

# The Echo

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

Volume 50, Issue 2

November 2006

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## Look Out! Speed Cameras in Montgomery County

*by Byron Bloch, Transportation Chairman, Montgomery County Civic Federation*

The State Legislature approved a contentious bill in January, and the first installations of speed cameras have begun, but only here in Montgomery County. An early installation is on Connecticut Avenue NW, between the Chevy Chase Circle and Bradley Boulevard in both directions. If the speed cameras prove successful in Montgomery County, they will likely spread to other counties throughout the state.

Here's how they work. A grey rectangular box houses a radar-controlled camera, mounted on a pole at about street sign height. The posted speed limit must be at 35 mph or below, and some of the early installations will probably be in school zones. If your car exceeds the posted speed limit by at least 10 mph, your car will be automatically ticketed for a \$40 fine. No points will be assessed on your driving record.

Failure to pay the fine can result in the suspension of the license of the car owner even if someone else was driving your car at the time. The legislation removes the presumption that the cited car owner is innocent until proven guilty. The fine is not levied on the person who was driving, but on the owner of the vehicle. You are automatically determined by the camera system to be guilty. There is no system to appeal the citation.

Proponents cite increased safety on residential and near-school streets as a major rationale. The camera manufacturer wants to sell and maintain as many cameras as possible. County officials want to pull in lots of extra revenue by issuing as many tickets as possible. Opponents of the automatic speed cameras point to the automatic presumption of your guilt and lack of a way to appeal the citations. There may be more likelihood of rear-end collisions if cars suddenly slow and impede the traffic flow. On roads with even a slight downslope, many modern vehicles easily and smoothly accelerate a bit so that, in a 25 mph zone, you're at 36 mph before you even know it.... And, bingo, that's an automatic \$40 ticket!

We citizens have a Constitutional First Amendment right to petition the government for a redress of our grievances. Maryland legislators consider this speed camera system an experiment and Montgomery County is the guinea pig. They will wait to gauge citizen response. You and your fellow citizens may want to consider your position... and petition or write accordingly. Do you want this speed camera system or not? ■

*Byron Bloch has been a vehicle safety expert for the past 35 years, and has testified at Congressional Hearings on auto safety issues to help make vehicles safer. His website is [AutoSafetyExpert.com](http://AutoSafetyExpert.com).*

## Upcoming Events

### **RCA Executive Meeting**

Thursday, November 2, 2006, 8:00 p.m.

### **RCA General Meeting**

Thursday, December 7, 2006, 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.

# RCA Executive Committee for 2006-2007

## OFFICERS

**President**  
Open

**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**  
Dell Pillers-Cline  
11403 Ashley Drive  
301-984-7783

**Directors**  
Jack Stillwell  
5106 Macon Road  
301-231-4934

Frank Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

Matthew Shore  
11230 Troy Road  
301-468-1225

## 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**  
John Kehoe  
4814 Red Fox Road  
301-231-4933

**Environment**  
Matt Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

**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**  
Mark Kibbe  
4306 Emden Street  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-946-6393

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

**Scout Unit Commissioner**  
Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

**Girl Scout Leader, Troop 1487**  
Stephanie French  
11012 Schuylkill Road  
301-770-3171

## 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 aides: Ken Hartman, Adrian Lewis, Colleen Lauer

Councilmember: Nancy Floreen 240-777-7959  
email: [Councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Ms. Floreen's aides: Merle Steiner, Joyce McCaffrey

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive: 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

Jane Lawton 301-858-3638

Richard Madaleno Jr. 301-858-3130

Maryland General Assembly Website: <http://mlis.state.md.us>

Montgomery County Delegation Office:  
All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8:  
Christopher Van Hollen 202-225-5341  
email: [chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov](mailto:chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov)

U.S. Senate:  
Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654  
Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

Election Precinct:  
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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 [ewwhitedesign@comcast.net](mailto:ewwhitedesign@comcast.net).

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

Web site: [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)

## Minutes of the RCA General Meeting

by Kevin Kline

October 5, 2006

Vice-President Mike Saunders called the meeting to order, and **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: the General Meeting minutes as published in the May 2006 Echo.** The Treasurer Richard Zierdt briefly discussed the budget, stating that the RCA has \$5,000, but had \$15,000 at this point in time last year. *Echo* advertising revenue is down. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: the Treasurer's Report as published in the May 2006 Echo.**

Park Police Officers Lt. Dave McClintock and Todd Archer were introduced (Officer Archer is a regular at RCA meetings). Lt. McClintock reviewed a years worth of reported incidents that took place in our Rock Creek Local Park. There were 2 cases of vandalism of the recreation building, 1 assault, 1 auto accident, and 2 reported cases of graffiti.

The Lieutenant briefed the RCA on gang activity (but not necessarily in RCA-land). The Lieutenant had a poster photo of actual gang members, highlighting their tattoos that identified which gang they belonged to. Interestingly, MS-13 is only 10% of the gangs state-wide. Other gangs include the Cripps and Bloods – both of which started in Southern California, BGF, and DMS. Racketeering laws that treat gangs as a criminal organization have helped in keeping them disorganized.

