

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 55, Issue 3

November/December 2011

Community Gets New Signs

by Matt Tifford

After two years of fundraising and planning, installation of our new community entrance signs began on Saturday, October 29th. At 9am that morning, Eagle Scout candidate Matthew Best and his team of volunteers from Troop 1083 met at Loehmann's Plaza before setting off to begin work on the first sign, which was the new Montrose Park sign on Lauderdale Drive. Symbolically, this was a great place to start. When Montrose Park was built, this site was set aside for an entrance sign, but the developer never put one in.



Matthew Best (thumbs up) and a cold wet crew with one of RCA-land's four new signs. The RCA thanks Matthew Best and the rest of the scouts for a job well done.

Despite a miserable mix of rain and snow, the crew was swift and efficient, progressing rapidly through removal of old signs and installation of three of the four new ones before finally packing it in around 3pm. Much like the legendary Saint Bernards of the Swiss Alps, RCA residents Christiana Drapkin and Bob Walker braved the storm to drop by with some much appreciated hot cocoa.

The next day, Sunday the 30th, the same crew met up at 12:00 to finish the fourth and final sign on Boiling Brook Parkway in front of the Charles E. Smith School. If you have been following the sign project over the last year, you know that we ended up with one unified sign design concept, but two different sizes. A large version for Boiling Brook and Schuylkill where there is plenty of space, and a smaller version for the other sites where the space limits the size we can use. As a result, the Boiling Brook sign and the one installed on Schuylkill Road are quite a bit wider than the other two. After some discussion, it was decided that they were too wobbly when mounted between two posts and required more bracing. Boy Scout parent and former RCA resident Don Gibbons came up with a solution to stiffen the sign with a 2x4 and foam blocks across the back. This proved to be an excellent solution, and the signs are now much stronger.

The posts we used are made of lumber specially treated for outdoor use. They need to dry out before they can be stained or painted. At this point, we are planning to wait until Spring 2012 before applying a semi-translucent stain to the posts. We will also need to redo the plants and landscaping

around each sign since they are so much closer to the ground than the old ones.

Upcoming Events

RCA General Membership Meeting

Guest Speakers: Lerner Enterprises presents plans for the new White Flint Mall
December 1st, 2011 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

Santa Visits RCA-land!

December 18th, 2011 - Santa will begin his ride around 11:00 am in the Troy Road section, finishing in Westminster, Franklin Park, and Montrose Park at about 4:00 pm

RCA Executive Board Meeting (Tentative)

January 5th, 2012 8:00pm-9:30pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

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President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

In this edition of the Echo you'll find a short article about County Council Bill 33-11 regarding community benefits agreements and large retailers in the County. My message for this Echo is not so much about the bill, but about the interesting dialogue that it prompted on the RCA Yahoo Group. Two comments about the nature of RCA activities made me think I should take a moment and clarify the nature of RCA and the difference between policy and politics.

Two comments indicated that RCA should not get involved because taking a position on the legislation was akin to politics. I can understand the confusion. Let me start by pointing out that the RCA for over 50 years has advocated for our neighborhood at various levels of government, whenever an issue arose that may impact our community. This is why donations to the RCA and your membership are not tax deductible. The Randolph Civic Foundation accepts tax-deductible donations for various neighborhood initiatives such as new signs or scout troop support. The RCA monitors new policy proposals (like those related to land use, zoning, or public schools) and works with elected officials to ensure that the policies benefit, or at least, do no harm to our community. Sometimes we are successful, and sometimes we are not. For example, currently we are lobbying the County to keep the Wheaton High School modernization on track. Sometimes these policies take the form of programs coming from the County Executive, sometimes they come from the school superintendent, and often they come in the form of legislation proposed by the County Council. The Council sets policy, but how the Council gets elected is politics.

Many people associate politics with party affiliation and of course there is a connection. However, the RCA does not engage in any party politics. So you will never see RCA board members with a political party designation next to their names in the Echo. The RCA focuses on very local issues that impact RCA-land, and I've never encountered a pothole *(continued on page 8)*

RCA Telephone Number: (240)668-4722.

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

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

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

- **RCA to restart “Quiet Zone” discussion:** At our last RCA executive meeting, the RCA Board, at the request of RCA member Jennifer Zussman, resolved to restart the ‘Quiet Zone’ discussion – relating to the train whistles in the Garrett Park-to-Randolph Road area. If you are interested in assisting this effort, please contact Jennifer by emailing her at jennzussman@yahoo.com.
- **Want to get involved in RCA-Land Community discourse from the comfort of your computer?** Check out the community RCA Yahoo Group on www.randolphcivic.org. Some of the important topics being debated in recent days include: Wheaton High School Modernization efforts; the Montgomery County Council’s recent Big Box store bill; Skateboarders at the new Picnic shelter; Missing (and found) dogs and cats, plus lots more. Stay aware of what’s going on in your community and get in on the conversation. Join the RCA Yahoo Group at www.randolphcivic.org!
- **Don’t forget to renew your RCA membership!** If you misplaced the form from the last issue, we included it again in this issue on page 15. You can also go to www.randolphcivic.org and renew right now!

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 15 of this issue.

Thank you!



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Christina Addabbo Prete, Owner & Director

Local Holiday Happenings Sampler 2011

Compiled by Mark Nensel

The Holidays of 2011 are upon us! In the midst of all the celebrating, feasting, spiritual commemorations and shopping, you may want to get out of the house and go take part in a holiday event in the greater community. The Echo Editors offer a few suggestions. Note: for more information on Strathmore performances, visit www.strathmore.org

- Friday 11/25 thru Sunday 12/11, and Friday 12/16 thru Sunday 1/1 (except 12/24, 25 and 31): ZooLights at the National Zoo, 5-9 pm. Free Admission. The National Zoo’s seasonal lights, crafts and family fun show amidst the critters. <http://nationalzoo.si.edu>

- Friday 11/25 thru Sunday 1/8/12 (except 12/24, 25 and 1/2-5), 5:30-9pm: Garden of Lights at Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallen Avenue, Wheaton, Maryland. Last car admitted 8:30 p.m. \$25 per car Fri-Sun, \$20 Mon-Thurs. Garden of Lights Hotline: (301) 962-1453. Wheaton’s annual winter classic. <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside>

- Wednesday 11/30, at the Music Center at Strathmore, 8pm: Christmas show with New Orleans legends Aaron Neville and Allen Toussaint.

