

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Federation

Volume 44, Issue 2

November 2000

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I'm Doing It For The Money

by Richard Zierdt

Note that the headline said "The" money – not "your" money, or even "more" money. I'm doing it for "The" money that will become immediately available to us, the residents within Randolph Civic Association boundaries, if our residents vote to become a municipality of Montgomery County. And this isn't through increased taxes.

I introduced this idea in the September ECHO, page 8, left column, second paragraph. This ECHO, along with several others, is available online through the RCA's website randolphcivic.org. The online ECHO is the same as the paper copy distributed to each home.

This issue was discussed at the October 5th General Meeting of the RCA. Many attendees had questions about this idea and wanted to learn more about it before making a decision to support the idea or not. I cannot answer all the questions in this article, but hopefully the following will help.

There is a statute in Maryland State law that returns to municipalities, such as Rockville, Garrett Park, Washington Grove, Brookville, etc, 8.5% of their State income taxes to the local governing body. For example, for every \$1000 paid in Maryland income taxes, the local government receives \$85. That is where these towns get a large portion of their funding. The rest of Montgomery County, those portions that are not incorporated such as Wheaton, Silver Spring, and North Bethesda, get zero. On the face of it,

(continued on page 6)

Upcoming Events

RCA Executive Meeting
Thursday, November 2, 2000
8:00 p.m.

RCA General Meeting
Thursday, December 7, 2000
8:00 p.m.

Please attend!

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

President's Message

by Jack Stillwell

Here are the questions. You have the answers.

Frustrated by your inability to get some simple things improved in your community? Consider our area with an elected Mayor and our own town constable. An official voted for by the residents and compensated to work for the betterment of the community. Think of our little neighborhood with the budgetary ability to hire a policeman to go by and make people move those cars that are blocking the sidewalk. Like the idea? It's a possibility under Maryland law. By becoming a municipality, we would get back some of that piggyback tax you pay every year and be able to plow it right back into the neighborhood. It's an idea Richard Zierdt is exploring and will need input from a large percentage of the community. If it were to move forward, we would all have to vote. Want more government or more involved government? Would it lead to more or higher taxes? It's an interesting discussion and one we started at the October General Meeting.

(continued on page 3)

RCA Executive Committee for 2000-2001

OFFICERS

President

Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Vice President

Matthew Shore
11230 Troy Road
310-468-1225

Secretary

Kevin Kline
4808 Randolph Road
301-230-1486

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Directors

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

Frank Shore

11230 Troy Road
310-468-1225

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Echo Editor

Eileen White
11225 Ashley Drive
301-984-2579

Echo Advertising

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11508 Monongahela Court
301-770-7590

Membership

Patricia Longenecker
4703 Wyaconda Road
301-770-1927

Environment

Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Cathy Stillwell

5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Education

Elinor Walker
12111 Galena Road
301-468-6335

Mobile Watch

John Polk
11216 Troy Road
301-984-8015

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Scout Leader, Troop 1083

Brian McGahey
11805 Timber Lane
301-770-7882

Cub Master, Pack 1081

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Scout Liaison

Frank Rossomondo
11611 Ashley Drive
301-770-7450

Family & Community Education

Judy Fewell
5018 Macon Road
301-770-5540

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Scott Bailey, George Cantalupo, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):

Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964

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

Mr. Denis' aide: Tedi Osias

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive (all of RCA):

Douglas Duncan 240-777-2500

Montgomery County Public Schools: 301-279-3000

School Board Offices: 301-279-3617

School System Information: 301-279-3391

School Board Member for District 3

(representing all of RCA):

Ms. Patricia O'Neill 301-320-7600

Maryland State Legislative District 17 -

South of Randolph Road:

Senator: Jennie Forehand 301-858-3134

Delegates: Kumar Barve 301-858-3001

Michael Gordon 301-858-3519

Cheryl Kagan 301-858-3046

Maryland Legislative District 18 -

North of Randolph Road:

Senator: Christopher Van Hollen 301-858-3137

Delegates: Leon Billings 301-858-3028

Sharon Grosfeld 301-858-3028

John Hurson 301-858-3464

Montgomery County Delegation Office:

All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

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

Constance Morella 202-225-5341

email: rep.morella@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate (all of RCA):

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654

Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

Election Precincts:

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

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

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 301-217-6450



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$5.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

How about Rocking Horse Road? Ever need to pull onto it from a side street? Imagine having to back out of a driveway onto it. One resident is working towards a change. He counted 450 cars going by in an hour. Doug Basher has begun a petition campaign to have a survey done by the County to limit access to Rocking Horse at least during rush hour. It can happen. The County regulation exists and the petition is the first step. You can help.

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Do you like trees and greenery? Did you know someone owns the land next to Waverly-Schuylkill Park and wants to build 5 houses on it? Did you know that an alternative is for the county to use an existing program to purchase the land and extend the park? Eileen White is circulating a petition asking the County to do just that. You can chime in.

What about Wheaton High School? Do you want it to be part of a consortium with Einstein, Kennedy, Blair and Northwood where your children could choose to attend Wheaton or go to any of the other schools based on the special emphasis offered there? They're talking about Signature Programs like Communications at one, the Arts and Humanities at another. There's a push to get this started by December 22 of this year. If you have an opinion or want to know more, keep your eyes open for the Board of Education meetings.