In years past, gang members were more open about wearing their "colors," like a red bandanna to identify their gang. Nowadays, they are less conspicuous with their colors, to avoid criminal prosecution. Gang graffiti, especially in peaceful neighborhoods like RCA-land, is likely to have been done by "wannabe's" that are not actually gangsters, but instead just want to scare adults. Lt. McClintock agreed that the best way to fight graffiti is to immediately remove it or paint over it. Kids want to see their graffiti. If it's constantly removed, they will go elsewhere. Park Police enforcement in Randolph Hills Local Park, and soccer fights previously reported in the *Echo* was also discussed.

The Lieutenant discussed traffic enforcement on Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park. Park regulations state that commercial vehicles are banned from Rock Creek Park. If a truck has "commercial markings" it is banned. However, the Park Police have eased their policy of ticketing trucks that appear to be commercial (truck bed racks, tool boxes) but with no company markings, because of the uncertainty of whether they are commercial or private vehicles. The two Park Police Officers were given a round of applause for their continuing efforts to protect our community.

Mike Saunders turned the meeting's attention to Schools. Second Vice-President George Gadbois and Treasurer Richard Zierdt briefed RCAers on the widely reported case of five Whitman High School boys, accused of armed robbery,


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who were dispersed and sent to five different high schools, including one to our very own Wheaton High School. RCA's questions are not intended to re-hash the facts of the matter, but rather to understand MCPS policy regarding out-of-school behavior, how such behavior relates to school attendance, and how Wheaton was chosen as the alternative school for a young man accused of armed robbery. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: for George Gadbois to represent the RCA in bringing our procedural complaints to the School Board's attention.** George may bring the matter up at a Parent-Teacher Forum of the PTA, where School Board officials and candidates will be present.

Matt Tifford, Chair of the Environmental Committee, briefly discussed new playground equipment for Randolph Hills Local Park. Matt has been coordinating an RCA "wish list" for the playgrounds. The Parks are upgrading playground equipment, and the RCA wants to be ready to influence the decision-making process.

Matt said the County Planning Board is seeking volunteers to join an advisory group for the White Flint Sector Plan. White Flint is the area surrounding the White Flint Metro Station on MD 355 south of the city of Rockville. When completed, the new sector plan will provide a new blueprint for future development. The White Flint Sector

(continued on page 4)

## Minutes of the RCA General Meeting

(continued from page 3)

Plan is a sub-part of the North Bethesda/Garrett Park Master Plan that will be revised. A master plan is the document that county government uses to guide the development and use of land, intended to be reviewed and updated every 10-20 years. A sector plan is a more detailed plan of recommendations for particular places such as central business districts or areas immediately surrounding Metro stations.

Three RCA'ers volunteered: Matt, Chad Salganik, and Kevin Kline. Their names will be submitted, and hopefully accepted, by the Planning Board.

A new RCA Treasurer was announced: Dell Pillers-Cline is a former company accountant, and volunteered to take over the Treasurer duties from Richard Zierdt. Richard was given a round of applause for being RCA Treasurer for the past 15 years!

SAMs Club renewals were briefly discussed. The cost of membership is up to \$35 – but that is still a \$5 savings over joining SAMs Club individually. Also, you are permitted in the store during “contractor hours.”

RCAer Karen Helfert, a retired NIH web-site designer, volunteered to manage the RCA website. The RCA gratefully accepts the help of all its volunteers. ■

## RCA to Investigate Municipality

by Richard Zierdt

The RCA Executive Committee, at its next meeting November 2, will appoint an ad-hoc committee to investigate what it would mean for the RCA to become a municipality. If you're interested in this, or if you are against it, feel free to attend.

The idea is *not* to debate the merits of municipality. Instead, the idea is to study what would be good or negative for our neighborhood *if* the RCA incorporated. I think it would actually be good to have at least one person on the committee who starts with a bias against it, so that the committee doesn't miss anything. The committee will study this issue, and deliver a report to the Executive Committee in the spring, which may or may not contain a recommendation.

Again, the RCA is *not* taking a position; there will be no voting at this meeting. ■

## Beach Drive Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

by George Gadbois

Those that use the Garrett Park Road entrance to RCA-land had probably noticed the stepped-up level of commercial vehicle enforcement on Beach Drive by Park Police that occurred recently. The crackdown was reportedly a special project initiative as a result of police observance of an excessive amount of commercial traffic using Beach Drive. The activity was “advertised” by a special portable lit marquee with wording to the effect of “No Commercial Vehicles” and “Strictly Enforced.”