- Friday – Saturday 12/2-3, Bethesda’s Winter Wonderland. On 12/2, holiday events and performances at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave. On 12/3, live ice sculpting and a Santa visit, at Veterans Park, Woodmont & Norfolk Aves.

- Saturday-Sunday 12/3-4, and Saturday-Sunday 12/10-11; Saturdays at 2pm and 7:30pm, Sundays at 2pm. F Scott Fitzgerald Theater, Rockville: “The Nutcracker”. The Rockville Civic Ballet presents the holiday classic. <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre/>

- Saturday 12/10 8pm and Sunday 12/11 3pm, Music Center at Strathmore: National Philharmonic: Handel’s Messiah. All Kids, All Free, All the Time. Kids Free tickets may be obtained In Person at the Strathmore Ticket Office or By Phone (301) 581-5100.

- Wednesday 12/21, Strathmore Mansion, 7:30pm: The Music Pilgrim Trio, performing Jewish music- Israeli, Klezmer Freilakhs and Bulgars, Yiddish songs, some original compositions and Chanukah selections with Jewish, jazzy and Latin-American flavor.

- Wednesday 12/21, Music Center at Strathmore, 7:30pm: The Washington Chorus: A Candlelight Christmas. Brass, organ, percussion and a 200-voice chorus perform Christmas classics and sing-a-longs.

- Thursday 12/22, Music Center at Strathmore, 8pm: National Philharmonic Presents Holiday Celebration with the Washington Symphonic Brass. Winter Solstice celebration; medieval and renaissance music, holiday standards. All Kids, All Free, All the Time. Kids Free tickets may be obtained In Person at the Strathmore Ticket Office or By Phone (301) 581-5100.

November Executive Board Meeting Minutes

by *Christiana Drapkin*

1. Call to order: 8:05 p.m.
2. Old business:
 - a. Membership Drive Update:

This year's renewals are on track, and we won't need to do a comprehensive door-to-door membership drive. Every other year, we hold an intensive membership drive outreach. Two years ago, we had a good renewal rate, up from 7 years of trending down. Our membership count increased from 450 to 550 member households. The annual membership fee is \$10.

RCA is implementing new database software, making it easier to generate letters and organizational outreach. We can do more targeted phone banking. We can also target specific areas that seem to be less involved. Lindsay Hoffman is handling data entry. Cindy Zelaya, the Chair of RCA's Membership Committee, is working on coordination and will organize outreach volunteers. Volunteers needed! Please get in touch with Cindy to volunteer.

Matt Tifford suggested that we add a section to our registration form "would you like to join our Yahoo group?" We have a lot of email addresses, but some may be out of date. We sent out a "blast" email to invite more Randolph Hill residents to join our Yahoo group listserve. It has proven to be very useful for quick inquiries and responses around the neighborhood. It's easy to join by contacting randolphca@yahoogroups.com

Our Echo is on a slightly different schedule, more practical

September; October; November-December; January-February; March; April; May; June-July-August

- b. Sign Installation Update

Our local Boy Scouts troop did a great job installing the four beautiful new signs. We are now working on finalizing the permit process, receiving a registration tag to be affixed to each sign. We will now need to paint the posts; we're looking at a dark brown translucent stain. We also need to replant the plants on the bottom of the signs. Karen Helfert reports: we didn't plant any perennials because we anticipated the new sign installation. We're looking at low plantings: hellebores (Lenten roses) which bloom six months and retain foliage through the winter; some low ground cover. The Boiling Brook sign will need a major replanting effort; it's overgrown with tall lilies, which we'll need to dig up. We need to decide on a budget now, what's remaining from the RCF sign fund, plus some additional RCF money, as donations for beautification come in with the membership renewals. Karen will draw up a list of suitable plants and establish a budget.

We have one more sign, hopefully to be installed at Rocking Horse Road, corner of Macon.

3. New Business

- a. Wheaton HS Modernization

George Gadbois, the Education Committee Chair reports: The Superintendent published his budget list. The \$4.9 billion CIP request for Wheaton has been "bumped" again, to be delayed by a year. Any non-classroom-adding activity seems to have been delayed in the new budget. Monday, November 7, at 7 p.m. is the new Education Superintendent's "Listen & Learn" meeting. An invitation letter, in English and in Spanish is posted on the www.randolphcivic.org website. RCA members need to go out as a group to represent the parents and students' interests. RESOLVED: that RCA write a letter in support of reinstating the funds on schedule. Gadbois is drafting the support letter.

- b. Community Benefits Agreement Legislation

RCA members discussed the merits of the bill on the listserve and in the RCA committee meeting and find that the bill is flawed. At a recent public hearing on November 1, testimony was delivered with a range of positions on either side, with various unions represented, community groups, and non-profit organizations. Some people who weighed in against the bill seemed to address specific aspects of the bill. A lot of testimonials in support of the bill seemed to simply protest against WalMart, which isn't the actual content of the bill. The union, Local 400, is the main proponent of this bill. There is a general attempt to staunch the detrimental effect on wages that "big box stores" bring, that also makes itself felt in decreased wages in already existing stores. Proponents of the bill argued that such Community Benefits Agreement legislation would protect living wages, decrease traffic, etc. However, the bill, as proposed, is unlikely to have that effect. The proposed 5-mile radius covers too wide and diverse of an area to make much sense. The bill does not define what makes a "recognized civic association." It's too vague, as what kind of an array of organizations can make such "deals", which can invite some unseemly bargaining, or cherry-picking.