What about the RCA? Do you agree that these are subjects we should be exploring? Do you think we're a bunch of NIMBY's that ought to let the County take care of us in their infinite wisdom? Do you strongly disagree with any of the programs above? We love the controversy. If people are arguing, they're engaged.

If you don't want to argue, there is info elsewhere in this issue on how to access these petitions. (See page 10)

Like giving up a weeknight evening to hear a bunch of neighbors gripe? Okay, sometimes that's what happens at our meetings. It can be tedious unless they're griping about something that concerns you. We had about 40 people at the October meeting. I'm sure it helped to have our newly elected County Council Member attend. But I also think the group enjoyed hearing these interesting and provocative issues explained. Most people agreed with our positions, we tried to make sure we heard from those who didn't. My take from Mr. Denis's comments was that the Council wagon is carrying a lot of baggage and it's going to take a very squeaky wheel to get any attention.

How loud can 1300 households squeak? You know that answer too.



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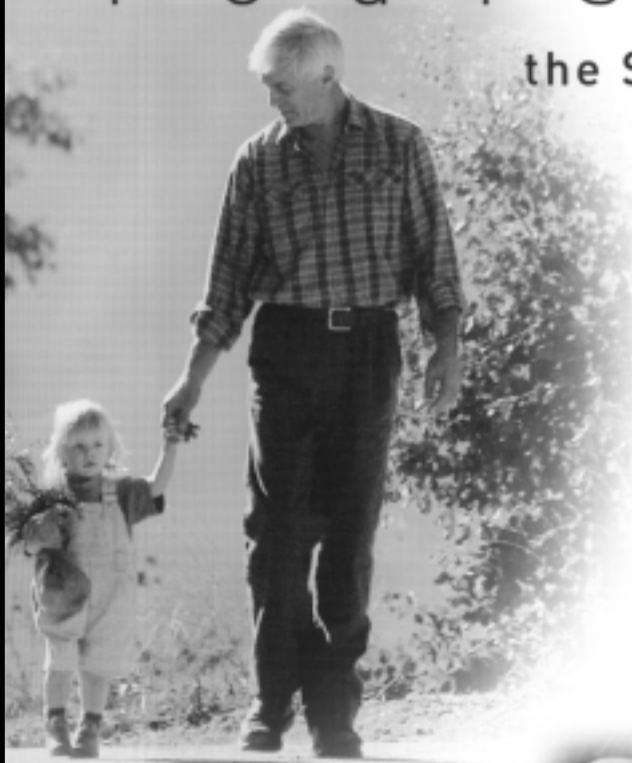
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Minutes of the RCA October General Meeting

by Kevin Kline

President Jack Stillwell opened the meeting by acknowledging the very large turnout. Because of our special guest speaker and the many items that needed to be discussed, Jack had a prepared agenda and planned to keep things moving along.

Treasurer Richard Zierdt introduced our guest speaker, County Councilman Howard Denis, a former Maryland State Delegate who served in Annapolis with retired RCA'er Frank Shore. Over the next hour Mr. Denis spoke extemporaneously, addressing our list of concerns, and then took questions. He noted he is on two committees, including Zoning and Finance (both are important to the RCA).

Turning to the recent press regarding the County's lax drunk driving laws, he thought it was a disgrace, and has told prosecutors and judges that. Maryland is one of the few states with a .10 limit; most others are .08.

Mr. Denis noted half of all the County's operating budget goes to education, typical in local government. The County has 189 school buildings, requiring a huge maintenance investment. Mr. Denis was asked if he would help us in getting our school boundaries changed. He said that was a School Board issue, and he did not want to politicize their process, but encouraged us in our efforts.

Turning to transportation, Mr. Denis emphasized there is a regional component to everything the County does. He noted 90% of the ICC would be paid for with federal funds.

President Stillwell opened the floor to questions, and was moderator.

An RCA'er said she thought the ICC was already dead. She thought building new roads was not the solution, that the environmental impact was too negative. Mr. Denis said we must be creative, because the County is reaching the traffic "tipping point."

Another speaker noted the RCA voted in favor of the Montrose Parkway after much debate, though other civics along Montrose were in violent opposition. He resented that since the ICC has been stopped, the Montrose Parkway is becoming the de facto ICC. Mr. Denis responded the County is buying ICC right-of-way at a cost of \$36 million, that 70% of the people surveyed support the ICC.

President Stillwell spoke of our disappointment with the lack of police response to code enforcement. The laws are on the books regarding illegal parking and blocking sidewalks, but the police will not ticket and enforce the law. Mr. Denis said to call, and he personally would intervene.

Mr. Denis's hour was nearly up, and President Stillwell quickly turned to the Millard property problem discussed in the last newsletter. Jack wanted Mr. Denis's support in persuading the County to purchase the land between Garrett Park and RCA-land, and keep it as undeveloped parkland. Mr. Denis was recently at a Garrett Park meeting, and they are also upset about the possibility. He said Park and Planning should review it and present to the County Council. He was amiable to purchasing the property for parkland.

