at 114xx Schuylkill Road calling about neighbors at 48xx Creek Shore Drive with a yapping dog. It's yapping at one o'clock in the morning. Caller asks the RCA to remind residents to please put yapping dogs in the house before noise ordinances take effect. Thank you and good night.

04-08-11 (Fri) at 1:37pm. Not Anonymous. Same Resident. Received via [info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:info@RandolphCivic.org). Hi RCA, Just following up with written correspondence after my early morning pet complaint I left on the RCA hotline. In the early morning hours (approximately 12:30 am) of April 8, 2011 we were awakened by the incessant barking of a small breed dog in a neighbor's yard (48xx Creek Shore Drive). We attempted to contact our neighbors but they did not want to answer their door. The incessant barking continued until approximately 2am. After we were not able to make contact with the neighbors, we contacted the non-emergency police to stop the problem. I've also lodged a complaint with Animal Control of Montgomery County which will hopefully resolve the issue. This has been an ongoing problem which we have reluctantly tolerated since we moved into the neighborhood almost a year ago. We respectfully ask that our neighbors to abide by the county laws specifically the Animal Noise (Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203(a)(6) An owner must not allow an animal to cause noise that is loud enough and persistent enough to disturb another person's quiet enjoyment. We look forward to any assistance that the civic association may provide. Thank you.

**Fellow Neighbor 20 Years**

Leaf Removal • Grass Cutting • Tree Work  
INSURED



**Local Lawn Care**  
Etc.  
OWNER (301) 770-5549 OPERATED

---

# Loehmann's Plaza

5200 – 5290 Randolph Road, Rockville MD



Boston Market	(301) 984-0990
Care Cleaners	(301) 816-2092
Chuck E. Cheese	(301) 468-2491
Congressional Bank	(301) 984-6000
Dollar Tree	(301) 231-6097
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
West Marine	(301) 230-0945



---

## An Avoidable Event

by Mark Nensel

Dogs and dog-walking owners are wonderful additions to any neighborhood. Often dogs are protectors, of solo-running women, of families with children, and for older people. Dogs are also social magnets, and many dog owners get to know each other while visiting parks and open fields as they walk their pets. Dog-walkers can be the front line of neighborhood-watch programs; they notice suspicious vehicles and suspicious behaviors as they make their rounds.

As home owners, we see dogs of all breeds go by. We see mutts, and we see dogs small and large. Unfortunately, though, the large dogs, when they are unleashed, or uncontrollable (i.e. when they lunge, or when they forcefully strain on the leash) can be dangerous. And sometimes, they can be deadly.

A vivid example of this danger hit home for my family on Wednesday April 13, at 7:30pm, when an unleashed neighborhood dog attacked and killed our cat. We live on Rocking Horse Road, up near the intersection with Macon Road. The incident happened in the early evening, near dusk. My wife and I were out at the grocery store at the time. Our cat, Choca, who in fact was a tamed feral cat who lived in our back yard, was lounging in our next-door neighbor's front yard, post-dinner, when the dog – a German Shepard / retriever mix – appeared from the sidewalk, noticed Choca, and mauled her. Our neighbors heard the commotion, and ran out to see the aftermath: Choca limp and dying on the sidewalk, the dog running off, and the owner, leash in hand, running up after the dog – not stopping to say a word of acknowledgement or apology to our stunned neighbors; she kept on going.

Our neighbors kindly took Choca to the Nebel Street emergency animal hospital, where Choca succumbed to her wounds. When we returned from the store, our neighbors contacted us and returned her body to us. One minute Choca was here and alive; an hour later, she was gone forever. Both our neighbors, and my wife and I were grief-stricken, and we have been since. We loved that cat. She was a kind, sweet and charming presence in our daily lives.

I contacted the Montgomery County Animal Shelter to report the incident, only to learn that I needed to know the address of the offending pet's owner. I do not know who owned this dog. She has not returned or identified herself. The fact is, though, the owner is the one to blame, not her badly-behaved dog. A dog, especially a large dog, should never be off its leash.

This a neighborhood full of families, small children, small dogs, and yes, outdoor cats. We all have a right to feel safe in our front and back yards, and on our sidewalks. The dogs that are walked past our homes must be leashed and controlled – it

is the decent and neighborly way for dog-owners to conduct themselves.

Montgomery County Police Department's Animal Service Division publishes a list of animal-related laws and fines at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/poltmlpl.asp?url=/content/pol/districts/MSB/animal/summarylaws.asp>. At least two violations and one law-breaking have occurred in the case of the attack on and death of our pet:

Any dog (unless it is a service dog) is considered to be "at large" if it is outside the owner's premises and not leashed (and admittedly a cat falls under this classification too). The penalty for violation is \$100 for first offense, \$500 for each subsequent violation.

The 'Unwanted Contact' violation stipulates: "The pet owner must prevent unwelcome or unsolicited threatening physical contact or close proximity to a person or a domestic animal that occurs outside the owner's property that may cause alarm in a reasonable person, such as biting, chasing, tracking, inhibiting movement, or jumping. The penalty for violation is \$500."