The enthusiasm by some of our Park's Finest extended their discretion to include and cite privately-owned, unmarked vehicles which exhibited evidence of possibly being a “work vehicle.” This came as a surprise to some, especially after the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation representatives recently advised the RCA, that in our quest for a reduction in Rocking Horse Road cut-through traffic, and with the insufficient road infrastructure today, gridlock can only be avoided by increased use of roads like Rocking Horse and Beach Drive for commuter traffic. They implied that quiet neighborhood streets and parkways are a thing of the past. As such, one would question the Beach Drive crackdown in the first place.

Recent discussions with Park officials, including some information shared by our guest speaker (Lt. Dave McClintock) at the October General Meeting, revealed that the strict degree of enforcement to those vehicles that may

(continued on page 6)



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## Beach Drive Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

(continued from page 4)

resemble a work truck will be somewhat relaxed. We provide an excerpt from the Park regulations here to help RCAers understand the commercial vehicle policy:

### Chapter IV Regulation of Traffic:

Section 4. Trucks over 1 Ton, Commercial Vehicles, Buses: Trucks, commercial vehicles (excluding taxicabs and tow trucks on service calls to disabled vehicles on Commission property) with commercial marking or tools of trade and buses shall not be operated on park property except by special permit. [Source: <http://www.mncppc.org/index.cfm?id=1rule>]

It is important to note that the “tools of the trade” clause can be interpreted differently by different people and different officers. Empty ladder racks, for example, had been considered by some as a tool of the trade. Reportedly, the “relaxed” approach should now generally categorize this as truck accessory. The same could apply to trailer hitches and some permanently-installed pick-up truck boxes. Clearly, marked vehicles and those over one ton are a no-no. Non-permanent, special permits are granted to those who apply that need temporary access to a home or business directly off park property to perform work.

The content of this article is for information only and will hopefully be helpful to some. The RCA, its officers, or its membership do not endorse non-MNCPPC interpretation of park traffic regulations and encourages enforcement questions about specific vehicles be submitted directly to MNCPPC. Please drive courteously. ■

## 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. The current meeting schedule is:

**November 2, 2006** Executive Committee Meeting  
**December 7, 2006** General Membership Meeting  
**February 1, 2007** Executive Committee Meeting  
**March 1, 2007** General Membership Meeting  
**April 5, 2007** Executive Committee Meeting  
**May 3, 2007** General Membership Meeting  
**June 7, 2007** General Membership Meeting

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## Treasurer's Report *by Richard Zierdt*

As of October 12, 2006 combined RCA+RCF assets total \$4,419.52. This includes no membership income yet. That will show in next month's (December) *Echo*. By then, new treasurer Dell Pillers-Cline, voted in at the October meeting, should be writing these reports.

There was no activity for the Foundation during this period, so there's not much to report. RCF donations received will go to this account.

Also, I'll pick up the tab for the pizza (see check 803) in my RCA/RCF donation. There was a "membership party" that day to assemble the 1,335 *Echos* and membership forms/envelopes/postage, and the committee got hungry. ■

RCA Checking Register						
07/17/2006 through 10/12/2006						
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance	
		<b>BALANCE 07/17/2006</b>				<b>1,501.95</b>
08/29	800	MNCPPC Parks	Rec Center rental fee	223.00		5,293.98
08/30		RCAssociation	inc:advert	476.00		5,769.98
09/03	801	United States Post Off	1340 stamp membership	522.60		5,247.38
09/06	802	Quick Printing	Sept ECHO	1,218.00		4,029.38
09/10	803	Staples	paper clip, bands, mbrshp	34.70		3,994.68
09/10	804	Armands	pizza for membership	35.95		3,958.73
09/14		RCAssociation	inc:advert	616.00		4,574.73
09/18	Exfr	Verizon	Aug 22 phone bill	24.96		4,549.77
09/21		RCAssociation	inc:advert	140.00		4,689.77
09/28		RCAssociation	inc:advert	272.00		4,961.77
09/30	805	Cub Scout Pack 1081	donation	200.00		4,761.77
09/30	806	Girl Scout Troop 1087	Donation-Charity	200.00		4,561.77
09/30	807	Brian McGahey	food for Community Picnic	329.43		4,232.34
10/03		RCAssociation	inc:advert	272.00		4,504.34
10/06	808	Sam's Club	RCA yard sale concessions	112.16		4,392.18
		<b>BALANCE 10/12/2006</b>				<b>4,392.18</b>

RCF Checking Register					
07/17/2006 through 10/12/2006					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 07/17/2006			27.34
		(no activity)			
		BALANCE 10/12/2006			27.34
Total RCA+RCF cash assets					4,419.52

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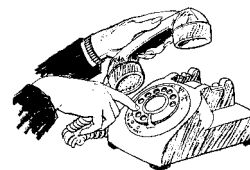
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## The RCA Hotline

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Calls Received August 26, 2006 to  
October 11, 2006



*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.*

*If anyone notices that the hotline is not working, please call Richard Zierdt at 301-881-0283, and/or e-mail the RCA at [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org). Thanks!*

**2006-08-xx (Tue) 4:54 pm** Not Anonymous. Caller wanted to call about a tree that fell into caller's yard that belongs to Randolph Builders Limited Partnership. Could the RCA find out who this belongs to.