Mr. Dennis was asked if he would support the RCA becoming a municipality. He said if RCA'ers voted for it, he would support us. Our time was up and he was given a round of applause as he left.

Next on the agenda, Treasurer Zierdt gave a presentation of how the RCA could become a municipality. At President's Stillwell's urging, this important decision was tabled until the RCA membership became better informed. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: The RCA Executives explore the possibility of becoming a municipality.**

The President briefed the membership on a School Consortium meeting he attended, and explained the issue. Marilyn Couture, an RCA'er active in the PTSA, explained this is the next best thing to getting our kids in the Walter Johnson cluster. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: To support the Wheaton High School joining the Down-county Consortium while continuing to change the school boundaries so all of RCA-land is in the Walter Johnson Cluster.**

Briefly, the "Renew Montgomery County" program was explained. It involves planting trees throughout the neighborhood, street light improvements, and traffic calming measures.

The Millard property was discussed. There was some concern about the RCA opposing an owner from developing his land. **Passed by majority voice-vote: To support efforts for the County to purchase the Millard property, and add it to the Waverly-Schuylkill Park.**

Doug Basher of Rockinghorse Road reports excessive traffic on his street and has taken action. Doug contacted County Transportation and has received regulations about traffic volume and how we could get restricted usage implemented in our neighborhood ("No Through Traffic 7 - 9 AM", etc). **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: To support restricted traffic use on Rockinghorse Road.**

Note to Contributors:
The deadline for the December 2000 issue of
The Echo is November 3rd.

For the Money

(continued from page 1)

this is an inequity to those residents who live outside an incorporated town. However, when this issue was brought before the Montgomery County Civic Federation, of which the RCA is a member, it went nowhere. There was no support to change the current system of funding.

So if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. I'm asking that the RCA endorse the concept of starting the "Town of Randolph" (name is open to discussion). This would provide us funding for community picnics, regular professional landscaping, etc; anything that would improve our neighborhood. Use your imagination. We could buy equipment such as floor sanders that residents could borrow free of charge to keep their hardwood floors in mint condition. (Most homes in RCA came with hardwood floors.) We could hire a lobbyist to make our case before the County Council and School Board, just as Montgomery County does to argue its cases before the Maryland legislature. We could erect more, and nicer, neighborhood signs. The list is endless.

Municipal incorporation would mean there would be an elected mayor and town council. These persons would be elected at the same time we elect persons for other political office, such as County Council members. Residents at the October 5th meeting asked about taxes. Couldn't our taxes be increased at the local level? Yes, they could be, but only if the mayor and town council voted to do so. And they and the tax could be voted down and out as well. The mayor and council would be our neighbors. We know where they live. We see them at the Safeway. Do you know any County Council members? Do you know County Executive Doug Duncan? By becoming an incorporated town, we would exert much greater control over our own governing. By the way, one town in Chevy Chase actually stopped collecting taxes because they were getting so much money in State revenue.

Much of the information for this idea I received from the Maryland Municipal League, 1212 West Street, Annapolis, 21401. This is a support organization for municipalities of Maryland. It is not a government agency. I talked with its Research Director, James Peck (410-268-5514). He sent me a copy of the League's Municipal Incorporation Handbook. I will try to post it on the RCA's website, but I can't guarantee I'll be successful. If someone would like to volunteer for this, it would be appreciated. Call me if you want a paper copy (301-881-0283).

The Handbook does have a list of "pros-and-cons" to municipal incorporation. I will summarize each below.

Points in favor of incorporation:

- Be able to locally determine the variety and levels of services provided to the community
- Be able to enact local law to meet locally-determined needs
- Makes the local government more accessible, accountable, and responsive to citizen needs and desires because of smaller size and more direct access to local officials
- Returns a portion of income taxes paid to directly benefit community taxpayers because municipal governments receive a portion of the local piggy-back income tax receipts
- Creates direct access for the local community to various state shared revenues and state and federal grants
- Fosters a sense of community
- Helps ensure that a community is not split into separate districts during decennial redistricting but is retained within a single district – a protection other communities currently lack
- In the case of homeowners' associations (Gaynor Road townhouses: take note), convert current fees paid to the association into property taxes which are tax-deductible

Drawbacks to incorporation:

- The costs in time and money to incorporate. One study estimated one community's incorporation costs to be as much as \$11,000
- A higher level of taxation would ensue in most cases of incorporation to pay for the costs of new public services
- An added level of government is sometimes seen as unnecessary or duplicative
- With municipal incorporation comes the responsibility to provide desired levels and types of services
- Local service provision gives rise to liability exposure and the risk of litigation for a municipal government and its public officials
- Committed volunteers are needed to serve as public officials on various municipal boards and commissions
- Economies of scale which large county governments enjoy may not be available to smaller communities, e.g., cost of trash collection

My answer to each Drawback is as follows: (1) If the cost to incorporate is prohibitive, then incorporation cannot be pursued. (2) I am not advocating new public services. There will be no higher level of taxation. (3) I am not advocating duplicative services. What I am advocating is necessary for the vitality of our community. (4) I advocate no new services that the State income tax rebate will not cover. (5) The RCA has no liability insurance now. As a municipality, we could afford it. (6) This is an opportunity, not a "drawback." Currently, the RCA has no opportunity for such service, with incorporation, it will. (7) Again, I advocate no new services that we cannot afford ourselves.

