

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 53, Issue 2

November 2009

White Flint and Our Community

a message from the Randolph Civic Association

Big changes are in store for our neighborhood and the White Flint community at-large over the next 30 years. That's right, over the next 30 years. When faced with this kind of time-frame it is easy to become apathetic. After all, if we look only 20 years into the future, children who have yet to be born will be in college. Many of us will have moved on in one form or another and in all cases, we will be in very different stages of our lives. So why is the White Flint Sector Plan important?

The White Flint Sector Plan is important to the RCA because we care about the immediate needs of the neighborhood (ensuring proper levels of service and resources from the County), and the long-term prosperity of our community and County. Three years ago, the Montgomery County Planning Board was asked to evaluate two parcels of White Flint: Mid-Pike Plaza and the White Flint Mall. Instead, they returned to the Council with something much different; something bigger, more interesting, innovative, better. It is a holistic re-imagining of the entire White Flint Sector; a strategic proposal for transforming a strip-mall, parking lot, overhead-wire-dominated sprawl into a sustainable, walkable, transit-oriented, engaging

community.

Why did the Planning Board produce a big plan instead of small one? The simple answer is that hundreds of County residents, informed and engaged, asked them to. In 2006, the Planning Board created an unprecedented public participation process to draft the White Flint Sector Plan. Hundreds of residents and stakeholders worked for three years to flesh out a vision for White Flint which

remained remarkably constant over the period: it is to become a walkable, sustainable, transit-oriented urban center. Hundreds of formal and informal meetings were held by the Planning Board, its two official advisory bodies, and several independent groups, including RCA and Friends of White Flint. Overall, thousands of residents and workers have attended discussions of the White Flint Plan.

The result is a general, community-wide consensus on a New Urbanism-based redesign for White Flint, with a new

street grid, a reconstructed Rockville Pike, a new "core" area with public amenities and facilities, two intersecting pedestrian promenades, and a host of sustainability and walkability features which are

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What implications does the White Flint Sector Plan have on the neighborhoods of RCA?

- **Community:** The Plan attempts to create a new sense of place in White Flint. It strives to bring people together in more of an walkable, urban environment.
- **Transportation:** A new MARC station for RCA-land and a redesigned Pike will complement the potential Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Questions remain though on how this will be financed.
- **Schools:** After the plan passes the County Council, it is doubtful whether adequate emphasis will be placed on the need for additional school infrastructure.

Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting

November 5th, 2009 8:00pm - Viers Mill Rec Center

Our guest speakers will be County Council members Valerie Ervin (Chair of the Education committee) and George Leventhal (At-Large member, Chair of the Health and Human Services committee)

RCA Executive Board Meeting

December 3rd, 2009 8:00pm - Viers Mill Rec Center

This meeting is open to all members, but there is no planned speaker and the agenda will focus on administrative matters.

Randolphcivic.org Gets a Tune-up

by Chad Salganik, RCA Vice President

We are pleased to announce the launch of our newly redesigned neighborhood website at www.RandolphCivic.org. The site has been updated with a fresh coat of paint and several new features.

The website has a neighborhood events calendar featuring upcoming neighborhood happenings. In addition, RCA members may post events such as yard sales to the calendar

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President's Message

by Matthew Tifford, RCA President

A resident recently pointed out that quality of life should be the primary focus of a civic association. I couldn't agree more. Improving quality of life in our neighborhood has been my only focus since I started with the RCA. In fact, it is the only reason I can think of to do this job!

But what brings quality of life? What makes our neighborhood a good place to live? For me, qualities like public safety, good schools, well-maintained parks, and friendly neighbors spring to mind, and these are the issues that your civic association has been working tirelessly to address, in addition to being goals we wish to achieve.

We have revived our Public Safety committee to help address neighborhood crime, and we are currently enlisting volunteers to help the new chairman find ways to stop the periodic spurts of criminal activity. In past issues, you have heard the details of our efforts toward a new elementary school, and we've got a lot of fight left in us! We have been instrumental in bringing new amenities to our parks, with more soon to come. And finally, we have membership meetings, community yard sales, picnics and Community Day celebrations to help people meet their neighbors and make new friends.

These days there are few communities that have an organization that brings so much to its residents, and, I might add, for so little cost. At \$10 a year, we are an incredible bargain. We have by far the cheapest dues of any civic association in the county, and at the same time we are the most active and productive.

And please, remember that we are your neighbors, volunteering our spare time to meet with politicians and county officials, testify at public hearings, and produce the Echo and Randolphcivic.org website to keep you informed. All we ask in return is for your support. We appreciate those of you who have stuck with us all these years, and we hope those of you who are not current members will consider joining.

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RCA Telephone Number: (240)668-4722.

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

Neighborhood News in Brief

- This is one last reminder to renewing Sam's Club members. **You must be a paid RCA member to renew your special RCA Sam's Club membership.** Sam's Club will be checking memberships against the RCA member database, and will cancel your membership if your name is not on it. The reason for this is that Sam's has given the RCA a special discounted rate as a way of supporting our organization. So, please make sure you send in your RCA dues as soon as possible to avoid any problems.
- **Thank you to everyone who came out the RCA Fall Yard Sale!** A good time was held by all and we look forward to the spring yard sale in 2010.
- The National Park Service recently named **William "Bud" Cline** (Ashley Drive) Park-wide Volunteer of the Year for the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Bud is the Assistant Coordinator for the Park's Palisades District Bike Patrol and devoted over 1400 hours to the Bike Patrol last fiscal year. Bud's wife, Dell, also volunteers with the Bike Patrol. This year Bud and Dell will also be volunteering as Quartermasters for the Park's new Canal Quarters program, an interpretive program that allows visitors to experience staying in a historic lockhouse. The C&O Canal NHP is 184.5 miles long, running from Georgetown to Cumberland, and strives to preserve America's colorful Canal era and transportation history.
- This is long overdue and it was a mistake that this was not in the last issue of the Echo. **Eileen White served as Echo editor for many years, and single-handedly kept the publication alive.** If it were not for her creativity and stamina, we would not have an Echo today. Eileen is a long-time Randolph Hills resident. Last spring Eileen stepped down as editor, and we will miss her dedication. We all owe Eileen a big Thank You!
- The RCA would like to express **special thanks to Karen Helfert** for her work in starting and developing the www.randolphcivic.org website. Karen invested untold hours bringing the RCA an attractive and functional presence on the internet- a resource that few civics enjoy. Thank you so much for all your dedication



RCA Members at Yard Sale

and hard work!

