

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Federation

Volume 44, Issue 1

September/October 2000

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District 1 Councilman Guest at RCA Meeting



Our local district 1 county council member Howard Denis will be our guest at the Thursday, October 5th RCA General Membership Meeting, 8 pm, Randolph Hills Recreation Center, corner of Ashley Drive and Macon Road. Mr. Denis will speak unless a County Council public hearing prevents his attendance.

Mr. Denis won the special council election last April, and now is the time to introduce ourselves and let him know our concerns and hopes. Think about education, transportation, county services, and other issues and present them at this meeting. This is the first time in a long time that a council member has visited us. Please attend.

President's Message

by Jack Stillwell

Isn't anything easy?

Welcome back to reality! Kids going to school, people home from vacation, crowded streets and a monthly ECHO. More to do, worse weather and less daylight. We've got National elections, the Olympics, and a new version of Survivor coming out. And don't forget the bimonthly RCA General Meetings which this year we kick off with a bang. Richard Zierdt has managed to get our new representative on the County Council, Mr. Howard Denis, to come and speak to our October meeting and take questions. This is a great opportunity to put some of our neighborhood issues

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting
Thursday, October 5, 2000
8:00 p.m.

Special Guest:
County Council Member
Howard Denis

Please attend!



Big RCA Events
Are Coming!



Community Picnic
Saturday, September 23. *See page 19.*

Community Yard Sale
Saturday, October 7. *See page 19.*

Subdivision...or Parkland?

Should this patch of woodland in our community be cleared for new homes, or preserved as Parkland? Please help us save the trees...see page 9.

RCA Executive Committee for 2000-2001

OFFICERS

President

Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Vice President

Matthew Shore
11230 Troy Road
310-468-1225

Secretary

Kevin Kline
4808 Randolph Road
301-230-1486

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Directors

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

Frank Shore
11230 Troy Road
310-468-1225

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Echo Editor

Eileen White
11225 Ashley Drive
301-984-2579

Echo Advertising

Mauro Biondo
11508 Monongahela Court
301-770-7590

Membership

Patricia Longenecker
4703 Wyaconda Road
301-770-1927

Environment

Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Education

Elinor Walker
12111 Galena Road
301-468-6335

Mobile Watch

John Polk
11216 Troy Road
301-984-8015

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Scout Leader, Troop 1083

Brian McGahey
11805 Timber Lane
301-770-7882

Cub Master, Pack 1081

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Scout Liaison

Frank Rossomondo
11611 Ashley Drive
301-770-7450

Family & Community Education

Judy Fewell
5018 Macon Road
301-770-5540

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:
Scott Bailey, George Cantalupo, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt
North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):
Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964
Mr. Denis' aide: Tedi Osias

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive (all of RCA):
Douglas Duncan 240-777-2500

Montgomery County Public Schools: 301-279-3000
School Board Offices: 301-279-3617
School System Information: 301-279-3391
School Board Member for District 3
(representing all of RCA):
Ms. Patricia O'Neill 301-320-7600

Maryland State Legislative District 17 -
South of Randolph Road:

Senator: Jennie Forehand 301-858-3134
Delegates: Kumar Barve 301-858-3001
Michael Gordon 301-858-3519
Cheryl Kagan 301-858-3046

Maryland Legislative District 18 -
North of Randolph Road:

Senator: Christopher Van Hollen 301-858-3137
Delegates: Leon Billings 301-858-3028
Sharon Grosfeld 301-858-3028
John Hurson 301-858-3464

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

U.S. Congressional District 8 (all of RCA):
Constance Morella 202-225-5341
email: rep.morella@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate (all of RCA):
Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654
Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

Election Precincts:
4-08 South of Randolph Rd. Vote at Rockinghorse Center.
4-26 North of Randolph Rd. Vote at Montrose Baptist Church.

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



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$5.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

on the table and see how they fit in his list of priorities. I urge any of our residents to come, listen and be heard.

The fall brings us our picnic, which is a great time to meet each other over a burger or hot dog and also introduce the family. I know it's a little intimidating to show up without knowing anyone, but if you care about the neighborhood, you have to start somewhere. Please drop by the park, say hi and give us your thoughts.

October will also see the fall Yard Sale at Loehmann's Plaza when we all get to sell the stuff we bought from some other neighbor last time.

