

# The Echo

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

Volume 48, Issue 2

November 2004

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## Upcoming Events

**RCA Executive Meeting**  
Thursday, November 4, 2004  
8:00 p.m.

**RCA General Meeting**  
Thursday, December 2, 2004  
8:00 p.m.

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

## Minutes of the RCA General Membership Meeting

**October 7, 2004**

*by Richard Zierdt*

Meeting is called to order by RCA Vice President Mike Saunders at 8:05 pm. Guest: Montgomery County Council member Nancy Floreen.

Minutes from the RCA General Membership meeting of June 3, 2004 are approved.

**Treasurer's report.** RCA treasurer Richard Zierdt discusses his report as printed in the September/October *Echo*. With additional deposits from membership, the total assets of the RCA and RCF are over \$20,000. A proposed budget for 2004-05 is distributed and approved. The new and replacement RCA signs will cost about \$3000 [the RCA received insurance money last year for the replacements]. Ms. Floreen notes that the County does have some funding for neighborhood beautification. The RCA took advantage of this program about seven years ago. A new application would be warranted.

**Parks.** Frank Rossomondo reports on the ongoing situation with local parks in general, and the Randolph Hills park in particular. Problems with excessive parking remain. Large, organized groups are too much for the size of this local park. We need to hold Park police to account, and insist on more enforcement. The RCA's position taken last year is for a youth-only, permit-only, park. [Meanwhile, RCA 2nd vice president George Gadbois was attending a meeting about the parks at Piney Branch Park this same evening]. Ms. Floreen offers help through her office as appropriate.

**Odds 'n Ends.** Graffiti is noted on some traffic signs in the neighborhood. There may be Graffiti hotline number that could be listed in the *Echo*. [Editor's Note – see *Important Phone Numbers, Transportation*, on pg 19.]

The robbery of two youths at Hunters and Macon in September, apparently by other youths, has resulted in two arrests.

Janis Brown has offered to write an Etiquette and Manners column for the *Echo*. Her offer is warmly received.

**Affordable housing.** Ms. Floreen describes the lack of affordable housing in the County (particularly in the down-county) and various bills currently before the Council to address this issue. It is noted that Rockville Pike is home to many apartments. One issue of import to the RCA is a proposal to change the way accessory apartments are approved. Accessory apartments are housing accommodations in a detached home, with a separate entrance and separate cooking and living areas. Currently, they are allowed by special exception only, where a home owner applies for an

*(continued on page 3)*

# RCA Executive Committee for 2004-2005

## OFFICERS

### President

Matthew Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

### Vice President

Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

### 2nd Vice President

George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

### Secretary

Kevin Kline  
4808 Randolph Road  
301-230-1486

### Treasurer

Richard Zierdt  
4707 Coachway Drive  
301-881-0283

### Directors

Jack Stillwell  
5106 Macon Road  
301-231-4934

Frank Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

Frank Rossomondo  
11611 Ashley Drive  
301-770-7450

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Echo Editor

Eileen White  
11225 Ashley Drive  
301-984-2579

### Echo Advertising

Mauro Biondo  
11508 Monongahela Court  
301-770-7590

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(continued)

### Membership

Carol Brown  
4615 Olden Road  
301-770-7440

### Environment

Jack Stillwell  
5106 Macon Road  
301-231-4934

### Education

Elinor Walker  
12111 Galena Road  
301-468-6335

### Yard Sale Signs

Lorena Segura  
4802 Macon Road  
301-984-8727

### Special Projects

Kim and Cary Williams  
4710 Topping Road  
301-881-4554

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

### Scout Leader, Troop 1083

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

### Cub Master, Pack 1081

George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

### Scout Liaison

Frank Rossomondo  
11611 Ashley Drive  
301-770-7450

### Scout Unit Commissioner

Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

### Girl Scout Leader, Troop 1487

Pat Hart  
4905 Randolph Road  
301-230-2740

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

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

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

## MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):

Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964  
email: [Councilmember.Denis@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Denis@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Mr. Denis's aide: Ken Hartman

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

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 Legislative District 18

(representing all of RCA):

Senator: Sharon M. Grosfeld 301-858-3137

Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181

John Hurson 301-858-3770

Richard Madaleno Jr. 301-858-3130

Montgomery County Delegation Office:

All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8:

Christopher Van Hollen 202-225-5341

email: [chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov](mailto:chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov)

U.S. Senate:

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654

Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

Election Precinct:

04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 240-777-8500

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

## RCA General Meeting

(continued from page 1)

exception, and where neighbors must be heard in a hearing [where a sign is posted on the property for several weeks announcing the hearing, etc]. Instead, the proposal would change this to regulated use, that is, an applicant would apply for the accessory apartment, and if a series of requirements is met, the apartment would be granted. No public hearing would be required. Some fear such a system would lead to excessive use.

**Ballot Questions.** The three County ballot questions are discussed, but no votes are taken. Ms. Floreen believes none of the questions are necessary; RCA treasurer Zierdt had a column in favor in the last *Echo*.