- We are pleased to announce that the new **Randolph Civic Foundation Sign and Entrance Beautification Fund is off to a terrific start!** As of this week, we have collected \$714 just for this fund. We're expecting a good bit more to come in over the next month or so. We hope to have improvements to neighborhood signs starting in the Spring. It's not too late to contribute! You can send in a check anytime, just write RCF Sign and Entrance Fund in the memo area.
- The **Randolph basketball court now has the light hooked up** so all our night league players can get some air in their basketballs and head on down to Randolph. Montrose christian has had some of the best players in the country (Kevin Durant is in the pros and Gervais Vasquez plays for the Terps). *(Thank you to 'Swish Shore' for this bullet point!)*

Do you have a quick bite of news you'd like to share with the neighborhood? Please feel free to submit a few sentences to info@randolphcivic.org by the deadlines posted on page 19 of this issue. Thank you!



William "Bud" Cline and Dell Plyers-Cline

Minutes of the September RCA Meeting

Steve Feehan, RCA Secretary

The meeting began with RCA President, Matt Tifford welcoming speaker Councilmember Mark Elrich. Councilmember Roger Berliner, also expected to speak, was called out of town unexpectedly so was unable to attend.

The agenda for the evening was:

1. Guest Speaker- Councilmember Marc Elrich
2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Committee Reports
5. Old Business
6. New Business

Vice-President Dan Hoffman explained the context for Elrich's attendance, to discuss the county Growth Policy and the White Flint Sector Plan.

Elrich explained that the Growth Policy is voted on every two years and often changes due to changes in Council make-up. The core purpose of the policy is ensuring adequate public facilities to prevent both school overcrowding and traffic congestion. Unfortunately, the definitions of overcrowding and congestion can be changed which means the limits are raised instead of solving the problem. With school overcrowding, one problem is that the overcrowding is measured by school cluster instead of by individual schools. This means that if one school in a cluster is overcrowded, another school in the same cluster that is undercapacity will balance it out. This doesn't solve the overcrowded school's problem, and under this rule the county doesn't have to take any action.

PAMR (Policy Area Mobility Review) and LATR (Local Area Transportation Review), techniques for measuring traffic congestion, were discussed. Elrich explained the many failings of these techniques. PAMR is particularly inaccurate and is not widely used outside of Montgomery County. Elrich felt that some county planners support a policy of making traffic worse so people are forced to use public transit.

Elrich also expressed concerns about plans to increase density without sufficient mass-transit improvements, and discussed his support for increased mass-transit capacity between eastern and western parts of the county.

A question and answer session followed. In response to questions, Elrich stated that he:

- Prefers re-opening closed schools and feels that MCPS is a poor steward of public property. Also is worried about finding funding options for school construction due to the current bond market. If the county borrows too much they could lose their AAA rating and the rates would increase.
- Felt White Flint Sector traffic would be a disaster without changes to the staging of development (RCA also holds this position).
- Would like sector plans along the 270/355 Bethesda-Germantown corridor to be considered as a package and coordinated with regard to transit solutions. Some audience members expressed skepticism that a process to cover such a large area could be implemented.
- Was worried about planning around the new CR (Commercial-Residential) Zone, since no one knows what to expect.

At the conclusion of the question and answer session President Matt Tifford thanked Councilmember Elrich for coming. Councilmember Elrich stayed for the rest of the meeting.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes

The June Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Nicholas Kreisle reported that the RCA had enough money to cover the current expenses, provided dues from the membership drive came in as expected.

Committee Reports

None.

Old Business

A. Website Update

Chad Salganik and Steve Feehan worked on a website redesign throughout the month of August. The overall appearance was changed, and new features were added, including a Yahoo group feed, RCA calendar, local news feed, and a search function for current and past Echo editions.

B. Membership Drive

The membership drive was discussed. 20-25 volunteers will go door-to-door to distribute and collect membership forms. Each volunteer will be assigned a specific area. It was decided that volunteers could accept cash. New RCA yard signs will be distributed

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New MARC Train Station Site Near You!

by Kevin Kline

The White Flint Plan (WF Plan) recommends that a new MARC train station be built at the end of Nicholson Court. Nicholson Court is just outside your neighborhood, across the new Nicholson Lane bridge. The RCA execs pushed hard for this Nicholson location, to better serve you and your neighbors in RCA-land. The old plan (1992 North Bethesda/Garrett Park Master Plan) put the MARC station at Montrose Crossing, near Bou Avenue. There are no immediate plans to build the new MARC train station, but we believe the sooner the better!

The new MARC station will have two Metro bus bays, so travelers can transfer from train to bus. There will be streetscape improvements, sidewalk improvements and a bike path. The WF Plan projects that "redevelopment of the area [Nicholson Court District] is likely to take place in the long-term," but the RCA believes that this train and bus hub will greatly improve our entire neighborhood's transportation options.