- c. Quiet Zone Effort reinvigoration

Jen Zussman, an RCA neighbor on Ashley Drive, close to the railroad track, introduced a "new" topic, one that has bedeviled area residents before: Proposing the Quiet Zone for passing trains, to reduce the loud train whistle blows, especially after midnight. Background: this issue came up a few years back. RCA had held some exploratory meetings with the Garrett Park community and with representatives from the county. The village of Kensington has its own established quiet zone. The Federal Railroad Administration, a bureau of the U.S. Department of Transportation (<http://www.fra.dot.gov>) that oversees the nation's railroads and rights-of-ways, also has to weigh in.

Train whistles are blown as a safety warning before crossings in two places: Garrett Park is an at-grade private road pedestrian crossing with an old bell, which is not up to current codes.

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Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster

Recent Troop activities have centered on community service. On three successive weekends in September and October, Greg Gadbois led a team of volunteers in his Eagle Scout service project, constructing a shed to house equipment for the Wheaton High School field hockey and softball teams. The new shed is located on the north side of the school, adjacent to the playing field, and saves the team's coaches, players, and equipment managers a long hike from the tower basement on the southeast side of the building. Greg and his crew even painted the shed Wheaton Knight red and gold!

On the final weekend of October, Matthew Best led his own Eagle Scout service project, one that's highly visible to motorists in RCA-land. Starting in the cold and sleet of Saturday's winter storm and finishing on a crisp sunny Sunday, Matthew led his crew in installing four attractive new signs welcoming visitors to our neighborhoods: one sign each for Montrose Park and Randolph Farms, and two Randolph Hills signs. Three of the signs replaced old weathered signs that no longer met recently enacted county code requirements; the fourth sign was new to its location. The new signs are a distinctive forest green with gold lettering and trim. You've probably already seen them in your travels. Kudos to Matthew and his helpers!

On November 12, Troop 1083 teamed with Girl Scout Troop 1028, Cub Scout Pack 1081, and Venture Crew 1083 for one of scouting's signature community service events, the annual Scouting for Food drive. Scouts and Venturers went door-to-door and collected non-perishable food items donated by RCA-Land and Holiday Park residents. Each year, your food donations are delivered to the Manna and the Washington Area Food Bank, where they are distributed to those in need. Sincere thanks to the many generous food donors!

In between all the service projects, the Troop found time for a fun outing October 22-23 in Frederick. Scouts camped at Pinecliff Park and took advantage of the perfect sleeping weather of autumn in the Catoctins. On Saturday afternoon the Scouts visited the historic Monocacy National Battlefield and hiked along the Monocacy River, taking in the fall colors. Later, back at the campsite, they prepared meals and played touch football.

There's a lot to look forward to in the coming months, too!

Santa Claus is coming to town on Sunday, December 18th for

his annual fire truck ride through RCA-Land. Santa will begin his ride around 11:00 am in the Troy Road section. Then he and his elves will proceed to the areas south of Boiling Brook. Santa will continue in the areas north of Boiling Brook, until reaching Timber Lane where he and his helpers will stop for a cookie break around 1:30 pm.

After the break, Santa will continue with the remainder of areas north of Boiling Brook and then proceed to the Rocking Horse Center area, finishing in Westminster, Franklin Park, and Montrose Park at about 4:00 pm.

During his ride through RCA-Land, Santa's elves will be walking alongside the fire truck passing out candy canes. We ask drivers to please remember to yield to these young pedestrians, and to please be patient if you happen to get caught behind Santa's fire truck. Thanks in advance for helping make Santa's ride a safe one!

Troop 1083's annual holiday tree sale will be held at the Masonic Lodge, on the corner of Knowles and Howard Avenues just east of Beach Drive, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on the following dates (Saturdays and Sundays): November 26 and 27, December 3 and 4, December 10 and 11, and December 17 and 18 (if needed). Free delivery to Randolph Hills area! All trees are \$50. Selections include Fraser Fir, Douglas Fir, Canaan Fir, Norway Spruce, and Table Tops (Table Tops will be priced accordingly). In addition, Venture Crew 1083 will be selling fresh Christmas wreaths at the tree lot.

If you are a boy who has finished the 5th grade, you can join Boy Scout Troop 1083. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the troop web page at www.troop1083.org.



Greg Gadbois and crew with the completed equipment shed at Wheaton High School

RCA Takes Position against County Council Bill 33-11

By Dan Hoffman

[The following is the testimony I provided to the County Council after the RCA Board unanimously approved a position against Bill 33-11, a bill designed to inhibit large retailers by forcing them into community benefits agreements. This topic was first discussed on the RCA Yahoo Group and then the position was affirmed by a vote at the last RCA meeting. To learn more about the bill, you can get the full text by visiting: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/bill/2011/Packets/20111011_4.pdf]

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify. I am here tonight representing my community, the Randolph Civic Association, a large neighborhood within close proximity to Rockville Pike and White Flint.

As many of you know we're a civic association that communicates frequently with its members. Even before bill 33-11 was presented, we discussed the idea of having a Wal-Mart near our neighborhood. Feelings were mixed, but we saw no compelling reason to get involved, except to ensure the property was developed in a way that aligns with smart growth and transit-oriented principles. Even though we have only seen high level renderings of the site, we do have concerns about how the site is being designed. We will bring those concerns to the developer and planning staff directly.