**2006-09-xx (Mon) 8:50 pm** Anonymous. Ashley Drive resident. Several neighbors have noticed that a lot of commercial vehicles are parked on Ashley. There's been a large dump truck at Ashley and Stoneleigh Court and down around the curve there's been three or four of a fleet of vans for a remodeling company. We were told that commercial trucks are not supposed to be parked on the road. It doesn't look very nice. Can something be done? *[Commercial trucks are allowed if they are under a certain size, and no more than one per house. If the trucks are parked on the street it's a police matter; if parked in the driveway, it's a housing code enforcement issue. Phone numbers for both are in the ECHO.]*

**2006-09-xx (Fri) 2:44 pm** Anonymous. Referring to the call in the last Echo, Shoppers Food Warehouse is open 24 hours except from 12 midnight Saturday (early Sunday) until 6 am Sunday. Otherwise, it's open. Also, prices are going up everywhere. This issue is not for the RCA to worry about. More important are such issues as crossing Ashley Drive, which has no crosswalks anywhere. It's difficult to cross to get to the park, for example. Traffic should slow down on Ashley Drive. *[Amen. And on Rocking Horse, and on Boiling Brook, and Schuylkill...]*

**2006-09-xx (xxx) 4:08 pm** Anonymous. Calls about 120xx Ashley Drive. It's too messy, and a lot of junk. It is devaluing the prices of homes in the neighborhood. Please look at it. *[Call housing code enforcement and report this. You do not have to leave your name.]*

**2006-09-18 (Mon) 9:47 am** Anonymous. Calling from Mori Drive. The trash collectors have left a bunch of trash on the street. They need to be more careful – there's a lot of trash out there. *[Call Solid Waste services; number is in the ECHO.]*

**2006-09-xx (Mon) 12:40 pm** Anonymous. Calling giving kudos to the Montgomery County police. This Sunday past, the soccer game down in the field resulted in five or six illegally-parked cars all along the hill here, outside the playing field. Several spectators were sitting on the hill drinking beer and were loud and boisterous. Traffic along Ashley Drive was a mess. Caller called the police at 301-279-8000, and within 30 minutes there were two officers who cleared the area of the parked cars and the beer drinkers.

**2006-10-01 (Sun) 6:26 pm** Anonymous. Question about the yard sale. What size (how many tables) and how early can you set up?

**2006-10-06 (Fri) 4:34 pm** Not anonymous. Will the yard sale be on Saturday, given the weather forecast? *[See following phone call.]*

**2006-10-07 (Sat) 1:45 pm** Anonymous. Given the inclement weather that affected the October 7 Community Yard sale, where people starting selling about noon, will there be another one this month or in early November? *[No, but the RCA will conduct another yard sale next spring, usually in mid-May. We don't have the bandwidth to run these events more than twice a year. It's unfortunate when the weather doesn't cooperate, but this event has only been rained completely out once in well over 10 years. Plus, when the weather is bad, the RCA doesn't collect the \$5 fee from vendors.]* ■

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# Happenings around RCA-land

## Boiling Brook Blues

Check out the “remodeling” that’s going on with the creek along Boiling Brook Parkway. Our guess is that it’s to control erosion, but a call to the County’s Department of Public Works and Transportation is definitely in order to find out. The RCA received no information about this.



*Right: Construction photo – serious earth movin'!*

*Below left: Workers place wire retaining mesh over stone.*

*Below right: The new and the old banks of the creek.*



## Otis Drive Block Party

Otis Drive recently held their first block party. Each house brought a side dish and a main dish. The food was excellent and plentiful. There was a good turnout in spite of the constant coming and going of a misty rain. The party went well enough that neighbors are discussing plans for next year. They were able to get the needed Montgomery County forms from the RCA. The notifications required and the restrictions were minimal.



*More pictures coming! Stayed tuned for the December Echo for pictures from the Community Picnic and the Fall Yard Sale.*

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## Keeping in Touch with a New Randolph Civic e-mail List

by Karen Helfert

An e-mail list has been set-up for Randolph Civic residents to use to exchange information, post "for sales" or give-aways, ask for help/information or even chat. This is a fast, free and easy way to communicate with other folks in RCA-land. The list is only for those who own and/or live in RCA. Other Civic Associations and subdivisions have similar localized email lists and have found it a good way to build community spirit, meet neighbors and make for a more neighborly feeling. Joining is easy, go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>

and click on join group. You will need a Yahoo user id and password, which you can create at this site. Or send an email to: [randolphca-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:randolphca-subscribe@yahoo.com). You will have the choice of receiving each message when it is sent, or a digest version which accumulates a number of messages before sending them to you as one message, or not receiving any message by email but rather viewing them on the website.