In other RCA news, we were notified that RCA-land is officially on the "ReNew Montgomery" schedule for sidewalk repairs and other infrastructure improvements beginning next year. We're looking into this now and will do our best to take full advantage of the program.

I guess the other thing to mention as we head into this year, is that once again, you still see the same names throughout this newsletter. The same officers, the same columnists, the same committee heads. This is not a small power hungry group hogging all the glory of neighborhood politics, this is just a group of people with lots of other responsibilities, who are trying to keep the organization viable for when a real problem comes up. I know that few of you have extra time to give, and that you're nervous about being asked to do things that exceed your comfort level. That's okay. We try hard not to ask those things. Everything is voluntary. If you can't make meetings but you're interested in helping, please let us know. If you have an idea for a neighborhood improvement, please suggest it. Just understand that we don't have an army standing by to mobilize. Unless you decide to join the army.

So, summer's over, everything gets more complicated, and we're asking for you to think about one more thing. That's the way people in the DC area relax. As Mom's cousin Ernie used to say, "If it was easy, it wouldn't be interesting."

Renew Montgomery Comes to RCA

by Richard Zierdt

Montgomery County has contacted the RCA through our president, Jack Stillwell, and the County has selected us for the "Renew Montgomery" program to begin in 2001.

This is a program where MC Department of Public Works and Transportation makes any number of improvements to a neighborhood over a period of three

years. I was told earlier this year that the RCA was going to begin to get its sidewalks refurbished starting in spring/summer 2001. However, Renew Montgomery is in addition to new sidewalks. I have listed below some projects I thought would help our neighborhood. Please call the RCA hotline to add any of your own. Some of ideas listed below are school related, and beyond the control of Public Works. However, one of the best ways to improve any neighborhood is to improve its public schools.

The RCA will discuss all ideas and present them to Public Works in the coming months. This opportunity shows the importance of strong, organized civic associations. If the RCA didn't exist, how would the county coordinate with us? How would they know our concerns as a whole? Please renew or join the RCA now!

Here's my list:

- 1) new sidewalks
- 2) new trees where desirable
- 3) street light on every utility pole
- 4) paint traffic lines on Rockinghorse and Schuylkill Roads (to delineate parked cars from traffic)
- 5) add an additional left-turn lane at Boiling Brook onto Nicholson
- 6) place trash cans at bus stops with scheduled trash pickup
- 7) annex (purchase) the Millard property to the Waverly-Schuylkill Park (see page 9)
- 8) reopen Rockinghorse Elementary
- 9) place all of RCA in the same school cluster (WJ)

ELLIOTT C. FLICK, D.D.S.

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Dentist

Se habla español



Note to Contributors:

**The deadline for the November 2000 issue of
The Echo is October 6th.**



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GNC	(301) 984-3363
Hair Systems	(301) 881-0338
Kumon U.S.A.	(301) 231-6977
Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
Rite Aid	(301) 881-1910
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-2477
Urban Accents	(301) 881-4451

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JBG Rosenfeld Retail Properties,
7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1111, Bethesda, MD 20814
Telephone: (301) 657-0700; Facsimile: (301) 657-9850

Membership Drive Begins Anew

by Richard Zierdt

We start the new year with a new membership chair, Patricia (Pat) Longenecker. Pat is a long-time RCAer (~1960!) who has stepped up to the plate to help our community. You will note her address on the return envelope.

We've included SAM's numbers on the membership form and e-mail addresses. Please update as necessary. Because of some turnover, the RCA does not have every (new) homeowner's name, so please supply your name if the previous occupant has moved. The only thing that never changes is the address!

RCA Membership dues remain at \$5 per year, one of the lowest, if not the lowest, in the county. This does not cover the cost of all the things the RCA does (community yard sales, picnics, support for our children (Cub and Boy Scouts) and keeping you informed of community issues.

One way to further help financially is to contribute any amount over \$5. These extra amounts go automatically to the Randolph Civic Foundation, our non-profit,

charitable counterpart. All donations *over* \$5 are tax-deductible. Become a member of the "star" club; see the giving ranges on your membership form.

Membership in SAMs is \$15 per person, but your household must be a RCA member.