There is a proscribed process by which incorporation is achieved. This process does not require RCA approval, but it would be encouraging to get it. I have summarized it below as follows:

- Within 18 months of starting the process, a petition signed by at least 25% of the qualified voters within the proposed boundaries must be completed
- Within 60 days, the County verifies the petition signatures
- Within 90 days after successful verification, and after conducting a public hearing, the petitioners present issues report to County
- Within 45 days, county may review report and submit questions to petitioners
- Within 45 days, petitioners present proposed charter to County
- Within 40-60 days, County passes resolution specifying date for incorporation referendum. If the referendum passes, the Incorporation is complete. If it fails, the Incorporation fails.

Finally, we (the current half-dozen or so regular volunteers who keep this organization going) are getting burned out. To keep the vitality of this community going, we need big-time financial or personal help. If you are reluctant to support the idea of our community becoming a municipality, then at least volunteer to help.

I will introduce a motion at the December 7th General Meeting of the RCA that the RCA support the formation of an incorporated town within the boundaries of the RCA.

Comments on topics concerning the neighborhood?

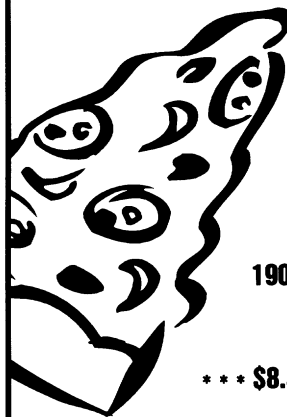
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Treasurer's Report

by Richard Zierdt

As of October 8, 2000, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$1,879.43. If you haven't already, please join the RCA during the membership drive, now underway.

RCA Checking Register					
8/28/2000 through 10/08/2000					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
BALANCE 08/27/2000					1,113.85
08/29		RCAssociation		840.00	1,953.85
		inc:advertising	Denise Szczur	720.00	
		inc:advertising	Elliott Flick, D.D.S.	120.00	
09/14	612	Nineva Printing	Sept/Oct ECHO	-980.00	973.85
09/15	613	Quick Printing	1500 envelopes	-157.50	816.35
09/15	614	Postmaster	1350 33-cent stamps	-445.50	370.85
09/15		RCAssociation		565.00	935.85
		inc:advertising	Peter Crawford	420.00	
		inc:deposit	MNCPPC, park refund	145.00	
09/18	E-xfr	Bell Atlantic	Aug 22 phone bill	-20.45	915.40
09/26		RCAssociation		569.00	1,484.40
		inc:advertising	Elmer Custead	420.00	
		inc:advertising	Joseph Mullin	120.00	
		inc:membership	Rose Cassel	5.00	
		inc:membership	Rob Epstein	10.00	
		inc:Sams	Rose Cassel	14.00	
10/04	616	Ridgways	poster for Community	-76.81	1,407.59
10/04		RCAssociation		80.00	1,487.59
		inc:advertising	Richard Vaccara	60.00	
		inc:advertising	Marie-Aude A Guie	20.00	
BALANCE 10/08/2000					1,487.59

RCF Checking Register					
8/28/2000 through 10/08/2000					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
BALANCE 08/27/2000					850.40
08/31		interest	Crestar - 0.71%	0.44	850.84
09/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	900.84
09/18	1041	The Sign Shop	signs & Community Watch	-310.00	590.84
09/27	1042	Erie Insurance	community yard sale	-200.00	390.84
09/30		interest	Suntrust - 0.69%	0.40	391.24
BALANCE 10/08/2000					391.84

Total RCA+RCF cash assets					1,879.43
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Telephone: (301) 657-0700; Facsimile: (301) 657-9850

RCA Membership Report

by Patricia Longenecker

The Association represents 1322 homes and has 5 out-of-area associate members.

As of October 5, 2000, we have 387 paid members for 2000-01: 74 have renewed their SAMs membership, and 32 have signed up for new memberships; 27% of our paid membership has joined SAMs Club, and 19 have chosen not to renew their memberships.

MARCIA LANG, LCSW-C



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Please add your voice to these neighborhood petitions

At the RCA October General Meeting, two petitions concerning neighborhood issues were presented. If you have not yet added your name to these petitions and would like to, please take the action listed below. ***Please add your name and your support to these important issues!***

Traffic on Rocking Horse Road

Petition to study traffic control measures on Rockinghorse Road, especially during rush hour.

- Call the RCA Hotline and leave your name and number

Millard Property

Petition to support Parks Department acquisition of 2.38 acres adjoining Waverly-Schuylkill park as an alternative to in-fill subdivision proposed by the property owner.

- Contact Eileen White, 301-984-2579.

The Randolph Civic Foundation

by Richard Zierdt

With the membership drive now underway, some residents have asked what the difference is between the Randolph Civic Association (RCA) and the Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF).