This service is a complement to our wonderful *Echo* Newsletter and website at [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org). Karen Helfert will be the moderator of the list. Looking forward to meeting you in Randolph Civic cyber space! ■

## Student Robbery Suspect Assigned to Wheaton HS

by George Gadbois

The Montgomery County Public School administration together with the Montgomery County Board of Education Hearing Examiner made a decision this past summer to place one of five Walt Whitman HS student youth robbery suspects at Wheaton High School. This was an effort to both separate the boys from each other as well as to enable them to avoid suspension and be able to play football. These events revolve around an evening robbery last March 30 of a Bethesda Smoothie King in which the five Whitman students were allegedly involved.

Many are wondering, if these boys were involved in such an activity outside school, and they are entitled to due process, why were they threatened with suspension and sports ineligibility at Whitman? And why was a downcounty school, such as Wheaton, with the many challenges they are already burdened with, chosen? It is common knowledge that troubled students are often ferried around from school to school until either the behavior corrects itself or the student finishes going through the system. However in as serious and now high profile case as this, many feel as though MCPS has both failed this student suspect and failed Wheaton High School.



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Most feel that the student should be welcomed at Wheaton like any other and that he is entitled to his day in court. The concern, however, is first how MCPS is mishandling this situation in general. Secondly, since the boy was a prominent football player at Whitman, there is some fear that unwarranted attention and unwanted distraction will be both disturbing to the general student body and the community. Comments have been made both about safety on the one side and a "plus" for the football team on the other. The consensus is that these are both irrelevant to whether what's happening is fair to this student (compared to another in a similar situation), fair to other Wheaton students, and fair to the Wheaton High School community. ■

## Wheaton High School Welcomes New Principal

by George Gadbois

The community served by Wheaton High School was saddened to learn that their veteran principal of nearly six years, Dr. George Arlotto, accepted a position with the Anne Arundel school system as Director of High Schools. While we are happy for Dr. Arlotto's new opportunity, we will miss his vision and leadership.

Often change brings new ideas, new direction and renewed enthusiasm. Change for the right reasons helps us evolve to be better, and with that, the Wheaton community and the RCA in particular wants to give a hearty and warm welcome to our new Wheaton High School principal, Mr. Kevin Lowndes.

Mr. Lowndes has most recently served as assistant principal at BCC and has completed all necessary MCPS principal training for his new position. His career includes past teaching positions at BCC, Kennedy, and WJ, as well as in South Central Los Angeles. He has served in leadership roles in math, science & technology program development at BCC, as well as serving as athletic department chair and coaching, concurrent with past teaching positions. He comes with a good record with community outreach, so we'll expect that he will be accessible as parent and community concerns arise.

Mr. Lowndes has already met with some of the PTSA for the coming year, and in addition to being a PTSA supporter, he has committed to maintain and enforce most, if not all, of the positive programs and policies that had come or been revitalized under the previous administration. He too has a vision to take Wheaton to the next level, and with support of students, parents and community, to improve and make Wheaton High School a showcase for Montgomery County. ■

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## News from Pack 1081

by Mike Mulcahy



After some productive recruiting at Join Scouting Night on September 14th and Back-to-School Night on September 21st, both at Viers Mill Elementary School, we're excited to welcome seven new Scouts. Welcome aboard to: Tigers **Mark Kimball** and **Pedro Cerrinteno**, Wolf **Jericho Pascual**, Bears **Kenneth Mills-Bonhomme** and **Nicholas Galkin**, and Webelos One Scouts **Andrew Maco** and **Alberto DeLeon**. Pack 1081 is happy to have the new boys and their families on board for the adventure and fun! If you are interested in learning more about the Cub Scout program for your 1st – 5th grade son, please stop by Viers Mill Elementary School any Monday evening at 6:30. It's never too late to join!

We had our first Pack meeting of the year on Thursday, September 28th at which the Scouts were recognized for their Summer achievements. Webelos Scouts **Aidan Gibbons**, **DJ Terry**, **Brad Gessford** and **Sawyer Kibbe** received their participation patches for attending Camp Tuckahoe 2006. Special thanks to leaders **Daryl Terry** and **Mark Kibbe** for giving a week of their time to spend with our Scouts at Camp Tuckahoe. The Second Year Webelos earned the following Sports & Academic Pins: **Sawyer Kibbe**: Geography, Map & Compass, Swimming; **Patrick Loberg** and **Steven Escalante**: Chess. Further, Webelos Activity Pins were awarded to **Sawyer Kibbe** for Traveler, Sportsman, Family Member, Athlete and East compass point. Webelos II Scout **Steven Escalante** earned the Handyman Pin. First Year Webelos were awarded Activity Pins as well: **Aidan Gibbons** and **DJ Terry** were recognized with Pins as Forester, Swimming, Geologist, Outdoorsman and Naturalist. Sports & Academic Pins were presented to Webelos I Scouts **Aidan Gibbons** and **DJ Terry** for archery, fishing, and BB shooting. **Aidan** and **DJ** earned Beltloops in Swimming and Map & Compass too. Bears Scout **Matthew Kimball** was presented Sports & Academic Beltloops & Pins as follows: Beltloops in BB shooting, Archery, Swimming, Bicycling, Soccer, Basketball, Art, Collecting, Wildlife Conservation and fishing, and **Matthew** earned Pins in bicycling and swimming. Finally, Tiger Scout **Mark Kimball** was awarded Sports and Academic Beltloops in Archery, BB shooting, Swimming, Bicycling, Soccer, Basketball, Wildlife Conservation, Fishing and an Activity Pin for Swimming. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