The 'Dangerous Animal' law (Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-202) reads (in part): "An animal is deemed to be potentially dangerous if it has inflicted a bite on a person either on public or private real property or has killed or inflicted severe injury to a domestic animal when not on the owner's property or has attacked without provocation. An animal which has been declared to be potentially dangerous and subsequently engages in one of these behaviors again will then be deemed to be dangerous." The penalty for failing to keep a dangerous animal confined ranges from \$500 to \$2500 and/or impoundment of the animal.

I implore you: keep your dogs leashed and under-control. No other families need to experience what we (and our neighbors) have just been through.



RIP Choca



## 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, friendly classes for adults. No experience necessary. Patient teacher works with each student individually. 30 years experience. Call Martha Seigel 301-946-5388.

**Yardwork Service Available.** Contact Greg Gadbois if you need assistance with chores such as leaf raking, lawn cutting or snow shovelling. Call 240-499-5337.

**Wanted: to rent a bedroom in the Randolph Hills area, long term.** I'm a senior citizen, non smoker, will be gone on weekends. Bedroom should be furnished (bed, at least), and have wireless internet available. Contact: [terry@teebark.com](mailto:terry@teebark.com), 804-647-4515

**BEST BUDDIES PETSITTING SERVICE:** Going out of town? Need your dog to be walked daily? Have a cat that needs to be boarded? Well we are a home away from home providing the best loving care for your pet depending on your needs. We board cats and dogs and we do not crate them. We have a fenced-in quarter acre lot right here in Randolph Hills! Dogs get two 30 minute walks daily and all animals get breakfast and dinner; we provide the food! Between walks, there is plenty of playtime. Prices reasonable and our schedule is setup to meet your needs. Pickup and drop-off service is provided if needed. Any medications can and will be administered. We are bonded and insured. Call Danny Beigel at: 240.654.0694 or go to [www.bestbuddiespetservice.com](http://www.bestbuddiespetservice.com) email us at [bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com](mailto:bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com)

**Community Fixtures: Jerry's Music**  
(continued from page 4)

events and parties at [www.Invitationtheband.com](http://www.Invitationtheband.com)

I asked Jerry what makes his store so special, considering that there are quite a number of other music stores in the wider area. Jerry responded that he prides himself on his high customer service standards, making sure that his staff is knowledgeable and well trained. He hopes to really listen to his customers' needs, and he's happy to find just the right instrument for them, whether new or used (he trades in used instruments, too). He believes that the quality of personal service is the backbone of any small business. On an even more personal note, opening Jerry's Music right here at Boiling Brook feels a bit like a homecoming to Jerry. While attending Wootton High School in the 1970s, he would spend many after-school hours with his cousins, the Remley kids, who

grew up right here on Schuylkill and Boiling Brook. I bet they had their own garage band going some thirty years ago.

So come and check out our newest neighbor Jerry's Music during their Grand Opening sales month, at 5040 Boiling Brook Parkway, and find out more about them at [www.JerrysMusic.org](http://www.JerrysMusic.org) Store hours are: Monday thru Thursday 11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., closed on Sundays. Tel: (301) 907-6900

DAVID S. SCHLUTZ, D.M.D.



4618 Randolph Road  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 770-7369  
Fax: (301) 770-7631

DENTIST

## Join Your Neighbors Online



The RCA Yahoo Group is a great resource for keeping up with happenings in RCA land. Need a recommendation for a local handyman? Looking for a babysitter or dog walker? Want to learn more about local activities? Have an idea to improve our neighborhood?

**Get in on the conversation at:**  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>



To: Matt Tifford  
President, Randolph Civic Foundation

From: Denise Szczur  
Associate Broker, Long and Foster Realtors



I want to offer my support to the community and the RCA for the effort to enhance the signs and entrances to the community. About 20 years ago, my husband John and I, along with Richard Zierdt, Kevin Kline, Frank and Matt Shore, Jack Stillwell and a number of other volunteers, led an effort to raise funds and replace the previous signage, and to landscape the entrances. At the time, an old sign at Boiling Brook had to be replaced because a car ran off the road and demolished the previous sign, which was run down and not in good shape anyway. We took that opportunity to create a planting bed around the sign, and to install the dogwood trees which are on the island today. We also placed signs and beds at other locations around the community.

It is great to see this community spirit in RCA-land, which is a result of the efforts of all the volunteers who "give back" to the community in various ways, whether through donating their time and energy or through their financial support. That's what being a community is all about.

Randolph Hills is dear to me. It is the community where my children were born and raised, home to many long-time friends, and a continual source of friendships made through my work in the neighborhood.

To assist in the fundraising efforts for this project, I pledge to match 50% of any donations from the community, up to \$1000 in community donations. For every two dollars donated by the community, I will donate an additional dollar to the project, to a maximum total match of \$500. This pledge is in addition to my contribution of \$500 from last year. I hope this offer to match donations helps your fundraising efforts. I am delighted to support this terrific project. And thanks to all of the residents who make Randolph Hills the "special" place it is.