The RCA believes a nearby MARC train station will make our neighborhood a walk-able, green, fun and friendly place to live. And it will vastly improve our commute to and from work!

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White Flint and Our Community

(continued from page 1)

unlikely to have ever emerged from the existing 1992 North Bethesda Master Plan. White Flint is currently a carbon-spewing, traffic-clogged, parking lot-covered environmental problem. Yet it is also a unique opportunity for Montgomery County: a place where addressing these sustainability issues will also benefit mobility, walkability, and revenues, providing an economic engine for the entire County, just as Arlington County did a few years ago. The need in White Flint is for compact, strategic, sustainable development – a type known as “New Urbanism.” The RCA has strongly supported the White Flint Sector Plan. After talking with many of our residents, we believe the majority of our RCA members also support the Plan.

However, there are some aspects the RCA would like to see improved in the plan, such as:

1. Most of RCA is part of the Downcounty Consortium, and there is a strong desire to have a local community elementary school so that our children do not have to attend a school which is 200 students over capacity today and will be 270 students over capacity in three years. This is an immediate need which must be addressed. Parents of the Walter Johnson cluster also have concerns regarding school capacity. Given these concerns, in addition to a new school in Randolph Hills, there should be a site located for a second elementary school within or near the Sector Plan area that will be available to serve the Walter Johnson Cluster when the need arises in ten to fifteen years. The \$71 million in impact fees expected from new development in White Flint remain in the area to pay for potential

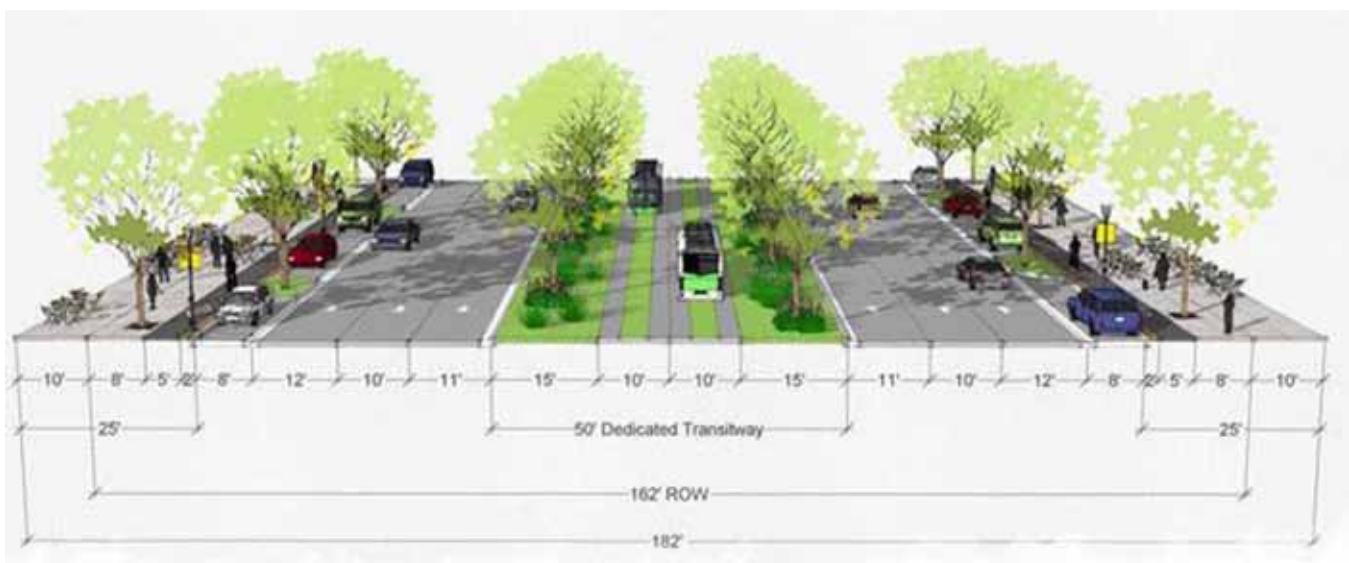
new construction or renovation at the elementary, middle and high school levels so that we stay ahead of capacity constraints.

2. The Rockville Pike design proposed in the Sector Plan should be replaced by the Transit-Way Design which includes dedicated transit lanes in the center of Rockville Pike. If we are going to make Rockville Pike work, it must become a complete street that works for pedestrians, cyclists, the handicapped, cars, and transit. The Metro functions as a commuter line and it must be supplemented with a dependable transit system that stops frequently to provide accessibility for the residents and workers in and around White Flint. RCA would like to see this surface transit system extend all the way from Rockville to Bethesda and over to the Rock Spring/Montgomery Mall area.

3. RCA would like to see the transformation of Rockville Pike as soon as possible. The current plan has this construction project occurring in the final or third phase. While the RCA understands that it will take some time to design the new Rockville Pike, we want this to be a priority of the Executive and the Council from both an implementation and a funding perspective.

4. It is important that the existing communities surrounding White Flint are protected from cut-through traffic. We support the installation of traffic calming measures along the roads that enter communities surrounding White Flint as part of the phasing of development.

5. The White Flint Plan already contains a variety of express public amenities, including additional parks, and zoning incentives for other amenities, such as day care and public art. RCA supports the addition of another needed public amenity not yet in the Plan: an intergenera-



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throughout the neighborhood as available.

C. Randolph Hills Community Day

Plans for the RCA's first Community Day were discussed. The event will be held on October 17th at the Randolph Hills Shopping Center. Thanks was expressed to property owner Allen Kronstadt (in attendance).

D. Fall Yard Sale

Discussion ensued about the Fall Yard sale to be held September 26th, at Loehmann's Plaza Shopping Center.. The RCA holds two yard sales, one in the fall and one in the spring. The history of RCA yard sale goes back over 20 years.