The meeting finished with a few more awards before adjourning. **Matthew Kimball** and **Mark Kimball** received recognition for attending Scout Camp. The Summertime Award was presented to **Matthew Kimball**, **Mark Kimball**, **Brad Gessford**, and **DJ Terry**. In addition, the following Scouts were recognized for participating in Physical Fitness Day: **Sawyer Kibbe\***, **Gabe Hernandez\***,



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**David Villareal**, **Aidan Gibbons**, **Adam Levensgard\***, **Preston Polk**, **Matthew Kimball\***, **Kenneth Mills-Bonhomme\***, **Mateo Streed\*** and **Mark Kimball\*** (Those names marked by an asterisk\* earned the Physical Fitness Beltloop). Way to go guys!

The Pack had a somewhat rainy day on September 24th for our annual Physical Fitness Day at Wheaton High School. 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 Webelos II **David Villareal**, Webelos I **Preston Polk**, Bear **Matthew Kimball** and Tiger **Mark Kimball**. 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 Cherry Kool Aid 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**, **Anthony Gadbois**, **Gregory Gadbois** and **Jason Beam** from Troop 1083 for assisting. Also thanks to family and friends **George Gadbois**, **Fred Beam**, **Dave Talbot**, **Jack Levensgard**, **Don Gibbons**, **Karen Tinkell**, **Andrea Kibbe** and **Mark Kibbe** 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 September 29th through October 1st. 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. The boys enjoyed Shmores, toasted marshmallows and other treats around the campfire, and after dinner on Saturday, the Scouts participated in a flag retirement ceremony. Cub Scouts attending the Family Camping weekend included **Jose Valasquez, Sawyer Kibbe, Steven Escalante, Adam Levengard, Aidan Gibbons, Colin McLean, Chris Mulcahy, Nicholas Galkin, Matthew Kimball, Kenneth Mills, Mateo Streed and Mark Kimball.**

Our 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 11th. 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>. ■



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# Scouting for Food

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## Troop 1083 News

by Jaime Todaro

As promised in the last *Echo*, here are the details of Troop 1083's June Court of Honor: scouts in Troop 1083 earned 5 merit badges, 13 rank advancements, and 28 service stars.

The scout achievements: **Jason Beam** earned the Citizenship In The World and Snow Sports merit badges, a rank advancement to 1st Class, and a 1 year Service Star. **Matthew Best** earned a rank advancement to Scout. **Matt Binsted** earned the Order of the Arrow. **Jake Blakely** earned the Citizenship In The World merit badge, a rank advancement to 2nd Class, and a 1 year Service Star. **Kyle Blakely** earned a 2 year Service Star. **Mark Bushong** earned a 5 year Service Star. **Alex Cassel** earned a 6 year Service Star. **Alan Costas** earned a 1 year Service Star. **Maxwell Demulder** earned a rank advancement to Scout. **Matthew Fieller** earned a 2 year Service Star. **Edwin Fuentes** earned a 4 year Service Star. **Anthony Gadbois** earned the Order of the Arrow, and a 4 year Service Star. **Gregory Gadbois** earned the



*Troop 1081 Scouts cooking at the RCA Picnic.*

Citizenship In The World merit badge, a rank advancement to 1st Class 03/27/06, and a 1 year Service Star. **Bubba Hart** earned a 4 year Service Star. **Josh Hart** earned a 1 year Service Star. **Steve Hernandez** earned a rank advancement to Scout. **Johnny Hilderbrand** earned a 3 year

Service Star. **Edward Huggins** earned a 5 year Service Star. **Scott Johnson** earned a 2 year Service Star. **Greg Jones** earned a rank advancement to Scout. **Scott Levangard** earned a 1 year Service Star. **Matthew Luong** earned a rank advancement to Scout. **Galen Miley** earned a 1 year Service Star. **Joshua Murtagh** earned a rank advancement to Scout. **Joseph Owen** earned a 3 year Service Star. **Patrick Owen** earned a rank advancement to Scout. **John Pitkin** earned the Order of the Arrow, and a 4 year Service Star. **David Santos** earned the Citizenship In The World merit badge, and a rank advancement to 2nd Class. **Steven Santos** earned a rank advancement to Eagle, and a 6 year Service Star. **Hafez Taghavi** earned a 6 year Service Star. **Scott Talbott** earned a Silver Palm, and a 6 year Service Star. **David Turish** earned a 4 year Service Star. **Andy Wood** earned 5 year Service Star.