When 33-11 came to our attention, the community consensus was much clearer: this bill crosses a line. We continue to have no strong feelings for or against large retailers like Wal-Mart, but this bill is about much more than Wal-Mart. It would have a chilling effect on any large retailer considering Montgomery County as a home. When I asked for neighborhood input, the majority of emails I received conveyed negative feelings about this bill. One neighbor called it "legalized extortion", another felt this was the County's way of "shaking down" businesses. Somewhat surprisingly, many residents also expressed concern that this bill is unfair to new business, as we already have many large retailers in the County who apparently are not covered by this bill. After discussion, our civic association board voted unanimously to take a position against this bill.

Personally, I feel the language of the bill is very problematic. A vague description of 'large retail store' and 'recognized civic organization' will make effective monitoring of the implementation costly and cumbersome for the County. It also appears that it will accomplish little of what it intends to do. For example, my civic association, our local civic foundation, and our local elementary school parent-teacher association are three groups that would apparently be eligible. If you draw a five mile radius around my neighborhood, those three groups could satisfy the requirements of this bill for every big box store from Bethesda to Rockville, and

Potomac to White Oak. Some new flowers and a coat of new paint on the local recreation center are nice, but not likely to significantly protect our quality of life with higher wages or more affordable housing. Our association stands to benefit directly from this bill, but still we are not comfortable with the message it sends.

The expressed intent of this bill is very valid: you want to protect quality of life in the County. Of course the five co-sponsors, and the other four Council members all want this, so the question really is, "Does this bill actually offer us an effective instrument to do that?" In my view and in the view of many of my neighbors, this bill is more of a blunt object that could do more damage than good for the economic development of our County. If you want things like more affordable housing in specific locations, like those around large retailers, engage them directly to get what you want. Putting an additional, vague layer of regulation on new business in the county is not likely to accomplish your goal of protecting quality of life. Instead, it will only build upon our growing reputation as a County unfriendly to business.

Rocking Horse Community Garden Taking Applications for 2012

by Christiana Drapkin

To most of us, the new community garden behind the old Rocking Horse Elementary School came very much as a surprise. It seemed to spring up almost overnight last spring (pun intended), on the open field behind the school. Montgomery Parks sent in some heavy machinery, a large square was tilled, and little numbered markers appeared in neat rows. Not many Randolph Hills residents had taken note of an informational meeting that was held by the Brookside Gardens community garden initiative the previous November.

It was April, and a handful of gardeners started showing up on this large plot of tilled soil, with rakes and hoes, shovels and buckets. What was going on? Some gardeners met the passers-by with a smile and started a conversation. One by one, as it happens in a neighborhood, the news spread by word-of-mouth. Montgomery Parks (M-NCPPC), in co-operation with Brookside Gardens, established dozens of new community gardens throughout the county in recent years. For a fee of \$35 one could rent a 10 foot by 20 foot garden plot for the year. A double-sized plot (20' x 20') cost \$55 for the year.

Getting started was not easy. We had no fencing up yet, no water, and we had no idea these large infrastructure projects were tucked into the Community Parks' busy schedule wherever they could find time. Add to that the vagaries of spring rain, when certain construction work had to be put on hold. Until our water cistern was delivered and expertly hooked up, we gardeners had already charged ahead with our planting and cultivating, braving a bone-dry June, carrying our own water

(continued on page 13)

Offers Expire 11/20/2011



OUR LOCATION

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(301) 468-0400
www.koshermart.com

STORE HOURS

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RCA President's Message

(continued from page 2)

or a playground that was a Democrat or Republican. In the past election we endorsed no candidate, but we do provide you as much information as possible so you can make an informed decision. For example, we hosted one of three candidate forums for the District One Council election. We simply moderated; We did not endorse. It's worth pointing out, that the other two candidate forums were also hosted by civic associations just like us.

A good current example of this (other than the Wheaton High School modernization) is the problem being caused by Nationwide Imports, on Schuylkill Road. Among other things, this business installed an illegal sign, without a permit, and some of our residents now have bright red lights shining into their houses. The RCA has been working with the residents and County government since the signs went up to remedy this situation. We continue to meet with our Councilmember and various County agencies to lobby for a permanent solution that protects quality of life for our neighbors. Another example is the effort to turn the stretch of railroad tracks that runs along our neighborhood into a federally regulated "quiet zone." We've lobbied for this off and on for years, but now we have some new volunteers assisting the RCA in rejuvenating the effort. Finally, regarding the community benefits agreement legislation (Bill 33-11), that bill would formulate a policy that directly impacts our neighborhood. So it was appropriate for us to weigh in and communicate with the County Council.

I hope this helps clarify the difference between policy and politics, and the role of the RCA in helping develop policies. One last question that came up on the Yahoo group asked whether or not the RCA has the authority to speak for you. No, it does not. We do not speak for individual people. We speak for the neighborhood at-large and our legitimacy stems from the significant effort we put into communicating and gathering feedback from the neighborhood. The Echo, the Yahoo group, regular meetings, and events all offer you an opportunity to shape the direction of our neighborhood. Of course, you also vote on who serves on the RCA Board. We strive to run the organization as democratically as possible, and give everyone an opportunity to contribute. Whether or not you take the opportunity is up to you.

Our next Echo will come out in January, but I hope to see you all at the December membership meeting. We will have several speakers, including a presentation of the new plans for the White Flint Mall property. For now, I can give you a little sneak preview: the mall as you know it will be no more. Change is on the way!



Karen Wood
Piano Instruction
(301) 946-4634

Karen Wood had over 25 years of experience teaching piano to children and adults. She earned a Bachelor of Music with major in Piano and minor in Voice. Her students are guided by standards of the National Guild of Piano Teachers.