The fundamental difference is that the RCA is essentially a political (but not partisan) organization, while the RCF is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, meaning it is entirely dedicated to "good works." Each organization is its own entity. There is no legal connection between the two. Each has its own tax number and bank account. The leadership of each organization (president, secretary, etc.) may be the same (and usually are), but they need not be.

Dues to the RCA (\$5 per year) are not tax-deductible, while any money given to the RCF is tax-deductible. The RCF may only spend money on "good works" such as beautification, support for youth groups, neighborhood events such as the yard sales we hold twice every year, etc. Any amounts over \$5 you send to the RCA will be passed on to the RCF. That's what the extra "stars" at the bottom of the RCA/RCF membership forms mean. We will publish a list of all members, and their "stars" in the January/February ECHO.

Conceivably, the RCA could spend money to promote a political candidate. It has never done this, but it could. The RCF can never do this, or even endorse a candidate.

While the RCA and RCF are dedicated to improving (y)our neighborhood, the RCF allows you the opportunity to support your neighborhood financially with tax-deductible contributions. That's the reason it was started, in August 1996. So please, to help our neighborhood and your taxes, contribute more than the \$5 RCA membership. Any amount over \$5 goes to the RCF and is tax-deductible.

RCA Hotline – 24 hours

Call 301-881-2722

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

Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

August 28, 2000 to
October 7, 2000



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

2000-09-12 (Tue) 12:13 pm Anonymous. The correct number for tree maintenance is 240-777-7623. The number in the September ECHO is incorrect. *[Thanks for the correction]*

2000-09-12 (Tue) 7:31 pm Anonymous. There is a commercial truck parked at the bottom of Grayling lane, along with other cars too close to the intersection. Could something be done to correct this problem?

2000-09-13 (Wed) 12:41 pm Katie Evans, calling on behalf of Montgomery County. Trying to promote recycling and want to distribute information. 301-656-7900.

2000-09-18 (Mon) 5:11 pm Anonymous. Yeah, I like the rabbits. They jump around, eat wild strawberries. Enjoy life in the fresh air. Why can't we let them enjoy their lives as we enjoy ours? Rabbits are good.

2000-09-20 (Wed) 11:43 am Traffic on Rockinghorse Road is overwhelmingly excessive during rush hour.

2000-09-21 (Thu) 3:08 pm Franklin Park. Willing to help the RCA. *[Thanks!]*

2000-09-25 (Mon) 3:07 pm Anonymous. 47xx Boiling Brook Parkway. Last weekend, two screen doors were stolen off caller's side property. Also, very poor trash collection service. Trash lids are not placed back on the cans; trash is left over the yard (bad enough) and becomes a mess whenever it rains. Caller calls once a month to complain; why is the trash collection service so poor?

2000-09-25 (Mon) 10:03 pm What is the email address for the RCA? There is a path from Macon Road to Randolph Hills Shopping Center (Katz Supermarket), but caller does not recommend using it after dark. *[RCA's email address is info@randolphcivic.org]*

2000-09-30 (Sat) 12:00 pm Schuylkill Road resident. Wrote letter to school board and others about school boundaries. Caller did not receive a reply.

Three people can keep a secret if two of them are dead.

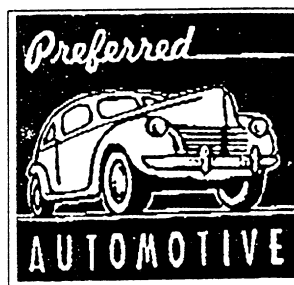
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MCAFCE

by Mary Lee



We will be meeting
at the home of Eleanor
Cregger, November 6th at
7:30 p.m., with Eldred
Clarke helping as hostess.
Eldred and Mary Lee will
be bringing exercise tapes for our program.

Thanks, Judy, for having us for the October meeting.
The bread that you baked was great along with the apple-
cinnamon spread. Sue, the cider and cookies were
yummy also. We finished making the Paint Smocks for
Head Start and made about 60 Halloween magnets for
the Meals on Wheels people. For our workshop, making
Placemats using Christmas cards turned out pretty and
were fun to make.

Just a note – for December, we will be meeting at
Margaret's on December 4th at 6:30 p.m. to make candles
for Meals on Wheels. Also, Margaret has invited us again
for our Christmas Party. We will continue with bringing a
hand-made gift, cookies, and an hors d'oeuvre.

Please have a Happy Thanksgiving!

If you would like to join us, please call Judy Fewell
at 301-770-5540. The MCAFCE programs are open to all
without regard to race, sex, handicap or religion.



Enjoy the recipes!

Peanut Butter Snack Cups (can be frozen)

- 12 vanilla wafers
- 1 8-oz. Cool Whip (thawed) & divided
- 1 cup cold milk
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 3.9-oz. pkg. instant chocolate pudding mix

Place wafers in paper or foil-lined muffin cups. Top
each with 1 teaspoon Cool Whip. In mixing bowl,
combine milk and peanut butter. Add pudding mix;
beat on low speed for 2 minutes. Fold in remaining
Cool Whip. Spoon into prepared cups. Cover and
freeze. Remove from freezer 10 minutes before serv-
ing. 12 servings.