Thanks are extended to Nancy Floreen for attending and participating for the entire meeting. We believe this is a first for any elected official. ■

## Park and Youth Field Concerns at Randolph Hills Local Park

On Thursday, October 7 (same night as the RCA general membership meeting), the following civic groups had representatives that met at the Long Branch Recreation Center to discuss community action relative to the irresponsible use of our park fields by some adult soccer groups and the associated future Parks Department policy on this matter: Olney Civic Association, Viers Mill N.A., Randolph Civic Association and Long Branch N.I.

The collective concerns and action ideas were then passed on to Carolyn Wainwright (the MOCO Park & Planning Department Permit Coordinator) on Friday after the meeting to obtain feedback as well as to get news and meeting information she may have. The following is the news and schedule-related information she provided:

### July 2004:

MOCO Park and Planning staff prepared an internal recommendation to the Planning Board (based on community letters) that a new policy be created making all Soccer Field use "by Permit Only" (only the MOCO PPD Planning Board can make changes to MOCO Park/Planning Department policies).

### Aug/Sep 2004:

After forwarding the staff recommended policy change to the Planning Board, the Board members asked Park staff to identify what other solutions the public may have that are different from the staff recommendation. The situation that will be posed to the public for response will indicate that parks next to neighborhoods are experiencing a range of problems associated with soccer games. It will further indicate that these

problems are believed caused by both players and spectators and that the problems involve parking, noise, trash, alcohol, public urination, disrobing, fights, overuse of fields, etc.

### Oct. 2004:

The Park Staff is currently setting up to take comments and solutions to the soccer problem. The public will have 3 options to provide comments and solutions: at 3 public hearings, online at their website, and in letters directly to the Planning Board. One meeting/hearing each will be held at the Long Branch Recreation Center, a location around Kensington, and a location in Upper Montgomery County. They will be from 7:00-9:30 in the evenings, dates are still to be determined. Individuals will be given 3 minutes to testify, groups will be given 5 minutes to testify.

### Oct/Nov 2004

After receiving public comment, the Parks staff will modify their recommendation as needed and forward their final recommendation to the Planning Board. After receiving the final staff recommendation, the Planning Board will hold a formal public hearing at which time the public can testify again.

Ms. Wainwright's advice to our civic groups is to take advantage of each of the 3 opportunities for public input to

(continued on page 4)



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## Park and Youth Field Concerns

(continued from page 3)

repeat our requests. Parks staff will gauge support (or lack thereof) for their own recommendation, or an alternative, by the number of times a solution or comment is offered. She suggests:

- Getting as many people to testify at each of the 3 meetings to propose common solutions.
- Write a civic group letter to each of the Board members.
- Testify at the final Board Hearing.

Public solutions to be proposed should ideally reinforce the staff recommendations in the following areas:

- field use by permit only (to allow accountability and enforceability)
- compliance monitoring through a volunteer park monitor program
- cost savings through reduced maintenance and clean-up costs
- current automated online and phone permit system can be expanded easily to support additional permit activities.

The idea of a security deposit was mentioned to her and she thought it was a good idea but said it wasn't in the staff proposal.

The RCA will consider drafting a comprehensive statement of concern along with a draft solution, in concert with the other groups and similar to the Park staff's, and then have as many interested residents as possible testify with it at each of the meetings, and send it as a letter to each board member. Ms. Wainwright seemed to imply that the Parks staff was looking for the number of citizens seeking a common solution. Information on names of Board members and mailing addresses can be found at: <http://www.mc-mncppc.org>. ■



## Fire Damages Randolph Medical Center

Our crack RCA reporters saw it first (see photo), but here's an article from our local paper.

*From the Bethesda Gazette,  
Wednesday, October 13, 2004*

### Fire causes \$3.5M in damage to medical center

by Liza Gutierrez

A fire at the Randolph Medical Center on Sunday morning caused approximately \$3.5 million in damages, according to county fire officials.

Fire officials determined the fire was accidental, stemming from an exhaust fan in the third-floor bathroom of the three-story building at 4701 Randolph Road in Rockville, Department of Fire and Rescue Services spokesman Capt. Oscar A. Garcia said.

The building was unoccupied and there were no civilian injuries, Garcia said. One firefighter suffered a shoulder injury and was treated and released, he added.

Nearly 60 firefighters arrived on the scene shortly after 11 a.m. and it took 20 minutes to control the fire and an additional hour to extinguish hot spots on the roof as the fire spread to that area, Garcia said.

Structural damages are estimated at \$1.5 million, with \$2 million in content damages.

The building sustained electrical and water damage, including destruction to parts of the roof, and remains unoccupied, Garcia said.

*[reprinted by permission]*

In addition, the *Washington Post* reported that "Fire officials were called to 4701 Randolph Rd. about 11:05 a.m. after a passerby saw heavy smoke and flames coming from the building. It took about 60 firefighters only 20 minutes to bring the fire under control, but officials said that damage to the building and its contents was extensive." ■



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## Treasurer's Report *by Richard Zierdt*

As of October 9, 2004, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$20,658.74. Because I did not have the May bank statement for the treasurer's report last month, I estimated the Verizon bill for April. The May statement has been received, and my records updated: We ended up with 34 cents more (for those interested, the RCA balance on 8/21 was reported as 11,097.66 in the September *Echo*). The RCF statements are fine.