No one makes a dime doing any of the work for the RCA/RCF; we're all volunteers. We spend around \$500 in postage and envelopes for membership out of an approximate \$10,000 annual budget. That's a 95% effectiveness rate on your donations. We don't believe you'll find any other organization so efficient with your donation. Please join to keep your community a good community.

SAM's Club Card from RCA

by Richard Zierdt

Here's how the SAM's Club cards work through the RCA. This works only if you obtained your card through the RCA. All cards must be renewed (unless otherwise indicated on your RCA membership form) or begun new when you start or renew your RCA membership. RCA membership is \$5, SAM's Club card are \$15 each. Each SAM's Club Card can only be used by one person. You may buy goods for someone else, such as your spouse, but you must pay for it – not the other person. For convenience, some couples get two cards – one for each person. SAM's Club cards are good all over the country.

Existing SAM's Club Cardholders: Renew your RCA membership (\$5) and SAM's card (\$15 per card) and continue using your existing card. You will not receive a new one. You can check your SAM's card number with the one listed on your RCA membership form. I renew all cards in September, and then delete those who have not renewed in late November or early December. Your cancelled RCA check is your receipt.

New SAM's Club Card Requests: Start or renew your RCA membership (\$5) and SAM's card (\$15 per card). I will go to SAM's occasionally through October and buy new cards for those who order them, and telephone, leave a voice mail, or drop in your door your new SAM's Club membership number. Simply take the membership number to the membership desk at any SAM's Club store and get a permanent, plastic card. You will need a picture ID, typically a driver's license. The cards are good through October 31, 2001. This card will be used as long as you renew your SAM's membership. Once you are established at SAM's, you do not have to get a new card and picture again.

If you have any questions, call Richard Zierdt, RCA Treasurer, 301-881-0283.

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Treasurer's Report

by Richard Zierdt

As of August 27, 2000, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$1,964.25.

I guess it had to happen sometime. The RCA was hit with \$28 in "account maintenance charges" when the balance dropped below \$1000. I was able to get \$10 of that refunded, but it's something the treasurer will have to keep in mind. The Foundation is not subject to these fees (charitable organization).

RCA Checking Register					
5/08/2000 through 8/27/2000					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
BALANCE 05/07/2000					3,016.51
05/13		RCAssociation	—SPLIT—	255.00	3,271.51
		inc:yard sales	yard sale fees 5/13	135.00	
		inc:yard sales		115.00	
		inc:membership	Littleford	5.00	
05/17	E-xfr	Bell Atlantic	Apr 22 phone bill	-20.21	3,251.30
05/18		interest	Crestar Bank 0.50 %	1.66	3,252.96
05/23	608	Nineva Printing	June ECHO	-895.00	2,357.96
05/24	609	RCFoundation	donations received	-2,000.00	357.96
05/26		RCAssociation	—SPLIT—	20.00	377.96
		inc:membership	Williams (Topping Rd)	10.00	
		inc:yard sale	yard sale booth sale	10.00	
06/18		Bell Atlantic	May 22 phone bill	-20.21	357.75
06/20		interest	Crestar Bank 0.50 %	0.41	358.16
06/20	Auto	Suntrust Bank	account maintenace chrg	-10.00	348.16
07/01	610	Mont Co Civ Fed	2000-2001 dues	-65.00	283.16
07/17	Auto	Suntrust Bank	account maintenace chrg	-10.00	273.16
07/18		Bell Atlantic	June 22 phone bill	-20.21	252.95
07/21		interest	Crestar Bank 0.50 %	0.17	253.12
08/03		interest	Crestar 0.54 %	0.06	253.18
08/11		RCAssociation	—SPLIT—	540.00	793.18
		inc:advertising	Armand's Pizza	420.00	
		inc:advertising	Parcel Plus	120.00	
08/13	611	MNCPPC	Key deposit - Rec center	-160.00	633.18
08/18		Bell Atlantic	July 22 phone bill	-21.33	611.85
08/18	Auto	Suntrust Bank	account maintenace chrg	-8.00	603.85
08/18		RCAssociation	maintenance chrg refund	10.00	613.85
08/23		RCAssociation	—SPLIT—	500.00	1,113.85
		inc:advertising	Catherine Guie	20.00	
		inc:advertising	Marcia Lang	120.00	
		inc:advertising	Paul Friedman	120.00	
		inc:advertising	Preferred Automotive	240.00	
BALANCE 08/27/2000					1,113.85