*(Can use light Cool Whip, skim milk, reduced fat
peanut butter and sugar-free chocolate pudding.)*

Root Beer Float Cake

- 1 pkg 18 1/4 oz. White cake mix
- 1 3/4 cup cold root beer, divided
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 envelope whipped topping mix

In a mixing bowl, combine dry cake mix, 1 1/4 cups root beer, oil and eggs. Beat on low speed 2 minutes. Pour into a greased 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking pan. Bake at 350 for 30-35 minutes. Cool completely.

For topping:

In a mixing bowl, combine the whipped topping mix and remaining root beer. Beat until soft peaks form. Frost cake. Store in refrigerator.

Parmesan Corn on the Cob

- 1/4 cup butter (melted)
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 4 ears corn on the cob
- 1/4 cup water
- salt to taste

In a bowl, combine the butter, cheese and Italian seasoning; set aside. Remove husks and silk from corn, place in a shallow microwave-safe dish. Add water. Cover and microwave on high for 10-13 minutes, turning once. Let stand for 5 minutes. Drain. Brush with butter mixture, sprinkle with salt.

Golden Veggie Dip

(encourage the kids to eat their veggies!)

- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese (softened)
- 1/4-cup steak sauce
- 1 tablespoon chili sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon celery salt
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika

In a small bowl, combine all ingredients. Refrigerate until serving. Makes 1 1/2 cups.

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Gardening Tips

Start to bag all lawn clippings. As soil temps drop below 53 degrees, (in mid-November), the grass clippings will not decay until spring (do not add more clippings!).

Nasty unseasoned firewood and mulch are free for the taking from the Bonifant Rd. Landfill in Aspen Hill at 1201 Bonifant Road, open Saturdays, 7 am to 3 pm. Call 301-384-0941.

Clean gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris. Shut off all inside cutoff valves to your outside water spigots. Open the outside spigot to drain the remaining water left in the waterline to prevent freezing and bursting.

Plant spring bulbs now. Just before Thanksgiving, stores will discount their remaining stocks of trees, shrubs, and spring bulbs at tremendous savings to make space for the more lucrative Christmas trees. Fall is the best time to plant most shrubs and trees, though everyone prefers to buy and plant in the spring.

WATERY EYES?? SNEEZING?? WHEEZING??

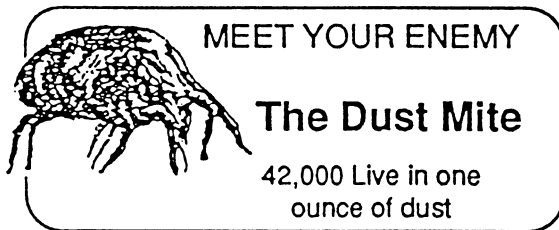
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3. High pressure compressed air is injected into each vent, this air blast pushes the dirt and dust down into the main duct run.
4. After the vents are blown down we take a small tool call the aire sweep and insert it in the main duct runs. The aire sweep moves down the duct run each time air pressure is applied. This action sweeps grime, dirt and dust back to the vacuum hose hookup and into the portable vacuum system.
5. We then air wash the fan blower compartment, plenum, air handling side of the furnace and the a/c coil with air pressure and vacuum.

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Neighborhood Notes

Light Pollution

Suburban planners are becoming aware of increased resistance to excessive lighting at night. "Light trespass," caused by badly directed nightlights, is becoming a neighbor-to-neighbor issue. People do not want lights glaring at them when they sleep.

Fairfax County is working on language that would limit the amount of light thrown off by commercial buildings and homes. Fauquier County supervisors last year passed one of the strictest lighting ordinances in the state, spurred in part by lighting at a local gas station that one supervisor described as a "helicopter landing pad."

Maryland State Delegate Nancy K. Kopp (D-Montgomery) is preparing to introduce measures that would affect lighting levels. She said "This is a matter of concern for reasonable people. This is not something kooky."

What do you think? Call the RCA hotline at 301-881-2722! Light pollution has been low on the RCA agenda, as we are more concerned with traffic congestion, lost open space, and crowded schools.

Crackdown on Street Vendors

A new law allows law enforcement officials to confiscate food, flowers, crafts, and other goods from unlicensed vendors along highways and median strips. Edward Calloway, the County's Investigator for the vendor program, says "It seems like we've had a group of vendors that stand in the median strip selling flowers. We tried an educational approach, but it didn't work. They kept coming back and coming back." If you see vendors selling from the median strip, call Calloway at 240-777-6253 or 310-370-3649.

Critical Randolph Road Crash

An August 28th collision in the 2800 block of Randolph Road raises concerns of excessive speeding. Victoriana Kharman, 51, was pulling out of her driveway onto Randolph at 5:50 pm when two cars struck her car simultaneously. Witnesses told Montgomery County Police that the two male drivers "Took off in a speed contest, side-by-side...It was not a road rage incident." The Police Collision Reconstruction Unit determined the two cars were traveling between 60 and 90 m.p.h., where the speed limit is 35 mph!

Officer Derek Baliles said the Police conduct speed enforcement on Randolph Rd. on a daily basis. He said 250 to 300 tickets are issued each month along Randolph Rd.