New Business

A. Growth Policy

Proposal was made to have RCA members will testify at the County Council Growth Policy Hearing on September 22nd. Testifying RCA members would oppose section of policy that increases the amount of school overcapacity required to trigger a moratorium on new construction. Many elements of the Growth Policy will not be commented on. Support for the White Flint Sector Plan would be expressed where appropriate. A motion was made to allow Matthew Tifford, Dan Hoffman, and Kevin Kline to speak on behalf of the RCA at the hearing. The motion was seconded and

approved unanimously.

B. Pop's Bingo World

A presentation was made by representatives of Pop's Bingo World. Pop's Bingo World runs charity bingo events and would like to open a bingo hall in the vacant Amazing Savings building. A special zoning exception would be required, so the community would have to approve. During the presentation it was stressed that bingo events are quiet, safe, and well-regulated. Only legitimate charities are allowed to participate. Bingo events would occur 7 nights a week, with participants arriving between 5-7pm and leaving by 9:45pm. No alcohol is allowed. Prepared food is brought in for sale to participants. Events are monitored by off-duty police officers and security cameras. RCA attendees expressed concerns over traffic, moral considerations of bingo being a form of gambling, and damage to the reputation of the neighborhood as the only community in the county with a gambling facility. A motion was brought to post the issue on the website for consideration by the community, and passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm. Twenty-two people were in attendance.

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Rain Can't Stop a Party

by Amy Roberts

The rain may have been falling all weekend, but that did not stop the RCA from celebrating our strong community! Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Randolph Hills Community Day this year; however, Dynamics Gymnastics Center graciously provided us with space to join together



Mr. Knick Knack sings to our "littles."

as friends and neighbors and have a great time in their beautiful new facility. Our Councilmember, Roger Berliner joined us to speak to our community regarding upcoming plans for the White Flint area. We were then thoroughly entertained by the Monkey's cover band, The Stepping



RCA President Tifford looks on in awe.

Stones, followed by amazing demonstrations from the Dynamics gymnasts, Advance Martial Arts, and Rockville Martial Arts and Learning Center. Our event ended with Mr. Knick Knack singing to our "littles" as he called them,

teaching them about caring for each other and our neighborhood. It was a great afternoon, and we look forward to making this an annual event....so put it on your calendars for October 2010!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who made this event possible. We had many neighbors who volunteered their time, energy, and resources to help coordinate this event. Your hard work did not go unnoticed! Also, a big thank you to all of our participants who entertained us and turned a cold and dreary Saturday afternoon into a entertaining, amusing, and unifying experience!



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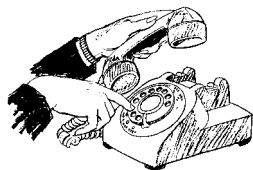
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The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received August 8th 2009-
October 13th 2009



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.

8-23-09 (Sun) at 8:49pm. Anonymous. If you're coming down Nicholson Road and turn right onto Boiling Brook Parkway, before the school on the right side of the road, there are overgrown bushes consuming half the sidewalk. Can't they be trimmed/removed? They're blocking the sidewalk. *(The RCA attempted to get this problem rectified through the county last year. For some reason, the county does not have the property correctly identified on its map and so was unable to make contact with the property manager. This is something that could probably be rectified if we had a volunteer willing to dedicate time to pursuing it. Please contact the RCA if you would like to take on this role)*

9-5-09 (Sat) at 6:27pm. Anonymous. Caller is wondering what the distinction is between a Civic Association and a Homeowner's Association. In the Echo, the RCA says it doesn't have enforcement ability but, if the mission is to keep things orderly, then what does that mean? Keeping things orderly is important and having trash around is detrimental to the quality of life. And, quality of life is much more important than the property values you're currently concerned with.

9-5-09 (Sat) at 6:42pm. Same Caller. Caller really wants to know the RCA mission and hasn't seen any substantial issues addressed – they are mostly cosmetic issues. Caller is interested in addressing quality of life instead of worrying about totally irrelevant things. Caller doesn't see why a dog park is so terribly important. Caller also can't see why people get so upset about cars blocking the sidewalk. If people are on a walk, then why can't they just walk around the car? Sanitation is a big problem here. ***(Please see this issues President's Message)***

9-5-09 (Sat) at 8:35pm. Anonymous. Caller wants to know how the RCA would like to have a day of selling

goodies and garbage on Christmas Day. That's the same as having the RCA yard sale on the Jewish high holiday in September. *(This year we ran into scheduling problems with the Fall Yard Sale. September 26th was the only date that was feasible.)*

9-6-09 (Sun) at 12:26pm. Not Anonymous. Caller lives on Old Drovers Way and wonders whether anyone knows of a seamstress in the neighborhood. Caller has used two in the neighborhood over the last twenty years but both have retired. It's very convenient to have someone in the neighborhood.

9-14-09 (Mon) at 11:50am. Not Anonymous. Caller lives on Oxbow Road. It would be useful to have a trash can at the bus stop on Boiling Brook Parkway and Rocking Horse Road (similar to that on Schuylkill and Wyaconda). It gets pretty messy right there. *(RCA has requested a trash can via www.mtmaryland.com. Please add your own requests to help expedite)*

9-17-09 (Thurs) at 9:54am. Not Anonymous. Caller lives on Troy Road. Caller reports that her car was broken into last night. The window was broken and the GPS was stolen.

9-19-09 (Sat) at 1:45am. Anonymous. Caller reports that their new neighbors have loud and disruptive parties late at night. Caller has called police in the past, and is doing so again tonight. Other neighbors complain, as well.