I have enrolled in internet banking for both accounts. This allows me to check our accounts and balances on an up-to-the day basis, instead of having to wait for the paper statement in the mail (which still comes).

We will spend about \$3000 in new signs this year, \$9,000 in *Echo* production and distribution (November-June), and \$4000 in SAM's memberships, so the \$20K balance we have now will be needed throughout the year. Still, RCA/RCF reserves are at all-time highs. Thanks to all who contribute, and to all the businesses that advertise in the *Echo*. ■

RCA Checking Register					
08/21/2004 through 10/09/2004					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		<b>BALANCE 08/21/2004</b>			<b>11,098.00</b>
08/23		Suntrust Bank statement:	11,098.00 (comment)		11,098.00
08/24		Randolph Civic	—SPLIT—	546.00	11,644.00
		inc:advertising	Motor Works	476.00	
		inc:advertising	Mary Kay	70.00	
08/31		Randolph Civic	—SPLIT—	1,707.00	13,351.00
		inc:advertising	Denise Szczur, R.E	1,200.00	
		inc:advertising	Preferred Auto	272.00	
		inc:advertising	Peter Crawford, R.E.	235.00	
09/01	733	Postmaster - Reston	1340 37c stamps	-495.80	12,855.20
09/02	734	Quick Printing	—SPLIT—	-1,260.00	11,595.20
		ECHO:printing	Sept ECHO, 24 pgs	-1,130.00	
		membership	1500 envelopes	-130.00	
09/16	E-xfr	Verizon	Aug 22 telephone	-24.25	11,570.95
09/18	735	Boy Scout Troop 1083	ECHO delivery	-960.00	10,610.95
09/23		Randolph Civic	Dr. Dave Schultz	140.00	10,750.95
09/23		Suntrust Bank statement	balance 11,710.95 [comments]		10,750.95
10/01		Randolph Civic	294 memberships	4,900.00	15,650.95
10/01		Randolph Civic	—SPLIT—	841.00	16,491.95
		inc:advertising	Sara Prue	5.00	
		inc:advertising	Martha Seigel	5.00	
		inc:advertising	Julie Martinelli	15.00	
		inc:advertising	Loehmann's Plaza	816.00	
10/04		Randolph Civic	Parcel Plus	100.00	16,591.95
10/05	736	Montgomery County	Park rental - 1 year	-185.00	16,406.95
10/08		Suntrust Bank Internet	balance 17,366.95 [comments]		16,406.95
10/09		Randolph Civic	75 members	1,212.00	17,618.95
10/09		Randolph Civic	135 members	2,578.00	20,196.95
		<b>BALANCE 10/09/2004</b>			<b>20,196.95</b>
		Suntrust Bank statement Sept 23, 2004: 11,710.95			

**RCF Checking Register**  
08/21/2004 through 10/09/2004

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		<b>BALANCE 08/21/2004</b>			<b>1,340.48</b>
08/12	1068	Electric Web Ave	Troop1083.org	-192.00	1,148.48
08/31		interest receive	.10%	0.10	1,148.58
09/18	1069	Boy Scout Troop 1083	donation	-400.00	748.58
09/25	1070	Kim/Cary Williams	Food, Community picnic	-286.87	461.71
09/30		interest received	.10%	0.08	461.79
		<b>BALANCE 10/09/2004</b>			<b>461.79</b>
		<i>RCF bank balance, Sept 30, 2004: 841.79</i>			

**Total RCA+RCF cash assets**

**20,658.74**

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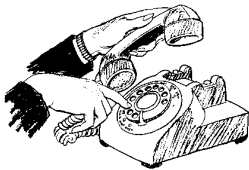
## The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722  
(2RCA)

**Calls Received**  
**August 21, 2004 to**  
**October 10, 2004**

*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.*

We had a, ahem, little disaster with the recording tape on the RCA hotline. After buying some "bargain"



tapes, they turned out to prove why they were so priced. The messages on the hotline from August 21 to October 10, 2004 were so garbled as to be unlistenable. We use micro cassettes on a two-tape recording machine. This allows maximum recording time, and a tape record of all calls. Some of our residents are rather verbose, so the recording time is important.

If you called during that time, please call back. Sorry...

One message could be deciphered somewhat:

**2004-xx-xx (Wed)** A woman called about cars parked on the grass (I think). From what we can tell, this is not illegal. It is legal to park a car in your yard. It looks unattractive, does nothing for the neighborhood, but it's legal. However, if the car is parked long enough to ruin the grass, it becomes a code-enforcement issue, as does a car with no or expired tags. Parking on the grass between the side-

walk and the street falls under parking regulations (since this area is within the street's right-of-way), but it's not clear if this is illegal or not. ■



**Miguel Mendes**  
Loan Officer  
Falo Portuguese

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## DVDs for our Troops - Update

Dear Neighbors,

You have come through!! Thank you for your DVDs and checks for our wounded soldiers. We are still collecting new or used DVDs and money for DVDs. Actually, if we receive enough money, we will purchase a portable DVD player to send along with the DVDs. Once again, you can drop the DVDs at the Rabinovitz house at 4815 Ertter Drive, Rockville, Md. (Franklin Park). We still have a long way to go to reach 200, but we still have until December.