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peterarray@netkonnnect.net

Peter Crawford

News from Pack 1081

by *Doneby Smith*



Hello again from Cub Scout Pack 1081! Our summer just flew by with lots of great activities. In June, we had our annual Pack Picnic at Randolph Hills Park and a visit to an authentic Native American Pow Wow re-enactment in Waldorf. **Anthony Gadbois, Matt Fieller, Edward Huggins, Michael Spitler, and Robbie Smith** went camping with the Pack at Little Bennett State Park. **Anthony Gadbois, Edward Huggins, Mark Bushong, Andy Wood, Michael Spitler, Robbie Smith, Johnny Hilderbrand, Oneal Summers, and Matt Ulanow** participated in our Pack Pinecliff camping trip. Our July carwash at the Colonial Shell station (thank you!) on Randolph Road turned out some clean cars, wet boys (**Matt Fieller, Galen Miley, Anthony Gadbois, Gregory Gadbois**) and even some cash for future outings. August events were two "Baseball Scout Nights": one at the Bowie Baysox, complete with fireworks, and the other at the Frederick Keys.

Camping with other Packs was an important part of our summer too. **Tommy Rivas** attended Webelos Camp Akela in Bethesda. Despite a severe thunderstorm the first night, the following boys had a fun and adventure-filled five days at Camp Tuckahoe near Dillsburg, PA: **Anthony Gadbois, Galen Miley, John Pitkin, Frederick Aglugub, Mark Bushong, Russell Cando, Edward Huggins, and Andy Wood**. These first- and second- year Webelos earned many pins there including Athlete, Craftsman, Sportsman, Naturalist, Sports Pin for Swimming, Aquanaut, and Forester. A few hardy Scouts earned the Polar Bear Swim Award for fearlessly facing the chilly lake waters before breakfast.

This Fall got off to a good start. We dodged the rain and completed all the events of our annual September Physical Fitness Day at Wheaton HS. All participating boys received awards. At our first Pack meeting, we all came together again and greeted over 15 new faces

including Tigers scouts **Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Alexander Taylor, Diego Plazas, Diego Vellejas, Gregory Gadbois, Jaccen Schairer, Jake Blakely, Joshua Hart, Kyle Arey, Milton Fleming, Rickey McCombs, Tommy Shaw, and Dwayne Remillard**. Welcome to Cub Scouting! The highlight of our Fall camp-out at Jellystone Park was the evening hayride and campfire.

We're kicking off our annual fund-raisers, too. Look for our Cub Scouts selling Trails End popcorn in your neighborhood. The money we raise supports both Pack and District Scout activities, so please consider purchasing one of these tasty items this Fall. For more info on our Pack please visit websites:

<http://www.yalich.com/pack1081/>

<http://hometown.aol.com/jph3190/1081.html>

Troop 1083 News

by *Brian McGahey*

In October we are going to Camp Sunshine for Jamboree on the air and a bike trip. JOTA is an amateur radio where Scouts from all over the world talk to each other. The bike trip is preparation for our November trip on the C&O Canal. In December we will be selling Christmas trees at the Masonic Temple in Kensington. Also in December, Santa will be riding the fire truck, probably on December 17. **BUY A TREE! THANK YOU.**

If you are a boy who is at least 11 years old and want to join the fun, we meet every Monday night, when school is in session, at 7:30 p.m. at Viers Mill Elementary School. Or call Mr. McGahey at 301-770-7882.

Wheaton High School

by *Marilyn Couture*

Hello fellow RCA'ers. My name is Marilyn Couture. I am a Randolph Hills resident and the Wheaton High School PTSA Treasurer. I hear and read a lot of things about Wheaton, at the RCA meetings, via email, and in the newspapers. I know that many RCA residents are in favor of having the school boundaries changed to have all our kids in the same cluster and I'm in full agreement with that because it does make sense. Unfortunately, it's probably not going to happen too soon, and as a mother of two Wheaton students, I feel the need to interject some positive aspects about the school. Henceforth this article. I volunteered (one of my weaker moments!) to contribute articles to the ECHO, be they large or small, most likely small, just to let you residents know that there are people aware of the problems facing Wheaton and they are trying to correct them.

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One of the problems is the overcrowding. Renovations have started to add 18 classrooms and other core improvements to alleviate overcrowding and make the atmosphere of the school more conducive to learning. These renovations are scheduled to be completed by August 2001.

Of course the biggest problem is the low test scores. Dr. Frank Critton, Wheaton's principal for the last two years, and his staff are working hard to correct this problem. Through the Federal Comprehensive School Reform program, Wheaton has received monies via a Challenge Grant from the State. These monies are used for specific programs targeted in the Grant. They are based on a model called High Schools That Work used by the Southern Regional Education Board (www.sreb.org). Some of the Wheaton teachers, staff and parents have attended workshops through this program to improve teaching skills and implement programs to assist students in learning. Some programs that have been instituted this school year are the after school Homework Center, the after school Science Tutorial and the Saturday Academy. Other programs offered at the school are the National Honor Society Tutoring, After School Computer Labs, Math Tutorial Program, RAP (Reaching Academic Potential), an after school tutorial aimed at 9th graders who are failing certain subjects, the Shadowing Program and evening guidance hours for parents. Last year the

KnightLine, a newsletter for 9th grade parents to promote parental awareness and involvement, was implemented. Dr. Critton's theme for the school is R.E.A.C.H. which stands for Responsibility, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Cooperation and Harmony. To learn more about these programs, call the school at 301-929-2050.