9-22-09 (Tues) at 1:19pm. Anonymous. Regarding the Echo postings on blocked sidewalks. Caller reports that the police are doing their work. Caller reports that, about two weeks ago, a police car pulled up in front of caller's house. The officer crossed the street and ticketed a car that was blocking the driveway. Drivers can park on the street and, if you pull to the end of the driveway, you can fit two cars in a short driveway and three in a longer one. Just a reminder – don't block the sidewalk. *(Thanks for your call! Blocked sidewalks are difficult to navigate for our neighbors, especially those walking with strollers and small children. When a sidewalk is blocked, it can be treacherous to get a stroller or small child around the vehicle, especially when the only available path takes you into the street. Please be courteous to your neighbors and avoid blocking the sidewalk).*

10-2-09 (Fri) at 7:30am. Anonymous. Caller was just on a walk and turned from Patapsco onto Creek Shore Drive when two small dogs came running after caller. The dogs were barking and baring their teeth as though they were going to attack. Caller had to run pretty fast to get away and the dogs

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The White Flint Area's Future is at Stake

Do we continue to live with this?



Or would rather have this?



This is our opportunity to transform the White Flint area
from a traffic choked thoroughfare into a livable, walkable, and safer community.

A New White Flint is the Solution!

The new Rockville Pike "boulevard" can include:

- The same number of auto lanes as now
- A landscaped median for mass transit
- Tree-lined sidewalks
- Dedicated bus and bike lanes
- New below-grade utilities
- A grid of new local streets to alleviate traffic.

A New White Flint Pays its Own Way!

- \$1.5 Billion in new tax revenues
- \$500 Million in Public Infrastructure & Community Amenities
- \$72 Million in Direct Impact Fees for the Schools
- 30,000 new jobs here in North Bethesda
- NO new taxes for local residential homeowners

A New White Flint Will Create our New Community

In addition to convenient new walkable shops and restaurants, the New White Flint will include:

- Renovations to two major parks
- 6 new parks and plazas & a splash park for kids
- A Civic Green for a farmer's market and outdoor movies
- Two park promenades
- Miles of new dedicated bike paths and lanes
- A library and new community rooms
- Improved fire, police and EMS access

If you want more of what we have today - do nothing.

If you want a new White Flint, where you can walk to local shops, enjoy a safe bike ride and fund improved school facilities and mobility infrastructure without having to pay more in taxes:

Tell the County Council and County Executive to
approve the White Flint Sector Plan now by visiting
www.whiteflintpartnership.com TODAY.

RCA Hotline

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didn't stop until Caller screamed at them. Caller had to return to the site later to retrieve the iPod caller had lost in the process and Caller asked someone about the dogs. Caller was told that the dogs were known to be unleashed at that they chase after people and cars. This is the second such incident Caller has had. Another incident was with another two small dogs.

10-5-09 (Mon) at 9:47am. Not Anonymous. Caller's neighbor's tree has fallen down and damaged caller's backyard and no one has cleaned it up.

10-7-09 (Wed) at 8:00pm. Same Caller. Caller is having problem with neighbor. A neighbor's tree fell into caller's backyard. The tree is more than 35 feet into Caller's yard and has damaged more than 20 feet of fence. The neighbors have said they don't care about the damage.

10-10-09 (Sat) at 1:21pm. Not anonymous. Caller lives on Wyaconda Road and is interested in the parents group referenced in the last Echo. Caller's computer has crashed so Caller cannot email and asks that Caller's information be passed along. *(The RCA has passed caller's contact information along to Katie Griffen. If you're interested in meeting other new parents in RCA-land, please email Katie at kslyegriffen@gmail.com)*

Randolphcivic.org

(continued from page 1)

by emailing events@randolphcivic.org.

The website also has dedicated pages for our top initiatives and clubs, so you can stay informed of our progress.

A neighborhood map has been posted with local points of interest, such as our parks and other resources.

On the Membership page, membership forms can be downloaded to renew or join the RCA, or you can click the "Paypal" button to pay via credit card or online account.

The website is searchable, making it easier to find the information you are looking for.

We are proud of the new website, but there is more work to be done. We will continue to roll out new features and content as we develop the website in to a valuable neighborhood resource. We are committed to keeping the new website current and relevant.

We hope you'll take some time to explore the new website. We welcome your feedback and contributions.

President's Message

(continued from page 2)

And don't forget to chime in with your thoughts. If you like what we're doing, let us know. If you don't like something we're doing, let us know that too. That's why we have the Hotline, info@randolphcivic.org, and the Yahoo Group.

We have an exciting year ahead for the RCA. We hope you will be a part of it!

Keep in touch with your neighbors! Join the RCA Yahoo Group at
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>



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Wednesday: 9:10 - 10:00, 12:00 - 12:50, 3:00 - 3:50

Thursday: 12:00 - 12:50, 3:00 - 3:50

Friday: 12:00 - 12:50, 3:00 - 3:50, 6:30 - 8:00PM

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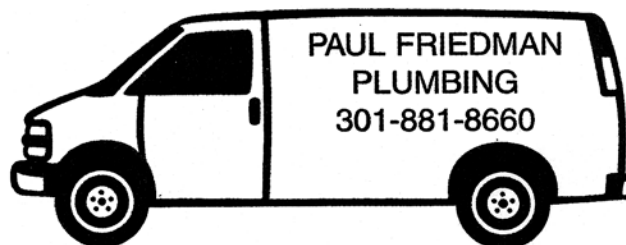
For more information on the TopHat solution, please call: 703.344.6301

or visit our website at: www.tophathomes.com

RCA Treasurer's Report

by Nick Kreisle, RCA Treasurer

The past couple months have been quite busy as membership forms roll in. And that's a good thing! Keep 'em coming! Kudos to Membership Chair John Kehoe for keeping track of how the money should be allocated. After we finish the last push of our membership drive, we will be sure to reconcile our account with the RCF.