Leaders got awards at the Court of Honor too: **Fred Beam** earned a 1 year Service Star.

*RCAers enjoying the food prepared by Troop 1083.*



**Richard Bushong** earned a 5 year Service Star. **Moses Hart** earned a 4 year Service Star. **Ben Pitkin** earned a 4 year Service Star.

In September, these scouts camped for the weekend at Cedarville State Forest: **Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Kyle Blakely, Maxwell DeMulder, Anthony Gadbois, Gregory Gadbois, Kyle Galkin, Bubba Hart, Josh Hart, Steve Hernandez, Scott Johnson, Scott Levangard, Matthew Luong, Joshua Murtagh, Joseph Owen, Patrick Owen, John Pitkin, David Santos, Scott Talbott.** Leaders who accompanied the scouts were: **Fred Beam, Bill Blakely, Matthew DeMulder, George Gadbois, Lourdes Luong, Brian McGahey, Geoff Owen, Ben Pitkin, and Dave Talbott.** The older scouts mentored the newer scouts in rank advancement.

Scouts from Troop 1083 lent a hand at Pack 1081's Physical Fitness Day in September at Wheaton High School's track: **Scott Talbott, Scott Levangard, Greg Gadbois, Kyle Blakely, Jason Beam,** and leaders: **Dave Talbott, and George Gadbois.**

**Frank Rossomondo** is one of Troop 1083's merit badge counselors. To meet some of the requirements for the Citizenship in the Community merit badge, **Mr. Rossomondo** and his grandson **Jack** accompanied these scouts to a public hearing on Cable TV in Montgomery County, which was broadcast on cable channel 6: **Jake Blakely, Gregory Gadbois, John Pitkin, David Santos, Scott Levangard, Jason Beam,** and leaders **George Gadbois, Bill Blakely, and Jaime Todaro** (who testified at the hearing).

Troop 1083 provided cooks for the RCA Picnic. The rain held off and there were plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers and cold drinks for everyone. **Kyle Blakely, Anthony Gadbois, Greg Gadbois, David Santos, Steven Santos,** and leaders **Dave Talbott, George Gadbois, Mike Saunders, Brian McGahey, and Richard Zierdt** manned the grills.

The Troop 1083 2008 Philmont crew sold food at the RCA yard sale. The early morning was rainy, but traffic picked up by mid-day. Details will be provided in next month's *Echo*. Reminder: Scouts will be "scouting for food" on Saturday, November 11th to benefit the Washington Area Food Bank. Please leave non-perishable items on your stoop, in bags that were delivered with this *Echo*. We will begin collection at 9 am.

Remember Troop 1083 when it comes time to purchase your holiday tree. We will be selling trees at the corner of Beach Drive and Knowles Avenue weekends in December. Further details will be printed in next month's *Echo*.

If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade, you can join us. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 at Viers Mill ES. Check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org). Or, call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. We have weekend campouts, the Klondike Derby, and a ski trip scheduled over the next few months. Join now and you can go, too! ■