Stacy Rabinovitz  
301-881-9049

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

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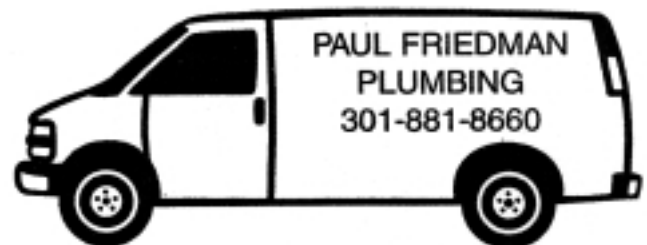
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# Plenty to buy at the RCA Community Yard Sale...

Saturday,  
October 2, 2004

*Despite less than  
ideal weather, the  
RCA Community  
Yard Sale had a  
good turnout.*



*Our balloon artist/clown  
creates interesting balloon  
sculptures for the kids. (left)*

*A wide variety of goods were  
offered. (below)*





*A face (and arm!) painter decorates some young visitors (left), while RCA Secretary Kevin Kline displays an ambitious balloon hat. (below)*



*Kevin mans the grill and serves up some tasty burgers at the RCA Community picnic.*



***...and plenty to eat at  
the RCA Picnic!***

***Saturday,  
September 25,  
2004***

***See you next year!***



## Black Market Restaurant Opens in Garrett Park

Gourmet Dining, Just Around the Corner

by Eileen White

Ooh, I've been waiting for this. I'd been missing the convenience and ambience of the old Garrett Park Cafe, so I could hardly wait for the new Black Market restaurant to open in the freshly remodeled post office building in Garrett Park. And I must say, it didn't disappoint.

Owned and operated by the same folks that make Addie's on Rockville Pike and Black's Bar and Kitchen in Bethesda such highly respected restaurants, Black Market has an impressive pedigree. Owner Jeff Black has been at this a while, and obviously knows what he's doing. The restaurant is certainly inviting. Tastefully decorated and spotlessly clean, it takes up three rooms on the ground floor of the building, with additional tables outside on the front porch. Service was attentive, and our servers Jennifer and Shanna were very knowledgeable about the menu and a big help in making our selections.

On our first visit, I started with the mixed green salad with citrus champagne vinaigrette, which was wonderful (and I don't even like salad much). Next came an individual Margherita pizza, with fresh mozzarella and basil. Mmmm.

My friend went for the New Orleans style barbecue shrimp over sweet corn and scallion creamy grits, in a wonderful sauce I'm still thinking about. On our next visit, I tried the mussels, which were delicious, and the monkfish special. Very nice. My friend could not resist having the shrimp again. They were that good.

I wish I could report on more of the menu offerings, but I need to make a few more trips. I'm sure in time I'll try everything on the menu – Black Market is one of those rare restaurants where I feel confident that just about anything I order will be great.

Be warned, however, that Black Market is a touch pricey. But you get what you pay for, and those individual pizzas are a very affordable option when you're feeling a budget crunch.

Black Market is located in the Post Office building on Waverly Avenue in Garrett Park. If you're walking, take the hiker-biker path at Waverly-Schuylkill Park (at the intersection of Schuylkill Road and Garrett Park Road) to the top of the hill, cross the railroad tracks, and the Post Office building is on your left. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner, Tuesday through Friday for breakfast, and Saturday and Sunday for brunch (can't wait to try THAT). Call for hours (301-933-3000). They don't take reservations.

How fortunate we are to have Black Market as our new neighbor. As my friend Frank Shore is fond of saying, "cross the tracks and eat at Black's!" ■

# SHIPLEY

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

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

#### Enough is Enough

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

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

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- water leak
- stopped drain
- no hot water

...problems with ease and comfort.

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# Dear Mrs. Brown



Hello neighbors! What do you think when you hear about good manners? Do you find people these days don't have a clue or just don't care? I think many people from all backgrounds are mourning the loss in our society of good manners and basic courtesy. What they are longing for is simply a return to a more respectful world.

Diplomacy, respect for ourselves and others, and general good manners can set one apart no matter what social class from which we hail. Etiquette and polite manners are an element of life that enables individuals to live and work together harmoniously. In fact, I believe civility and consideration as an outward expression of fundamental human decency is more important in today's complex world than ever before.

As children grow up and go out into the world alone to unfamiliar settings, knowing the rules on how to act properly gives them confidence. When one is familiar with the code of behavior for any given occasion, it is easier to relax and concentrate on others rather than yourself. There is a certain satisfaction that comes with putting our best foot forward. Therefore, the emphasis of this column will be on teaching children with a focus on the exceptional influence adults have as role models and teachers of good behavior.

Future articles will include some specific rules of mannerly behavior, such as table manners, tips for writing thank-you notes, basic telephone manners, being a good neighbor, etc. As well, adults are encouraged to send in questions they may have issues with regarding everyday etiquette and the fine points of courteous interactions with other parents and adults. Mail your questions to: **The RCA, Inc, Attn: Dear Mrs. Brown, P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD 20852;** or e-mail: [dearmrsbrown@msn.com](mailto:dearmrsbrown@msn.com)

Questions used in the column may be edited for brevity and clarification.