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RCA Check Register (7/22/09-10/5/09)

Date	Descrip. of Transaction	Debit (-)	Credit (+)	Balance
7/22/09	Previous balance		\$1,292.24	\$1,292.24
8/10/09	Advertising Income		\$4,136.00	\$5,428.24
8/31/09	September Echo Printing	\$1,166.00		\$4,262.24
9/8/09	Copy Expenses	\$335.23		\$3,927.01
9/8/09	Mailing Expenses	\$69.75		\$3,857.26
9/8/09	Website Hosting	\$95.00		\$3,762.26
9/10/09	Paypal Verification		\$0.28	\$3,762.54
9/12/09	Yard Signs	\$295.00		\$3,467.54
9/14/09	MCCF Dues	\$85.00		\$3,382.54
9/27/09	Community Day Banners	\$85.91		\$3,296.63
9/28/09	Rec Center Rental	\$223.00		\$3,073.63
9/28/09	Hotline	\$25.00		\$3,048.63
10/5/09	RCA Dues and Donations		\$4,827.75	\$7,876.38
10/5/09	RCF Donations		\$1,224.68	\$9,101.06
10/5/09	RCF Sign Fund		\$565.00	\$9,666.06
10/5/09	Yard Sale		\$105.00	\$9,771.06

President Obama Visits Viers Mill Elementary School

On Monday, October 19th, Viers Mill Elementary was visited by President Barack Obama. Local families were delighted to watch as the Presidential Motorcade streamed past Viers Mill Park Playground on it's way too and from the school. The President met with third and fourth graders during their lunch period. During his visit, the President praised Viers Mill for being "a great example of how much improvement a school can make."



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RCF NEWS

President's Message

by Karen Helfert, RCF President

The signs in RCA Land vary from pleasant to nasty. I have taken photos showing the signs and their adjacent landscape (photos at: <http://www.randolphcivicfoundation.org/>). The sign on Ashley Drive is in the worst condition – both for lack of “landscaping” and the condition of the sign itself. Montrose Park, Randolph Farms and Hilltop Square have no signs. New signs would run – ballpark - \$2500 and have to go through the Montgomery County sign-permitting process. The new Franklin Park sign was a “grassroots” project – planned, organized and partially funded by Franklin Park residents. If residents in Montrose Park, Randolph Farms and Hilltop Square are interested in a sign, we can give you contact information for leaders of the Franklin Park effort.

We have had a generous offer from Brickman Landscaping who has the landscaping contract for Charles E. Smith School. They have been mowing, mulching the trees and cleaning up the area between Boiling Brook and Rocking Horse Road for several years. They have now offered to plant flowers in the area of the Boiling Brook sign – coordinating with the flower plantings at the

School. They will plants annuals and if we choose to add perennials, they will assist in planting and maintaining them. It seemed a win-win offer for us. Now we will be exploring whether we can negotiate with some other landscaping company for assistance in

(continued on page 18)



RCF Executive Committee for 2009-2010

OFFICERS

President
VACANT

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

Secretary

Matt Tifford
11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Directors

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Dan Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-938-7494

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

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

RCF Web site: www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org
Phone: 301-468-0236

Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster

Nationally, about 4% of boy scouts make the strenuous climb to scouting's highest rank of Eagle. The Eagle Scout rank is a performance-based achievement. To reach it a scout must meet extraordinary standards of leadership, service, collaboration, and dedication. Along the way he gathers skills and experiences that will help him and his community in the future.

In September, one of our scouts, Moses "Bubba" Hart, met those requirements and earned his Eagle rank. Bubba's Eagle Service Project involved clearing a wooded area to create an inviting picnic spot on the grounds of the Word of Grace Christian Center in Herndon, VA. This was an ambitious project that required a great deal of planning and a lot of hard work: significant amounts of timber and underbrush were cleared, and the entire biomass was then converted into wood chips to carpet the picnic area. Work crews composed of family members, current and former scouts, and leaders worked two full weekends to finish the project. Congratulations to Bubba!

Troop 1083 scouts enjoyed a week of summer camp either at Camp Rodney (on the Chesapeake near Aberdeen) or at Camp Olmsted in Goshen, VA. Some boys attended both, and, in the week before Olmsted, the 2011 Philmont crew (Jason Beam, Matthew Best, Greg Gadbois, Josh Hart, Steve Hernandez, Scott Levengard, Patrick Owen, and Andres Valencia, with Fred Beam and George Gadbois keeping up) also attended Lenhok'sin High Adventure Camp on the Goshen Reservation.

Rodney and Olmsted are both ideal settings for outdoor summer fun, and offer waterfront activities like swimming, boating and canoeing; archery and rifle ranges; handicrafts and nature studies; and hikes. There are merit badge classes, too. Our scouts took a few of them. How many badges did they earn? Funny you should ask, because...

Our just-completed September campout, at nearby Cabin John campground, featured an event we call "Goshen North." It's an opportunity to offer the scouts

one or two additional merit badges, only accelerated: they're taught immersion-style, for a single weekend. The campout culminated on Saturday Sept. 26 with our fall Court of Honor, in which we recognized all the achievements our scouts had racked up over the summer. Not counting the badges earned at Goshen North – our scouts accumulated <drum roll> 163 summer camp merit badges! Brady Grundy attended both camps and earned 10 merit badges; Chris Mulcahy earned 8 at Olmsted alone, including all 7 handicraft badges offered! There were numerous other honors, awards, and achievements too, including fourteen rank advancements.