Montrose
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

5100 Randolph Road
Rockville, Maryland 20852
(301) 770-5335

Montrose Christian School is a diverse caring community that seeks to shape a Christian worldview into students for the glory of God, for the good of humanity, for the growth of each student. Our K-12 school was established in 1977 to serve as a ministry of Montrose Baptist Church to equip. MCS is a fully accredited Christian school characterized by faithfulness to the Word of God and excellence in all that we do. Our education focuses on the development of the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially. From this we want students to learn to be good servants of God and of humanity in all that we do (Deut 6:5; Lev 19:18; Matt 22:37-39). Shaping leaders, impacting the world for Christ.



**Educating with Excellence
for the glory of God**

* A Christ centered, academically challenging education

* Continually developing and enhancing curriculum and extra-curricular activities to equip students spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially for the rest of their lives



Excellence in Action

- Many of our graduates go to top-ranked universities, including Dartmouth, Harvard, University of Texas, Villanova, and University of Maryland, to name a few, and several of these with scholarships
- Challenging Bible classes to help students know Jesus Christ and biblical teaching
- Logic class and Debate Team enhance critical thinking and persuasive skills
- Students begin study of Latin in 3rd grade to help improve SAT scores
- Middle school students study the art of argument and logic
- Drama and band in elementary school
- Nationally ranked mens varsity basketball team, top 10 in ESPN Rise and USA Today
- Students from around the globe: China, Guatemala, Venezuela, South Korea, Thailand, Poland, Denmark, and more!

* A diverse student body, our International Student Program includes students from around the world!

* Dedicated Christian faculty and staff that serve their students with excellence!



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Contact the Office of Admissions for details to enroll your student today

Phone: 301.770.5335 | Fax: 301.881.7345

Email: admissions@montrosecristian.org

Loehmann's Plaza

5200 – 5290 Randolph Road, Rockville MD



Boston Market	(301) 984-0990
El Patio	(301) 231-9225
Chuck E. Cheese	(301) 468-2491
Congressional Bank	(301) 984-6000
Dollar Tree	(301) 231-6097
Lifestyle Spa	(301) 468-9770
Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
Royal Martial Arts	(301) 770-1007
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-4672
West Marine	(301) 230-0945

November Minutes

(continued from page 4)

CSX has the right of way on either side. To upgrade this crossing, we would have had to find tens of thousands of dollars, through a CIP project, to upgrade the crossing, and to get the crossing declared a public road. However, those prior efforts didn't bear fruit. We might want to adopt a new strategy: If we point out to CSX that the Garrett Park crossing is indeed a private road, maybe the instruction to sound the horn can be stopped. However, anytime a train driver sees something, or sees a person on the platform, they're instructed to blow the horn, anyway. We're especially concerned about horn blasts after midnight from the train coming from up-county towards DC.

The Randolph Road crossing is another at-grade crossing, which is, of course, a public roadway. It is pretty close to the Garrett Park crossing, and trains must sound the horn for that Randolph Road crossing. We hope that as soon as the overpass will be built at Randolph Road as part of Montrose Parkway East (cars will go over the train), we shall have a significant reduction of horn blasts. However that overpass is several years away.

RCA supports the Quiet Zone. We want to start up our discussions with Garrett Park, re-establish our contact with the county, and get support from Rep. Van Hollen. We will also add the design of a bikeway into the discussion. Jen will start the committee, Matt Tifford, Brian Hooker, and Dan Hoffman will join.

d. Pedestrian Crossing at Hunters Lane and Randolph Road

Sandra Lee, a neighbor from Franklin Park attended today's meeting. She is concerned about the intersection of Randolph Road and Hunters Lane. We had asked the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of building a pedestrian "refuge" island, to improve traffic safety at this busy intersection. Sandra fears that traffic may be impeded, while not deterring jaywalkers. The added middle lane that facilitates left turns has really helped traffic flow and reduced rear-end collisions. MCDOT is studying the location, and working out a design that may be feasible, but not without our neighborhood feedback, once the plans are presented to us.

4.

- a) Approval of prior minutes – by unanimous voice vote
- b) Treasurer's Report tabled
- c) Committee Chair Reports: Safety committee, neighborhood watch is ongoing. The police department sent a one-page email newsletter, "The Rock", which will be posted on the www.randolphcivic.org website.

Education Committee: See George Gadbois' report above on the Wheaton/Edison High School renovation delay. We appeal for a strong showing from the community.

Other news: The Veirs Mill upgrade project remains on track.

The only schools in the Wheaton cluster that are of concern are Wheaton Woods, and Shriver, both of which

got "bumped" in the new plan.

Thursday, 11/10/11 and Monday, 11/14/11 are CIP meetings, where Wheaton and Edison community representatives will testify to the Board about the school cluster.

The latest on the White Flint school site: the small 4-Acre site is still the place holder for the site. However, there are two parcels (Lattrell Property parking lot by the water tower on the other side of Rockville Pike, which may turn out to be expensive), or the Mall site (parking lot on the south side of the White Flint Mall, right off Rockville Pike). Garrett Park Estates had fought against the White Flint site. There will be a sketch plan for the new White Flint development presentation on November 16, 7pm, at Dave & Busters at White Flint Mall, which will generate a lot of new discussion and criticism.

5. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Tania Bingcang

Girl Scouts Troop 1028 is ready to face the cold winter chill with a line-up of activities come November thru January 2012. First and foremost, lined up for November 12 is the "Scout for Food" which supports Manna and the capital area food bank. This takes place in Randolph Hills Park and around the neighborhood where the girls go out in small groups with the boys to collect food. This has been an annual event that everyone knows about in the area, so we do appreciate your generosity and support in this cause.

Next in the line-up is the Annual Girl Scout Parade in downtown Silver Spring on November 19. Our girls are about to put on their thinking caps and get busy preparing for how our troop will be represented; arts and crafts will probably be the main activity for our upcoming meetings this November to work on our troop's banners, flags and the like. And speaking of upcoming meetings, our old beautiful location at the Viers Mill Recreation Center is back. Meetings will now be at said location starting November 7 and onwards. Thank you to Mr. Tifford and to the Randolph Civic Foundation.