RCF Checking Register
5/08/2000 through 8/27/2000

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
BALANCE 05/07/2000					407.65
05/10	1036	Erie Insurance	community yard sale	-200.00	207.65
05/10	1037	Multiple Sclerosis	Mark Shore memorial	-100.00	107.65
05/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	157.65
05/18	1038	Brad Wertz	electricity for sign	-99.00	58.65
05/24		RCFoundation	contributions thru RCA	2,000.00	2,058.65
05/31		interest	Crestar Bank - 0.70 %	0.48	2,059.13
06/12	1039	Scout Troop 1083	ECHO delivery 1999-2000	-960.00	1,099.13
06/12	1040	Scout Troop 1083	annual donation	-400.00	699.13
06/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	749.13
06/30		interest	Crestar Bank - 0.71 %	0.86	749.99
07/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	799.99
07/30		interest	Crestar Bank - 0.71%	0.41	800.40
08/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	850.40
BALANCE 08/27/2000					850.40

Total RCA+RCF cash assets

1,964.25



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2000 Census Means Possible Maryland Redistricting

by Richard Zierdt

With the conclusion of the 2000 census, Maryland will begin the process of re-districting the state. Currently, our neighborhood is divided between two Maryland legislative districts. I would prefer that it be one, so that all RCA residents are represented by the same legislators. The current districts are 17 (south of Randolph Road, and 18 (north of Randolph). This will be discussed at the October 5th General Meeting.

Another issue is municipal incorporation. All incorporated municipal entities in Montgomery County receive a portion of their Maryland State income taxes back, on the order of 15 percent, I understand. This applies to small towns like Kensington, and Washington Grove (know where that is?). I would like to see this for RCA – in other words, start the Town of Randolph (or other name). State legislators are reluctant to do this, but we should try. This will be discussed at the October 5th General Meeting.



GENERAL REPAIR

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Term Limits for County Council Proposed

by Richard Zierdt

Robin Ficker is doing his referendum thing again this year, but this time he may have it right. He collected enough valid signatures (over 10,000) to place a question before Montgomery County voters in November that would limit County Council members and the County Executive to two terms. (I'm not sure if the terms are consecutive.)

The arguments for term limits in general are that they (1) promote the "citizen" legislator, as opposed to a "career" one; (2) that special interests cannot maintain a (well-financed) stalwart in office; (3) that passing legislation for re-election reasons is reduced; (4) an election district can attract extra "attention" (funding, basically) from government if the district has a senior, "tenured" legislator who repeatedly is re-elected; (5) the power of incumbency is too strong for a typical challenger to overcome.

Arguments against term limits are (1) popular politicians are kept out of office; (2) elections are the proper way to remove someone from office; (3) great statesmen are developed in politics if they are continually re-elected (4) an election district can attract extra "attention" (funding, basically) from government if the district has a senior, "tenured" legislator who repeatedly is re-elected.

Note that reason (4) is the same, both for and against. It depends on where you live. U.S. Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia and U.S. Representative Bud Shuster from Pennsylvania, both long-term members of Congress, are masters at garnering "extra" consideration for their respective constituents (federal job creation in West Virginia and transportation projects in Pennsylvania). This may be fine for these two states, but was it in the best interest of the rest of the country?

Which brings me to Montgomery County.

Preventing Belt Junior High from being re-opened may have helped special interests, but was it in the best interest of public school children (in RCA!) who now attend an extremely crowded Parkland Middle School? County Council members and the County Executive allowed this to happen, and they should not be re-elected.

So vote the bums out, right? Except that (1) the rest of the county probably doesn't care about education in the Wheaton cluster, and (2) some Council members, and certainly the County Executive, are so entrenched that re-election is inevitable. We need something to level the playing field, and term limits is one solution. This question will be brought before the RCA membership at the October 5th General Meeting.

Subdivision or Parkland? In-fill Subdivision Proposed for RCA-land

by Eileen White

"Glendarragh, the most beautiful glen in this neighborhood, leads from the new railroad station in a northeasterly direction to Rock Creek. It abounds in silvery springs of health-giving waters. Tall poplar and tulip trees, whose giant forms tower toward the skies, afford a grateful shade, and no more delightful place for picnics and excursions can be found in this entire region."