## Riding the School Bus

It is important to prepare and remind children of all ages how to ride the bus safely. Go over the rules with them and be sure to stress the bus driver and school patrols should be obeyed at all times and treated respectfully.

- **Walk – never run – to and from the bus.**
- **Stand well back from the curb or roadside when waiting for the bus.** Wait until the bus comes to a full stop and the doors open before approaching the bus.

- **Don't sit, lean or otherwise touch cars that are parked at houses near the bus stop location.** Never drop trash or step on flowers and plants.
- **If you drop something near or under the bus, don't pick it up.** Tell the driver what has happened and follow his instructions to retrieve the item.
- **Take a seat and stay seated for the entire ride.** Don't stand up while the bus is in motion and wait until the vehicle has come to a full stop.
- **No yelling, no throwing things, no horseplay, or any behavior that can distract the driver.** Use "little voices" always.
- **No eating or drinking on the bus.** (Parents shouldn't send children off to school with their breakfast.)
- **Hold backpack, lunchbox, books, coat and other items in your lap.** Never put any objects in the aisle or on the floor where others can trip over them.
- **When getting off the bus, stand away from the bus doors until the driver opens them.**
- **Walk away from the bus when preparing to cross in front of it** – far enough in front so that the child can see the driver. (If the child can't see the driver, the driver can't see the child.) Watch the driver and cross only when she/he signals that it is safe. Look both ways before and while crossing the street. Don't run. Always walk. If the driver honks the horn, children in the process of crossing must stop instantly and follow the driver's instructions. Never cross behind the bus.

It's always best to have a responsible adult or older sibling wait for the bus when a younger child is returning from school. In the latter case, make it very clear to the younger sibling that their big sister or brother is in charge. If a number of children wait at the same stop, you may be able to rotate "bus stop" duty with other parents. ■

## RCA Meetings

RCA meetings are held the  
**first Thursday of every month**  
(except January, July and August) at the  
Randolph Hills Recreation Center  
at 8:00 p.m. Usually we alternate between General  
and Executive meetings. If you are unsure about  
meeting times and dates, please call the RCA  
Hotline (301-881-2722) for verification.  
All are welcome at every meeting.

## News from Pack 1081

by George  
Gadbois



After some vigorous recruiting at the Open House and two Back-to-School nights at Viers Mill as well as our special Join Cub Scouting Night on September 16, we're excited to welcome 10 new Scouts. Welcome aboard to: Tigers **Elijah Evans, Conor McGinley** and **Kenneth Mills-Bonhomme**; Wolves **Kyle Baal** and **Adam Levangard**; Bear **Richard Torres**; Webelos I **Maxwell DeMulder** and **Christopher Chalfant-Leal**; Webelos II **Antonio Garcia** and **Scott Levangard**. Pack 1081 is happy to have the new boys and their families on board for the adventure and fun! Special thanks to **Ms. Ana Nava** and **Mr. Jose Hernandez** for providing Spanish translation services for our recruiting. If you are interested in learning more about the Cub Scout program for your 1st – 5th grade son, please stop by Viers Mill ES any Monday evening at 6:30. It's never too late to join!



*Cub Scouts running the 50 yard dash at Physical Fitness Day.*

We had our first Pack meeting of the year on Thursday, September 23rd. Our Webelos shared their Camp Tuckahoe experience with other scouts during the gathering activity before the meeting. Webelos Scouts **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart, AJ Taylor** (in absentia), **Matthew Best, Joshua Murtagh, Brenton Polk, Steve Hernandez** and **Matthew Luong** received their participation patches for attending Camp

Tuckahoe 2004. Special thanks to leaders **Mr. Fred Beam, Mr. Matt Taylor, Mr. Moses Hart, Ms. Lorna Luong, Ms. Kim Polk, Mr. Ed Murtagh** and **Mr. George Gadbois** for giving a week of their time to spend with our Scouts at Camp Tuckahoe. The 1st Year Webelos earned the following Activity Pins over the summer: Aquanaut: **Joshua Murtagh**; Naturalist, Forester and Geologist: **Joshua Murtagh, Brenton Polk, Steve Hernandez, Matthew Loung**; Sports & Academic Pins: Sports: Swimming Pin: **Joshua Murtagh**; 2nd Year Webelos earned: Aquanaut: **Gregory Gadbois**; Forester & Geologist: **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart, AJ Taylor**; Citizen: **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart**; Family Member: **Jake Blakely**; Traveler: **Josh Hart**; Handyman: **Jason Beam & Gregory Gadbois**; Sports & Academic Pins: Sports: Swimming Pin: **Gregory Gadbois**; Webelos Compass Emblem: **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart**; Compass Point: **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart**. Earning the Polar Bear Swim patch at Tuckahoe were **Jake Blakely, Alan Costas** and **AJ Taylor**. Nine of our ten "Tuckahoe

*Cubs at Little Bennett campout guarding their site from the local bears.*



Webelos" then entertained the families with a couple of camp songs including "The Buffalo Dance."