So as you can see, there are some good things going on at Wheaton. If you have a child that is currently attending Wheaton or will be, and would like to learn more about the school, please join us at our PTSA meetings that are held every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in the Media Center at the school.



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RCA EVENTS!

RCA General Meeting, October 5th

Special Guest: District 1 Councilman Howard Denis



▲ Residents listen intently to Mr. Denis.



◀ Mr. Howard Denis speaks to RCA membership.

RCA Community Yard Sale, October 7th

at Loehmann's Plaza



◀ Vendor tables are easily visible to drivers along Randolph Road.



▲ The RCA food booth is a popular stop. That's Richard Zierdt (in jacket) and Jack Stillwell manning the grill.

Yard Sale photos by Steve Poretz.

RCA Community Picnic, September 23rd

at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center. Free food!



▲ Free hamburgers, hot dogs, sodas and chips were charcoal grilled for the RCA's annual fall Picnic. The conversation was light, and roads and schools were a favorite topic. Matt Shore (RCA Vice-president), Richard Zierdt (Treasurer) and Kevin Kline (Secretary) were on-hand.



◀ RCA President Jack Stillwell has his face painted, courtesy of Loehmann's Plaza, as daughter Casey looks on.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

WANTED: Zeiss binoculars in good condition. Prefer 7 x 35 or 8 x 40. Call 301-984-2579.

FOR SALE: One white wood with Wedgwood blue trim girl's bedroom set. Includes headboard, 4 drawer dresser and bed frame. Price \$75. Also have a 36 inch kitchen table (incl. 12 inch leaf) and 4 chairs. Color is Almond. Goes well in Randolph Hills or Franklin Park kitchen. Price is \$50. Finally, have 1 gold anodized aluminum with tempered glass shower doors. First class set will fit Franklin Park bathtubs. Price \$45.00. Don't like the price, make offer. Phone 301-468-9268.

82 YAMAHA 750 VIRAGO MOTORCYCLE.

Completely restored, garage kept. Many new parts. Asking \$1500. Call John, 301-770-1716.

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Did You Get Your Echo?

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

The next Echo will be the December 2000 issue.
Look for it in early December.



Important Phone Numbers



Police: Non-Emergency	301-279-8000
<i>(Police Reporting Areas (PRA): Franklin, Montrose Park: #306; Westminster, Randolph Farms: #308; Randolph Hills 1st & 2nd sections #308; Randolph Hills 3rd section: #309)</i>	
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	301-279-1591
Police: Emergency	.911
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3600
Animal Control	301-279-1823
Building Permits	240-777-6200
Consumer Affairs	240-777-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	301-315-4000
Department of Natural Resources	800-442-0708
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Resources	240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	240-777-0744
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3600
<i>(use this number for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Hours, etc.	240-777-0002
Telephone Reference	240-777-0001
Metrotrans and Metrobus schedules & info.	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	301-279-1823
Emergencies only	301-279-1694
Volunteer Info	301-279-1026
Licensing Dept.	301-279-1249
Motor Vehicle Administration	301-948-3177
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance	240-777-7700
<i>(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)</i>	
Parking Violations	240-777-8960
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out	toll free 1-877-737-2662
Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)	240-777-3986
RCA Hotline	301-881-2722
Recycling Info	240-777-6400
Recreation Information	240-777-6804
School Information	301-279-3391
Senior Citizens	301-468-4443
Street Light Out	240-777-2190
Transportation	240-777-6723
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)	240-777-7433
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Tree Maintenance	240-777-7623
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-8000
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-6400



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

Home Sales Settled Since August 31, 2000

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy	DOM	
4905 Ertter Drive	\$219,500	\$219,500	\$0	2	Sold by Denise
12000 Galena Road	\$199,500	\$199,500	\$4,000	17	
12213 Hunters Lane	\$194,500	\$192,500	\$0	23	
11510 Monongahela Ct.	\$192,000	\$194,000	\$5,820	1	Sold by Denise
11212 Troy Road	\$174,900	\$174,900	\$5,200	2	Sold by Denise
11214 Troy Road	\$179,500	\$176,500	\$0	19	Sold by Denise
10911 Troy Road	\$179,900	\$180,000	\$2,000	2	Sold by Denise
4812 Wilwyn Way	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$0	49	

Homes Under Contract...

Address	List Price
11215 Ashley Drive	\$165,000
11407 Grayling Lane	\$195,000**
4810 Macon Road	\$172,000
11818 Old Drovers Way	\$150,000
11418 Schuylkill Road	\$169,900**
4904 Ertter Drive	\$249,900

Denise's Recent Listings...

Address	List Price
4705 Oxbow Road	\$195,000
4707 Topping Road	\$189,900

**Listed by Denise

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selling your home
or finding a new one,
please give me a call...
I'd be delighted to help"*

Denise
SZCZUR
301-452-5544



Email: denise.szczur@longandfoster.com