December 5 will be a special day for the girls. Troop 1028 will be having their Award Ceremony wherein the girls will be receiving their badges. This will include badges for activities held last October such as the Horse Farm Rescue trip in Lisbon and the Camping Day at Brighton Woods. Of course, the troop will also celebrate as the girls advance to their next level in Girl Scouts.

Last but not the least in our line-up is a visit to Brookside Garden's Light display on January 7, 2012. They have a lovely walk-through display of lights which is a beautiful way to enjoy the outdoors in a cold winter's night.

We have added some photos below of our activities last October to share with all Echo readers. In behalf of Girl Scouts Troop 1028, we wish all RCA-Land readers happy holidays!

Residents Object to Wheaton High School Modernization Delay at Forum

by Dan Hoffman

Over 175 residents from various communities, including a strong contingent from RCA-land, provided the new Montgomery County Schools Superintendent Joshua Starr with feedback on a number of topics, most notably the delay of modernizing Wheaton High School. In the recent capital improvement plan, the Superintendent opted to delay the modernization for a third time in the face of budget constraints.

Those who voiced their objection made very passionate pleas. One resident said Wheaton gets the "short end of the stick every time," while one student in attendance put it more bluntly, "It sucks." The Superintendent affirmed that statement, saying "it does suck." To each objection over the delay the Superintendent reiterated that there simply was just not enough money in the budget to fund all the projects and that he hopes people read the budget document. He stated that although he did not expect people to like the decision, he at least hoped they would read the document, see the logic behind the decision and feel the decision was made in a transparent manner.

The RCA has taken a position opposing the delay, citing the state of the building and the fact that it has already been delayed three times. At the forum RCA member Avi Fishman gave the Superintendent some background and asked for a concrete affirmation that in the next budget cycle Wheaton would be at the top of the list. Starr smiled, thanked him for his comment, and said he wouldn't walk into that trap making promises on the spot. He followed that by saying that he could not make promises in future budgets and was concerned that the budget situation would only get worse.

The RCA is going to follow up on the forum by holding a meeting with Councilmembers Navarro and Berliner, MCPS Board representatives and school officials. We will report any updates in the next Echo, but the next Echo is not scheduled until January. For up-to-the-minute updates on this, please sign up for the RCA Yahoo Group by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca>.

Venture Crew 1083 Update

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

This year, the Venture Crew is putting a more concerted effort toward pursuing Venturing awards and achievements than in prior years. Recent meetings have focused on plans of action geared toward meeting requirements at both the group and individual levels.

The new emphasis on advancement hasn't diminished the Crew's taste for exciting fun outings, however. On October 16, some fearless Crew members gathered at Lake Needwood Park to experience the Go Ape adventure course. How to describe Go Ape?

It's sort of an airborne obstacle course: a long series of rope ladders, cable bridges, zip lines, and "Tarzan swings." It is intense and excellent fun! Crew 1083 will almost certainly return in the future.

On October 29, Venturer Esteban Hernandez hosted the Crew's Halloween Party. Burgers, chips, and a couple scary movie DVDs. OK, actually, it was one comedy and one scary movie. Being a Venturer means you don't have to follow someone else's script!

On November 12, the Venture Crew participated in the annual Scouting for Food service event (see Troop 1083 news for details).

The Crew will be selling fresh wreaths at the Troop 1083 Christmas Tree lot (Masonic Lodge, corner of Knowles and Howard). Be sure to stop by and say hello. And who knows? We might even have some snacks and cider for sale.

If you're a girl or boy aged 14 through 21 and you can keep up with us, you might like to join us. Crew 1083 is a friendly bunch, always ready to welcome new members. Upcoming Crew meetings will be on December 6th and 20th and on January 3rd, 17th, and 31st (all Mondays), from 6:30–7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. For more information, contact Crew advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755, or visit <http://www.crew1083.org/>.

Support Your Local Boy Scouts

Troop 1083 Selling Christmas Trees



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

Saturday and Sunday

November 26 & 27

December 3 & 4

December 10 & 11

December 17 & 18

(if needed)

Time 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

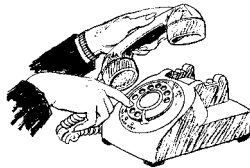
Free Local Delivery



The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received September 27th,
2011 through November 7th, 2011



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

10-05-11 (Wed) at 3:24pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is interested in participating in the neighborhood bazaar at Loehmann's Plaza and would like more information.

10-11-11 (Tues) at 11:19am. Not Anonymous. Caller is also interested in the October 15th bazaar. Is it too late to get a table? *[RCA Note: The fall Bazaar went well this year. For those of you wondering, we do get back to callers like this with information. A couple of volunteers monitor the hotline and forward the messages to the appropriate person when they warrant a prompt response.]*

10-17-11 (Mon) at 10:26am. Not Anonymous. Received via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Good Morning. I was wondering what the status was on our attempt to create a "quiet zone" at the Garrett Park train crossroad. Please let me know if there is someone specifically working on this effort as I am interested in assisting them. *[RCA Note: See the news bullets in this issue for more information and who to contact if you would like to help with this initiative.]*

10-20-11 (Thurs) at 6:50pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is interested in having a table at the community bazaar and would like more information.