The meeting finished with a few more awards before adjourning. The boys' spring fundraising efforts were recognized: **Chris Mucay, Preston Polk, DJ Terry, Tyler Bochniak, Brad Gessford, Brandon Johnson, Sawyer Kibbe, Steve Hernandez, Matthew Luong, Patrick Owen, Brenton Polk, Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart, Timothy Lim, Dwayne Remillard and AJ Taylor.** The Summertime Award was earned by **Jason Beam, Gregory Gadbois, Steve Hernandez, Matthew Luong, Brenton Polk, Aidan Gibbons and Preston Polk.** And finally, the Recruiter Award was presented to **Jason Beam** for **Conner McGinley** and **Tyler Bochniak & Steve Hernandez** for **Elijah Evans.**

The Pack had a beautiful afternoon on September 26th for our annual Physical Fitness Day at Wheaton High School. Competing was new Tiger **Elijah Evans**; Wolves **Aidan Gibbons, Preston Polk, DJ Terry**; Bears **Tyler Bochniak, Brad Gessford, Sawyer Kibbe, Richard Torres**; Webelos I **Matthew Best, Joshua Murtagh, Brenton Polk, Steve Hernandez, Matthew Luong, Maxwell DeMulder**; Webelos II **Jake Blakely, Alan Costas, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart, Antonio Garcia.** As in previous years, the events included Long Jump, Softball Throw, Push Ups, Curl Ups, 50 Yard Dash and The President's Challenge Activity. Our first place medal winners for most points in their age group were: **Elijah Evans, Preston Polk, Brad Gessford, Brenton Polk, and Joshua Hart.** All the boys received one or more ribbons for the various events. Many red, blue, and yellow ribbons for first, second, third & "Do Your Best" were distributed just before darkness came upon us. All the families enjoyed hot pizza and cold lemonade as awards were handed out. Our thanks to the many parents and leaders who helped make this event special. Special thanks to Den Chiefs **Scott Talbott** and **Anthony Gadbois** from Troop 1083 for assisting. Also thanks to family and friends **Ashley Beam (& Mark), Sarah Katherine Murtagh, Kristy Gessford** and assorted other Scout Leaders and parents for supervising the stations.

The Pack enjoyed a fun fall family campout with gorgeous weather at Little Bennett Regional Park on October 8-10. We had representation from four of our five dens, with pup-tents to multi-room tents scattered about our group area. The boys enjoyed some informal soccer and football Saturday morning and then took a hike through the trails in the afternoon. After dinner on Saturday, the boys made "camp" ice cream and then enjoyed toasted marshmallows and other treats around the campfire. Cub Scouts attending the Family Camping weekend included **Aidan Gibbons, Tyler Bochniak, Sawyer Kibbe, Matthew Best, Patrick Owen, Steve Hernandez, Maxwell DeMulder, Christopher Chalfant-Leal, Jason Beam** and **Gregory Gadbois.**

*(continued on page 16)*

## ARMAND'S

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## Troop 1083 News

by Jaime Todaro

In September, we held our Fall Court of Honor. Eighty-one merit badges and 12 rank advancements were awarded. Initially we planned to camp-out at Parklawn Park, but remnants of Hurricane Ivan provided too much of a threat.

Our October campout was at Greenbrier State Park. Scouts in attendance: **Kyle Blakely, Alex Cassel, Matt Fieller, Edwin Fuentes, Anthony Gadbois, Johnny Hilderbrand, Scott Johnson, Galen Miley, John Pitkin, Scott Talbot, David Turish.** Cub scout **Jake Blakely** also attended! The adults/leaders who accompanied our scouts were: **Bill Blakely, Richard Fieller, Brian McGahey, Ben Pitkin, Greg Skolnik, Dave Talbot.**

We have some newly earned merit badges to report, including: Electricity - **Alex Cassel.** Environmental Science - **Bubba Hart, Edward Huggins, John Pitkin.** Rank advancements, which measure significant progress in areas of leader-

ship, responsibility, and spirit, include: Star Rank - **David Turish.** Life Rank - **Alex Cassel, Bubba Hart.**

Our annual holiday tree sale will be held at the Masonic Lodge, on the corner of Knowles and Beach Drive, from 9 am to 4 pm on the following dates: November 27th and 28th, and December 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th.

Upcoming events include hiking, camping, the Klondike Derby and skiing. 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 Elementary School. Or call Scoutmaster Dave Talbot at 301-881-6567. Check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org).

Don't forget to look for Santa, who will be riding through our neighborhood accompanied by his helpers on Sunday, December 19th!

Reminder: Scouts will be "scouting for food" on Saturday, November 13th to benefit the Washington Area Food Bank. Please leave non-perishable items on your stoop, in bags that will be delivered to your home. We will begin collection at 9 am. ■

## Support Your Local Boy Scouts

### Troop 1083 Selling Christmas Trees



Corner of Knowles and Howard Ave.  
Just East of Beach Drive

#### Saturday and Sunday

November 27 & 28

December 4 & 5

December 11 & 12

December 18 & 19

Time 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Free Local Delivery



### Pack 1081

(continued from page 15)

Popcorn fall fundraiser is in full swing, so look for our Cub Scouts in your neighborhood selling popcorn. Proceeds support our Pack and District activities. Also note that Scouting for Food bags are delivered with this *Echo* edition and food pickup will be done by Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts on Saturday morning, November 13. Please be generous. Your food donations go to help Manna of Montgomery County. Visit our website location for more Pack 1081 news and pictures: <http://hometown.aol.com/pack1081>. ■