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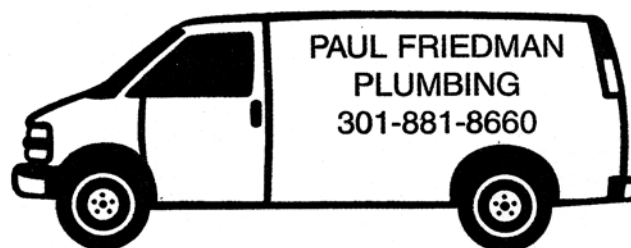
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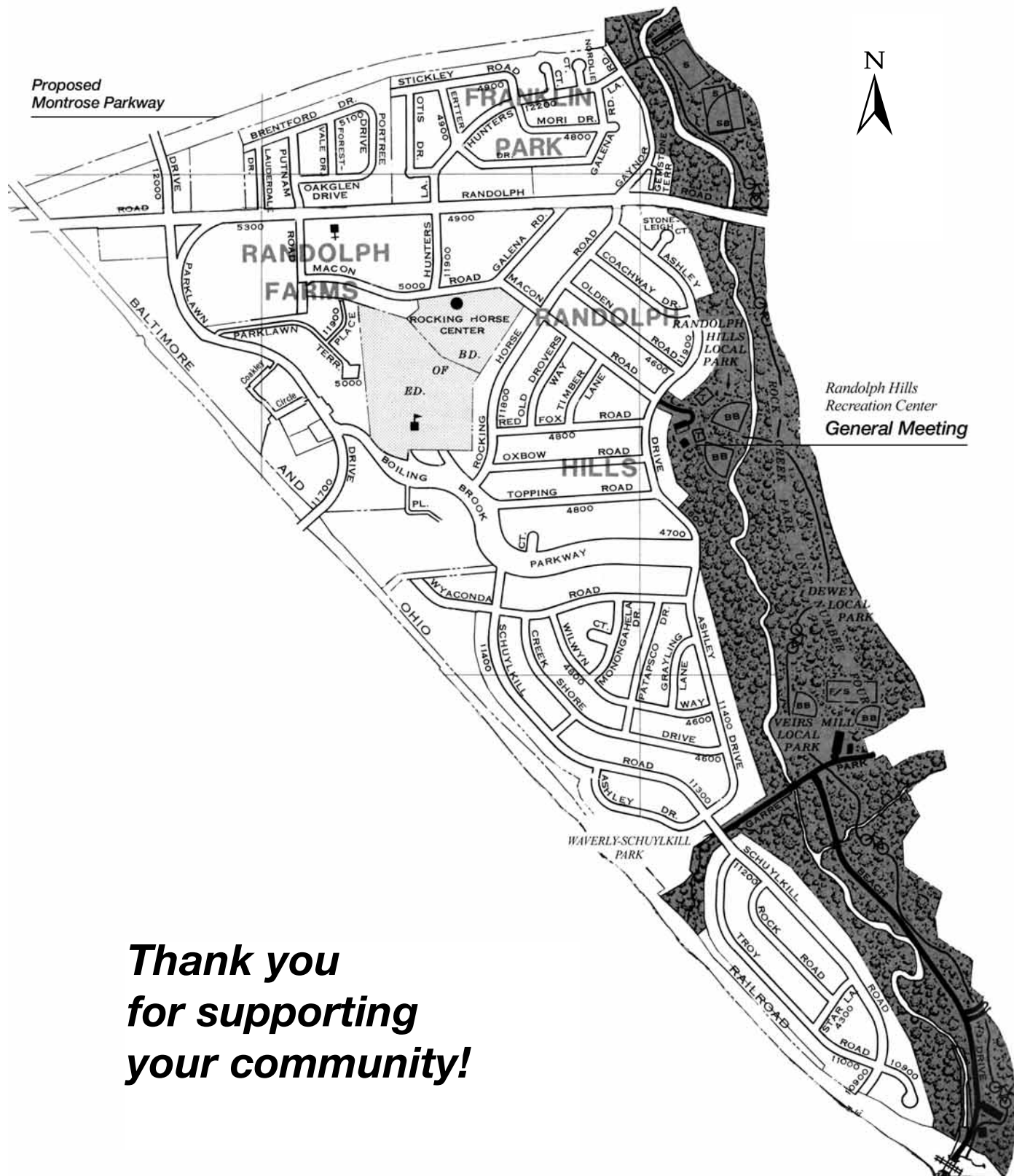
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# CLASSIFIEDS

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.

**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, 25 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

**Note to Contributors:**  
The deadline for the December issue of the *Echo* is Saturday, November 4.

Have you seen the RCA's Web site at  
**[www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)**

Can't wait for the next *Echo*?  
You can download the latest issue, which is usually available a week or so before the printed *Echo* is delivered.  
Back issues are also available.



## 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

**Alex Cassel** 301-770-8757 Macon Road

**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



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Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	.301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	.301-279-1591
Park Police	.301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)</i>	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	.240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	.301-840-2454
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
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Transit Information Center ( <a href="http://www.dtwp.com">www.dtwp.com</a> )	.240-777-7433
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Tree Maintenance (ask for county arborist)	.240-777-7623
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# Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park Market Update...

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4808 Oxbow Road	\$420,000	\$420,000	56	\$13,525	11-Aug-06
11517 Patapsco Dr	\$421,000	\$421,000	151	\$10,000	21-Aug-06
11401 Schuylkill Rd	\$484,900	\$465,000	90	\$500	22-Aug-06
4702 Wilwyn Way	\$450,000	\$450,000	144	\$18,500	30-Aug-06
4901 Boiling Brook	\$400,000	\$396,907	83	\$11,907	31-Aug-06
4909 Randolph Rd	\$449,000	\$445,000	46	\$15,000	19-Sep-06
11901 Ashley Drive	\$439,900	\$439,000	85	\$0	28-Sep-06
12220 Hunters Lane	\$440,000	\$438,000	134	\$18,000	29-Sep-06
11110 Schuylkill Rd	\$429,000	\$415,000	27	\$15,000	29-Sep-06
4626 Creek Shore	\$439,900	\$420,000	91	\$13,000	2-Oct-06
11200 Rock Road	\$469,900	\$460,000	123	\$5,000	3-Oct-06
11521 Patapsco Dr	\$399,900	\$410,000	133	\$10,000	6-Oct-06
Average	\$441,377	\$436,485	74		
Low	\$399,900	\$396,907	27		
High	\$494,400	\$494,400	151		

Currently, there are 26 listings on the market in Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park... the average list price is \$469,265 and the average number of days on the market is 56.

*Denise*  
**Szczur**  
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*"Professional Service with a Personal Touch!"*

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