10-21-11 (Fri) at 10:09am. Not Anonymous. Received via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Dear RCA, Would it be possible to post the RCA meeting schedule for the upcoming year on the website? Or if it is there, could someone point me toward it? I saw the November and December meetings in the Echo, but if there is a consistent meeting time (first Thursday or whatever it might be); I'd like to get it on my calendar for the coming year. Also, if you post it on the website, could you include an address or more specific location information for the Veirs Mill Rec Center? I'm not actually sure where that is. I've been saying for a couple years now that I should go to a meeting, and that it would be nice

to get to know more people in the neighborhood...but I never seem to get the meeting times on my calendar. Thanks for all the work you do; it is appreciated by many in the neighborhood. *[RCA Note: Meetings are the first Thursday of every month and in the last Echo we had a map with the rec center location marked on it. As the caller pointed out, upcoming meetings are always on the front of the Echo as well as on the website. When you visit the website the events calendar is on the right hand side. Take a moment now and mark it on your calendar.]*

11-1-11 (Tues) at 10:45am. Anonymous. Caller is a neighbor who would like to know the position of the RCA regarding the idea of building a Wal-Mart at Twinbrook metro. Caller knows it's outside our boundaries but will still affect our quality of life greatly. *[RCA Note: The RCA has taken no position on the proposed Wal-Mart at the Twinbrook Metro station. The RCA has taken a position on the community benefits legislation which is aimed at all new large retailers coming into the County. See the article in this issue for more information.]*

Remember to Renew Your RCA Membership

A Gentle Reminder from your Community

It's that time of year again and your RCA membership is more important than ever before. As we work to continually improve our neighborhood, your \$10 membership and continued participation are critical to the success of programs like the Neighborhood Watch and publications like the Echo.

So please take a moment and fill out the form on page 15 in this Echo. You can also renew by visiting www.randolphcivic.org and clicking on 'Membership'. Also donate a little extra if you can. Please note that while donations to the RCA are not tax-deductible, they keep The Echo in print, and our other activities funded. Donations to the RCF are tax-deductible. The RCF supports and sponsors activities such as community beautification and local youth groups.

FALL CAR CARE SPECIAL!

10% off any Purchase

(please present this ad)

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301-424-2010

Hours: 8:00AM- 6:00PM, M-F

8:00AM- 2:00PM Sat

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Community Garden Applications

(continued from page 4)

buckets from home.

Well, next year's growing season will be much easier, with our garden fence in place, our water supply secured, and our first season as gardeners behind us. I was certainly grateful for the friendly advice I received from my more experienced garden neighbors, who had been tending their plots at the Briggs-Chaney community garden and other locations in previous years. Now that we're no longer complete novices, we're happy to return the favor to new gardeners who will join us at Rocking Horse for the 2012 growing season. I'm already perusing the seed catalogs and planning my next year's layout.

Ursula Sabia Sukinik, the Community Gardens Coordinator of Montgomery Parks (M-NCPPC) will be our guest speaker at the next RCA general meeting, Thursday, December 1, at the Veirs Mill Rec Center. She will answer your questions, disseminate informational flyers, and let you know how to apply for a new spot in the Rocking Horse community garden. In the meantime, you can already find out the basics on the informative website www.parkscom-

Join Your Neighbors Online



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

Get in on the conversation at:

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

Holiday Caroling Returns to Randolph Hills – Join Us!

by Christiana Drapkin

This holiday season will mark our third year of door-to-door Caroling in our neighborhood. Everybody is welcome to join in! The past two seasons, our truly home-spun little band of carolers had so much fun, spreading home-grown holiday cheer through the streets of Randolph Hills. Now we're all looking forward to do it again, and we're calling all singers, young and old! Come and make this Holiday Season extra special with our own neighborhood holiday sing!

Let's meet on the three Mondays in December (12/5, 12/12, 12/19), from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. and sing some familiar, or even unfamiliar, tunes. This won't take great skill, just a fun spirit and creative attitude. To swell our ranks, we're teaming up with the local Girl Scout chapter on at least one of our outings. Bring your kids, bring the neighbors, bring your friends or out-of town guests. And bring a flashlight, so that you can read the extra verses you might have forgotten. We supply the music sheets, printed in large letters for easy reading. If you want to sing along with the melody or ring some jingle bells, that's just as well. Dress warmly, get your scarf and mittens, and don your Santa hat. The more, the merrier.

Our neighborhood stretches from Franklin Park, through Randolph Farms, and all the way across Schuylkill. Our neighborhood is too large to cover it all on foot, without getting exhausted. Each Monday, we'd like to cover a different area of Randolph Hills; though it depends in which area our volunteer hosts are located. If you'd like to host us at the start of one of our Monday Caroling sessions, give Christiana Drapkin a call. We always appreciate some cookies, hot cocoa or mulled cider before venturing into the December air. Or if you'd like to welcome us at the end of our route, around 8:00 p.m., and help us warm up again, we'd love that, too. Naturally, we'll sing some extra-enthusiastic Christmas carols and other holiday tunes for you!

We'd love to pay a visit to some houses of our elderly or homebound neighbors, who might appreciate being serenaded on their front lawn (no further intrusion or obligation). So, we'd like to have your participation, support, and input, where we can bring our good cheer to our neighbors.

Contact Christiana Drapkin on the RCA listserv, or at chdrapkin@aol.com, or at (301) 770-7940. You can join on any or all of the above dates.

**Renew Your RCA Membership
Now! The membership form is
on page 15.
Don't procrastinate!**

President's Message

by Matt Tifford

Beautification Fund Contributions

Back in 2009 we started the Sign and Entrance Beautification Fund, through which we were able to raise enough money to replace our aging community entrance signs. I want to urge everyone to keep the contributions coming. We still have one more sign to install on Rocking Horse Road. We don't have a location to announce, but expect one in the coming months. The sign itself is paid for, but we will need to purchase posts and hardware to install it. In the Spring, the posts for all the signs will need to be sealed and stained. Then we are planning an extensive overhaul of all the flowerbeds. The old plantings, such as they were, will have to be dug up. County regulations required us to install our new signs much lower to the ground than the old signs, which means some of the new signs, Boiling Brook in particular, would be obscured by tall plants if nothing changes. So, we will essentially need to start over from scratch.