Upcoming events include cabin camping in spooky desolate woods near Gettysburg PA on Halloween weekend, the annual Scouting for Food event, and our annual holiday tree sale. 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, or call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the troop web page at www.troop1083.org.

Venturing Crew 1083 is also setting out on a new year of outings and activities. You can join the crew if you are a boy or girl aged 14-21. Crew activities are generally but not necessarily outdoors-themed, and tailored to the interests of older youth – the crew members determine the program. For more information contact crew advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755.



Can you guess where we camped this summer?

White Flint and Our Community

(continued from page 6)

tional community center. We believe that the repurposing of Wall Park offers a unique opportunity to provide this new center to the County with no cost for additional land, and most importantly, near the proposed other "core" amenities.

On October 20th, 2009 approximately 25 RCA residents (mostly clad in their green 'RCA Volunteer' shirts) attended the County Council hearing on the White Flint Sector Plan to show support for the plan. RCA President Matt Tifford and Vice President Dan Hoffman testified before the Council. The packed auditorium was extremely supportive of our positions and testimony. On the second night of testimony two days later, RCA member Cindy Zelaya reinforced the need for change in White Flint and received similar support from those in attendance. After the October 20 hearing, several Council members approached our representatives to express support for our community. They also complimented us on how effective the RCA has been at engaging the Council. The RCA looks forward to building relationships and dialogues with our County leaders, but we understand that our first priority is listening to our members so we can build the proper message. We now have the attention of the County Council. You need to help us decide what our priorities for the future. With this in mind, please attend our next general membership meeting on November 5th and get involved! Two County Council members will be there to listen to YOU!

(Note: The RCA is a member of Friends of White Flint and has helped prepare a complete report on the White Flint Sector Plan, available at www.whiteflint.org. Portions of this report were used for his article. If you are interested in more details about the Sector Plan this is an excellent and balanced report.)

RCF President's Message

(continued from page 15)

beautifying the areas around our other signs.

We have been in contact with the Montgomery County Historical Society for a presentation on topics such as the History of Rockville Pike, the Civil War in Montgomery County or Genealogy: What's it all about? Let me know which one of these topics sound the most interesting and would be something you would like to attend.

News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Leora Hernandez

Troop 1028 is now in its fifth year of existence. We have Junior and Brownie level girls who are returning from last year and we have just registered new Brownie and Daisy scouts in October.

Our veteran girls are teaching the new girl scouts how we open and close our meetings. All levels worked on making a star gazer out of oatmeal containers. They had great fun decorating them and learning about the universe. This is just one of many projects the girls will do this year.

Activities coming up in the near future include a dance class to learn Zumba! We will also help with the Annual Scouting for Food event along with the other local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

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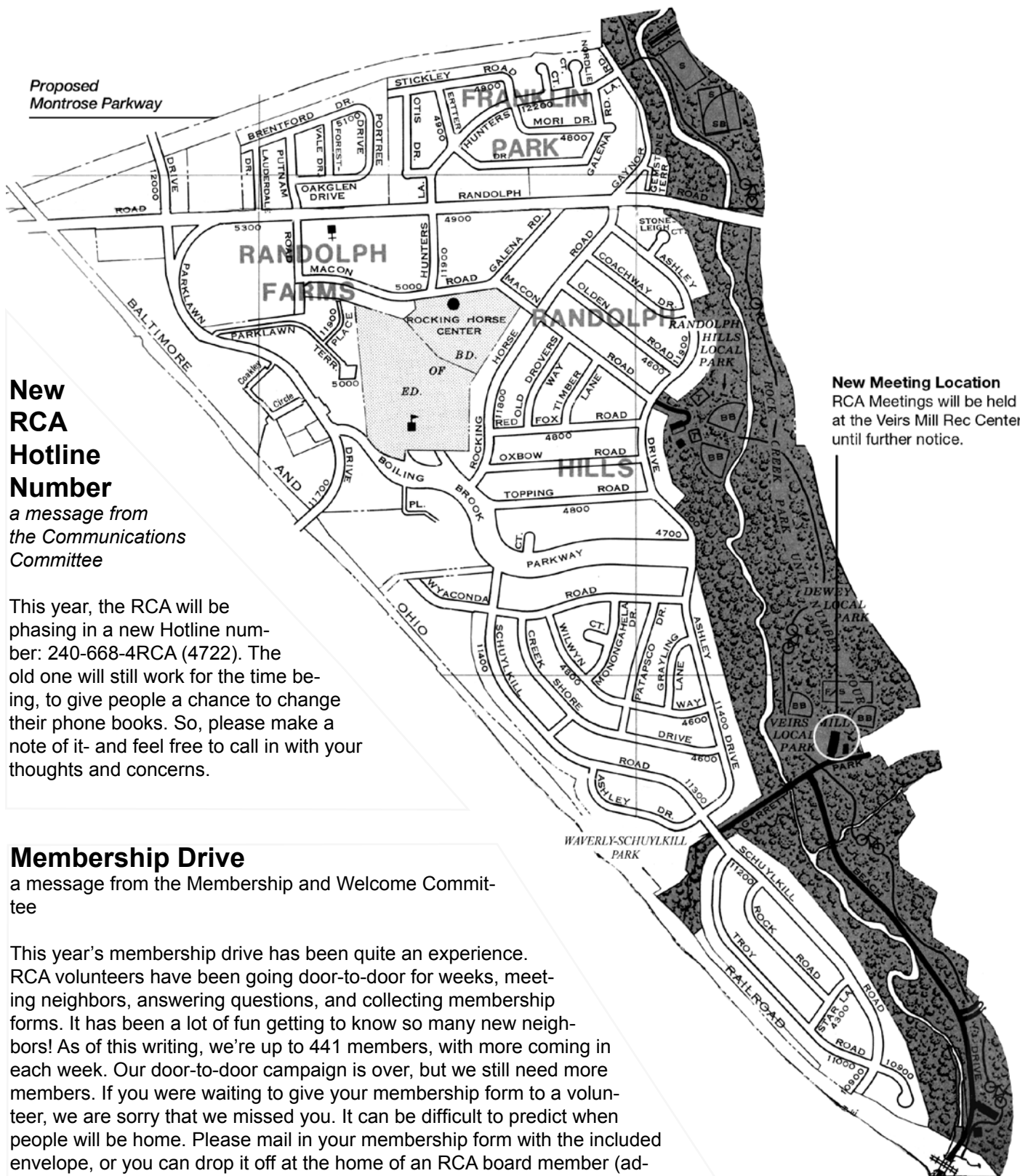
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New RCA Hotline Number