*Comments on topics concerning the neighborhood? Call 301-881-2722*

**RCA Hotline – 24 hours**



MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DIVISION

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ?  
DRUG USE ?**

**CALL THE PARK POLICE  
EMERGENCY: (301) 949-3010  
NON-EMERGENCY: (301) 949-8010**



## Tips on Composting

*from the Montgomery County Div. of Solid Waste Services*

Think outside the bin – the blue bin, that is. This Fall, expand your recycling efforts to the yard! Gather the tools at no cost: pick up a free compost bin at your local Regional Service Center, add leaves from your yard, and sprinkle in some “greens” (grass, etc.) if you like. Moisten, mix, and look forward to the composted result, a wonderful soil conditioner for lawns and gardens. Use of compost is also an excellent way to improve poor soils while protecting the environment from synthetic fertilizers and chemicals. While you may begin composting at any time of year, Fall is particularly ideal.

While companies are eager to sell compost stimulating powders and potions, one simple way to encourage the composting process is to shred leaves into smaller pieces. Attach the catch bag to your mower, and run over the leaves – the smaller bits have a greater surface area, giving composting microbes more places to work.

For a list of compost bin locations, please visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste) or call 240-777-6400.

For tips on getting started with composting: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep).

For more information about recycling and solid waste in Montgomery County:  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste);  
[recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov);  
240-777-6410; TTY: 240-777-6442



### Fall Leaves and Winter Snow: Here's Your Help

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

**Andrew Souder** 301-770-7632 Ashley Drive  
**Matt Bebawy** 301-881-4698 Red Fox  
**Alex Cassel** 301-770-8757 Macon Road  
**Steven Santos** 301-468-1756 Wilwyn Way  
**Chris Geerman** 301-230-1386 Ashley Drive  
**Mark Bushong** 301-942-5890 Bennion Road  
**Andy Wood** 301-946-4634 Idlewood Road  
**Moses (Bubba) Hart** 301-230-2740

### Need Babysitting Services?

**Casey Stillwell** 301-231-4934 Macon Road

To find more RCA information go to  
<http://www.randolphcivic.org>  
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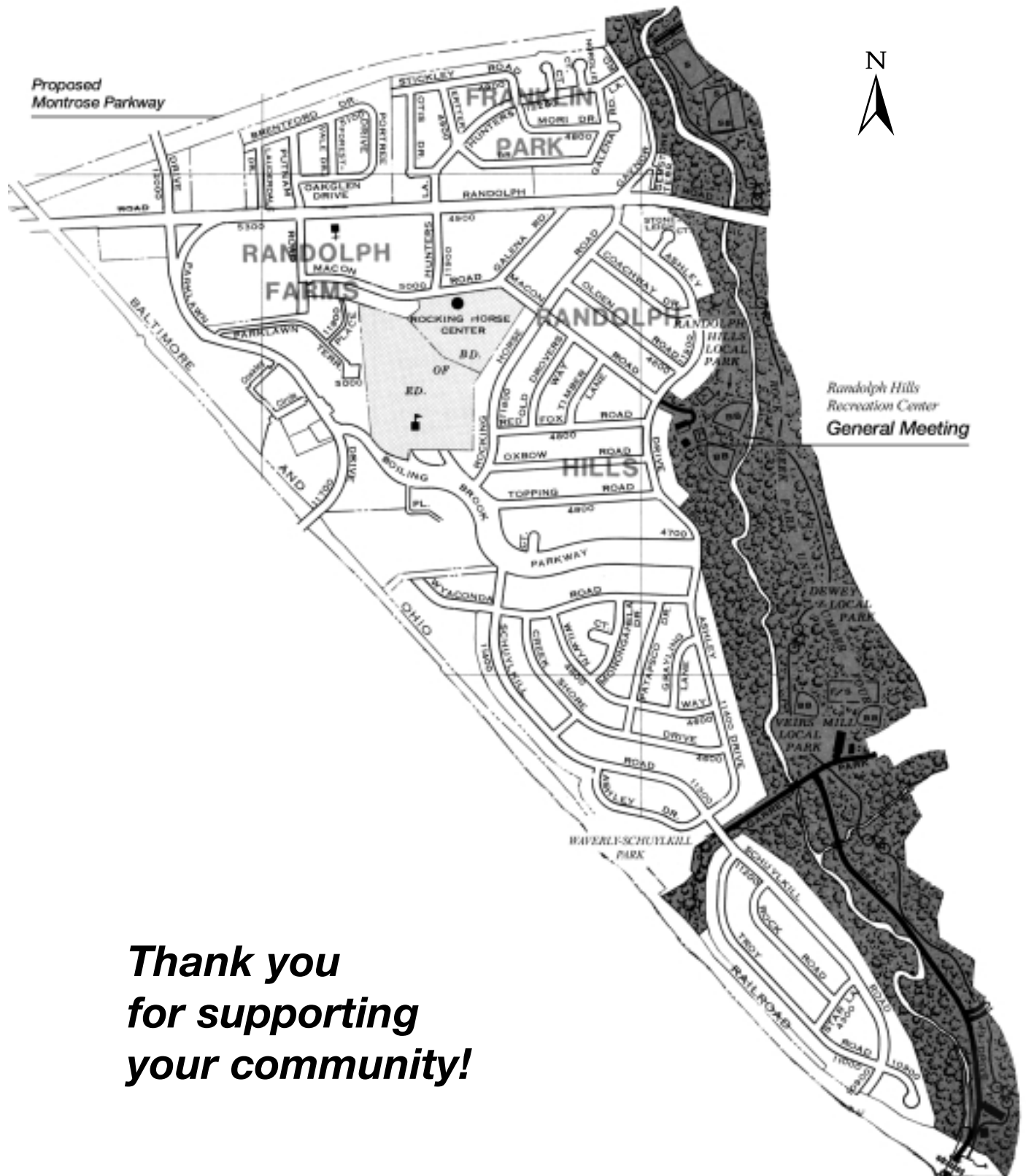
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DENTIST