Future Projects

If funds are available, I would also like to propose we pursue new low cost improvements that would further enhance quality of life in our community. I'm thinking of improvements like public benches, planters, fences, and other smaller projects we might come up with. Doesn't the fresh look of the new sign installations make you feel better about your neighborhood in some small way? Even small improvements to our immediate environment can enhance our enjoyment of the neighborhood in which we live. The new signs were an expensive and difficult project. However, there are many far cheaper and easier projects that we can undertake that would have a similarly positive impact.

Plea for volunteers

Over the years, we have been truly fortunate to have so many people willing to contribute money to the Foundation and its mission. However, in order to make the most of your contributions, we also have a great need for volunteers. While we did raise enough money to purchase signs, they wouldn't have been possible without help from skilled members of Troop 1038 to install them. We have many skilled people in our neighborhood- perhaps you have a skill which could benefit everyone. Are you handy, or a trade professional? Perhaps you have a green thumb, or an eye for landscaping. If so, wouldn't it be worth giving up a Saturday afternoon sometime to make a lasting change that benefits both yourself and your neighbors?

Property Values

As a homeowner who hopes to live in this neighborhood for a very long time, I don't spend too

much time worrying about the day to day resale value of my property. However, it is a reality that every one of us has a huge financial investment in our homes. Further, we tend to get caught up in the role that school boundaries play in property value. That is a very important part of valuations, but it is not the only part. I think many of us lose sight of the fact that our property values are not just about school clusters, and not just about the quality and upkeep of our individual homes, but also about the upkeep of the neighborhood in general. The quality and overall condition of our neighborhood matters. The upkeep of our parks matters. The general appearance of our entrances is also a factor. Well-kept public spaces are something that people notice when they are shopping for a home, and the more attractive and appealing they are, the more prospective homebuyers will be willing to invest to be a part of it. Even if, like me, you are not overly concerned with property values, if you care about the appearance of your home, you should also care about the general appearance of the neighborhood that surrounds it. I'm not talking about pestering our neighbors about the height of their grass, but rather the public spaces that are all of our shared responsibility.

So please, think about what you can bring to the table to make our community a better place to live. Your help is welcome in whatever form it takes.

RCF Executive Committee for 2011-2012

OFFICERS

President

Matt Tifford
11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

Vice President

Lindsay Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-775-9807

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Karen Helfert
11429 Ashley Drive
301-468-0236

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community. The address is: Randolph Civic Foundation, PO Box 489, Garrett Park, MD 20896-0489

www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org - Phone: 240-389-4723

Third Annual Holiday Caroling

In Randolph Hills

Join us for great fun for young and old!

Mondays, December 5, 12, 19

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

For more info, contact Christiana

chdrapkin@aol.com or

(301) 770-7940

2011-2012 RCA Membership

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

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
2011-2012 RCA Membership Dues	10.00
Additional RCA Donation <small>(Supports publication of the Echo, advocacy, community events, and other civic improvements)</small>	
Additional Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF) Donation <small>(Supports activities such as youth groups, neighborhood beautification, and education - This amount is tax-deductible)</small>	
RCF Sign and Entrance Beautification Fund <small>(A targeted donation for improvements to our neighborhood entrances - This amount is tax-deductible)</small>	
Total:	

Please note: Make checks payable to the Randolph Civic Association.

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!

You Can Also Renew or Join Online!
Save yourself a stamp and save RCA volunteers some time. Renew or Join online!
Just go to
www.randolphcivic.org
right now and click on "Membership" to renew or join.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Echo publishes classified ads free for RCA members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes no claims or guarantees regarding the quality of goods or services sold.

WATERCOLOR CLASSES. Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, 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.

BEST BUDDIES PETSITTING SERVICE: Going out of town? Need your dog to be walked daily? Have a cat that needs to be boarded? Well we are a home away from home providing the best loving care for your pet depending on your needs. We board cats and dogs and we do not crate them. We have a fenced-in quarter acre lot right here in Randolph Hills! Dogs get two 30 minute walks daily and all animals get breakfast and

dinner; we provide the food! Between walks, there is plenty of playtime. Prices reasonable and our schedule is setup to meet your needs. Pickup and drop-off service is provided if needed. Any medications can and will be administered. We are bonded and insured. Call Danny Beigel at: 240.654.0694 or go to www.bestbuddiespetservice.com email us at bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: Tempur-Pedic box spring, queen size, in excellent condition. Call: 301-770-3359

Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2011-2012 Issue year are:

January/February 2012..... January 20th
 March 2012..... February 17th
 April 2012..... March 2th
 May 2012 April 13th
 June/July/Aug 2012 May 11th

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

Sales settled since August 2011...

<u>Address...</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sale Price</u>	<u>DOM</u>	<u>Subsidy</u>
10901 Troy Road	\$399,999	\$380,000	20	\$0
11913 Ashley Drive	\$349,900	\$335,000	41	\$1,000
11214 Troy Road	\$365,000	\$356,000	56	\$0
4903 Stickley Road	\$379,900	\$379,900	75	\$2,150
11436 Schuylkill Road	\$339,900	\$339,900	70	\$11,551
11303 Creek Shore Place	\$329,900	\$315,000	66	\$0
11107 Rock Road	\$346,900	\$346,900	45	\$10,000
11322 Schuylkill Road	\$170,000	\$175,000	1	\$0
11521 Patapsco Drive	\$255,000	\$255,000	96	\$0
4708 Olden Road	\$329,000	\$318,285	139	\$6,366

Happy Thanksgiving!

*"Wishing you and your family a wonderful
Thanksgiving...and may you have lots to be thankful for!"*

Denise
SZCZUR
301-452-5544



Long and Foster Realtors
6000 Executive Boulevard, North Bethesda, Md 20852
(O) 301-468-0606 (C) 301-452-5544



email: Denise.Szczur@LNF.com
website: DeniseSzczur.LNF.com



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