a message from the Communications Committee

This year, the RCA will be phasing in a new Hotline number: 240-668-4RCA (4722). The old one will still work for the time being, to give people a chance to change their phone books. So, please make a note of it- and feel free to call in with your thoughts and concerns.

Membership Drive

a message from the Membership and Welcome Committee

This year's membership drive has been quite an experience. RCA volunteers have been going door-to-door for weeks, meeting neighbors, answering questions, and collecting membership forms. It has been a lot of fun getting to know so many new neighbors! As of this writing, we're up to 441 members, with more coming in each week. Our door-to-door campaign is over, but we still need more members. If you were waiting to give your membership form to a volunteer, we are sorry that we missed you. It can be difficult to predict when people will be home. Please mail in your membership form with the included envelope, or you can drop it off at the home of an RCA board member (addresses listed on the inside front cover). If you need a new envelope, or have any other concern, please leave a message on the Hotline and we will call you back. Please remember that we do need you! Thank you for your support.

2010 RCA Membership Form

Please return this form to:
The Randolph Civic Association, P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD 20852

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AS THE MEMBERSHIP FORM HAS CHANGED

As a resident of a home within the boundaries of the Randolph Civic Association (RCA), we request that you renew your membership. Your membership dues allow us to publish the Echo, beautify, protect and advocate for our community. Please fill out the following form by printing clearly:

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

All email addresses and all name/contact information are kept entirely private.
RCA does not rent, lease, sell or divulge any email addresses, names, or phone numbers.

Description	Amount
2010 RCA Membership Dues	10.00
Additional RCA Donation (Supports publication of the Echo, advocacy, community events, and other civic improvements)	
Additional Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF) Donation (Supports activities such as youth groups, neighborhood beautification, and education - This amount is tax-deductible)	
RCF Sign and Entrance Beautification Fund (A targeted donation for improvements to our neighborhood entrances - This amount is tax-deductible)	
Total:	

Please note: Make checks payable to the Randolph Civic Association. Also, the RCA will not be selling flower bulbs this year.

Would you be interested in helping as a volunteer?

- ☐ Yes, please contact me by email
☐ Yes, please contact me by phone

¿Quisiera tener mas noticias en español?

☐ ¡Sí!

Important Sam's Club Note

The RCA will no longer be processing Sam's Club renewals. However, you can still keep your specially discounted RCA Sam's Card. This year, RCA members must renew their Sam's Club accounts directly at the Gaithersburg Sam's Club's membership desk by November 15th.

Please remember two very important things: 1. You must be an RCA member in good standing to renew (Sam's requires us to provide them with this information), and 2. You must go to the Gaithersburg Sam's Club. You cannot renew your membership at any other location. However, as always, once your card is renewed you may use it to shop at all Sam's Club locations.

Have you forgotten to renew your RCA membership? New to the neighborhood? If so, please detach the membership renewal form above and mail it in to: The Randolph Civic Association, P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD 20852. Your membership dues make it possible for us to have the Echo printed and delivered to your home eight times a year! That's a great deal for only \$10!

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 no claims or guarantees regarding the quality of goods or services sold.

LEAF RAKING. If you don't like raking leaves, let me do it for you!! Lowest prices. Rake to curb or in leaf bags, your choice. Call Chris at 301-770-7264.

WATERCOLOR CLASSES. Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, informal classes for adults. All levels welcome, including complete beginners. Held in teacher's Victorian home. Martha Seigel, MFA, the American University, 27 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

Note to Contributors:

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

December 2009	November 20th
January/February 2010.....	January 8th
March 2010	February 12th
April 2010	March 8th
May 2010	April 9th
June/July/Aug 2010	May 3rd

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

Neighborhood Home Sales Settled Since August 2009

<i>Address</i>	<i>List Price</i>	<i>Sold Price</i>	<i>DOM</i>	<i>Subsidy</i>	<i>Date Settled</i>
4604 Coachway Drive	\$277,000	\$277,000	221	\$3,000	10-Aug-09
4721 Wyaconda Road	\$315,000	\$315,000	10	\$12,000	12-Aug-09
4817 Boiling Brook	\$265,800	\$272,000	22	\$0	14-Aug-09
12217 Hunters Lane	\$335,000	\$335,000	80	\$10,000	31-Aug-09
11427 Schuylkill Road	\$369,900	\$365,000	4	\$0	10-Sep-09
11818 Old Drovers Way	\$288,500	\$327,000	6	\$5,891	15-Sep-09
4710 Topping Road	\$350,000	\$350,000	13	\$10,200	22-Sep-09

Average List Price	\$308,194	Average Sold Price	\$318,714
Low List Price	\$249,900	Low Sale Price	\$272,000
High List Price	\$399,900	High Sale Price	\$365,000

Currently, there are only 3 listings on the market in Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park and 8 homes under contract. The average number of days on market is 31, but homes that are priced correctly are selling within days with multiple contracts.

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