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for supporting  
your community!***

## 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.*

**FOR SALE.** Sofa, 3 seats, Dacron cushions. Price: \$150.00. 11509 Monongahela Drive, 301-770-7468.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** needed for Mailing and Shipping store in Rockville. Computer experience. Good communications skills. Full time and part time position available with flexible days and hours. We will train. Fax resume (301) 816-0491.

**WATERCOLOR CLASSES.** Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, informal classes for adults. All levels welcome, including complete beginners. Held in teacher's Victorian home. Martha Seigel, MFA, the American University, 23 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

**KINDERMUSIK at L&L Music Wind Shop.** The world's most respected name in musical learning for children. You and your child will participate together in every step of the learning process – music skills to academic skills to life skills. Classes available for newborn to 3 years old. Call 301-948-7273 to learn about free preview classes and semester schedules.  
**PRIVATE FLUTE LESSONS** ranging from the new beginning band student to the adult student returning after several years. The Fall is a great time to try something new! All ages and experience welcome. Professional flute teacher with 7+ years experience, available for teaching lessons in home studio for ages 8 and up. Lessons include music theory and history, and recital opportunities. Call Julianne Martinelli (301) 881-8969 for scheduling.

**AUNTIE SARA'S ANIMAL CARE.** Long and short term care – walking, playing, administering meds, boarding. 301-468-6310.

**Support your Community.  
Join the RCA!  
Still only five dollars!**

**Note to Contributors:**  
The deadline for the December issue of the *Echo* is Saturday, November 6th.



## 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 &amp; 2nd sections #308; Randolph Hills 3rd section: #309)</i>	
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	301-279-1591
Police: Emergency	911
Park Police	301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuykill Parks)</i>	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3600
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6200
Consumer Affairs	240-777-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	301-315-4000
Department of Natural Resources	800-442-0708
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Resources	240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	240-777-0744
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3600
<i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Hours, etc.	240-777-0002
Telephone Reference	240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info.	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	240-773-5960
Emergencies only	240-773-5900
Licensing Dept.	240-773-5946
Motor Vehicle Administration	1-800-950-1682
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance	240-777-7700
<i>(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)</i>	
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out	toll free 1-877-737-2662
Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Post Office, Rollins Ave., Rockville	301-231-5973
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)	240-777-3986
RCA Hotline	301-881-2722
Recycling Info ( <a href="http://www.mcrecycles.org">www.mcrecycles.org</a> )	240-777-6400
Recreation Information	240-777-6804
School Information	301-279-3391
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)	301-468-4448
Street Light Out	240-777-2190
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Transit Information Center ( <a href="http://www.dtwp.com">www.dtwp.com</a> )	240-777-7433
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Tree Maintenance (ask for county arborist)	240-777-7623
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-8000
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-6400

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



### **Neighborhood Home Sales Settled Since August 2004**

Address	Orig Price	Sold Price	Dom	Address	Orig Price	Sold Price	Dom
11319 Schuylkill Road	\$330,000	\$330,000	2	4903 Stickley Road	\$374,900	\$380,000	20
4710 Red Fox Road	\$340,000	\$338,000	5	11213 Troy Road	\$379,000	\$386,000	16
4701 Topping Road	\$339,000	\$339,000	18	12215 Hunters Lane	\$400,000	\$390,000	62
11830 Rocking Horse	\$340,000	\$345,100	2	11108 Schuylkill Road	\$399,900	\$390,000	9
11003 Schuylkill Road	\$350,000	\$350,000	21	12114 Hunters Lane	\$399,900	\$400,000	21
4700 Creek Shore Drive	\$379,900	\$369,900	21	12115 Lauderdale Drive	\$414,900	\$420,000	8
4610 Wilwyn Way	\$369,000	\$375,000	16	12100 Portree Drive	\$419,000	\$435,000	3

*"During your lifetime, an investment in your own home  
is likely to be the best investment you'll ever make.*

*Fifteen years ago, you could purchase a home in Randolph Hills for \$130,000.*

*Since then, prices in the neighborhood have tripled! And guess what?*

*New homeowners are still drawn to the neighborhood by the same features as then...  
a pretty neighborhood, nearly surrounded by parkland, and in a convenient location."*

*When you're ready to buy a new home, or sell your current home,  
give Denise a call.*



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



Email: [denise.szczur@longandfoster.com](mailto:denise.szczur@longandfoster.com)