From the publication "Garrett Park – Where It Is and What It Offers," printed 1887, describing the area that includes the Millard Property.

In June, the Randolph Civic Association and the Town of Garrett Park were notified by the Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) that the owner of the Millard Property, a heavily wooded area adjoining Waverly-Schuylkill Park, had submitted a pre-preliminary plan seeking approval to build an "in-fill" subdivision of five homes. The 2.38 acre property is bordered by Waverly-Schuylkill Park on the south, the CSX railroad tracks in Garrett Park on the west, and the houses along Ashley Drive on the north. The property lies outside of the Garrett Park town boundaries, and is technically a part of North Bethesda.

The RCA has several objections to the development of this property. First, the only access to the houses would be over the railroad crossing in Garrett Park. Obviously this creates a huge safety concern, not only to the homeowners and their families but to their guests, service vehicles, fire trucks, etc. Those of you who live anywhere near the tracks are well aware of the large number of commuter and freight trains that rumble through here every day, including the MARC trains that stop at Garrett Park both morning and evening. And don't forget the trains that stop at night and block the crossing, sometimes for hours, totally preventing access. Just days after the subdivision plan was submitted, a pedestrian was killed at the Randolph Road crossing, making four deaths at that crossing alone in the past 13 months. In the words of one concerned citizen of Garrett Park, "...a horrible idea, so dangerous that it gives me nightmares!"

Our second concern is one that affects us all more directly – the destruction of this lovely mature woodland.

The development of this property would mean cutting down a lot of trees, some of which are more than 100 years old, and the displacement of many species of wildlife and birds. These woods provide a home for deer, foxes, raccoons, and a number of woodland birds including wood thrushes, pileated woodpeckers and screech owls (a birdwatchers paradise!). Also of concern is the environmental impact on the small natural stream that runs along the northern edge of the property.

The issue MNCPPC will examine is, what is the proper land use for this property? Is a subdivision feasible? Or should this woodland be preserved? **The RCA's goal is to persuade MNCPPC to deny the subdivision plan and purchase the property to annex to Waverly-Schuylkill Park.** We believe this beautiful woodland should be preserved to be enjoyed by all.

At present, I am working with former Senator Frank Shore to organize a rally and picnic in Waverly-Schuylkill Park to gather signatures in support of our position (date to be announced). I hope you will add your name to the list and help us preserve this beautiful, historic site. Do you want to see further development of our neighborhood, or would you like to save the few forested areas we have left? Come see us in the Park, or call me (301-984-2579) or Frank Shore (301-468-1225). Don't wait 'til the bulldozers come. Speak out today and save the trees! Your opinion counts.



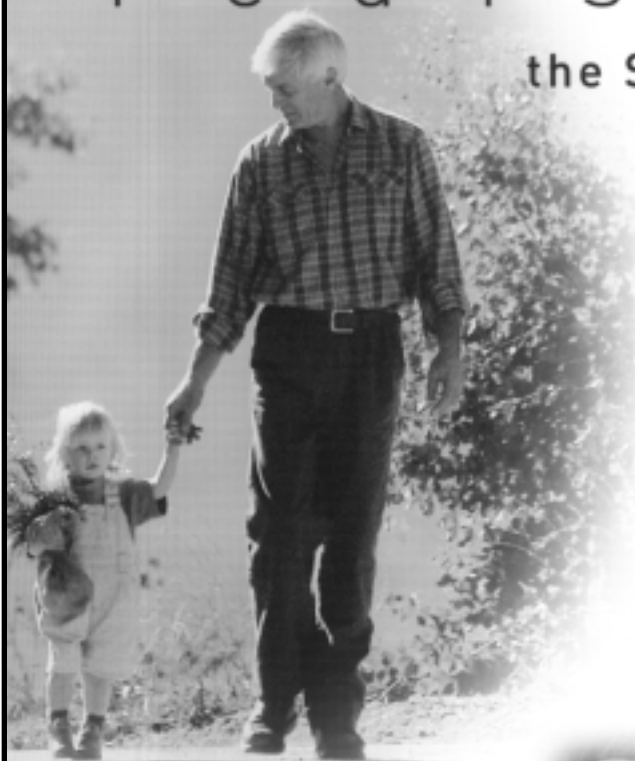
(above) The Millard property viewed from the Garrett Park side of the railroad tracks. The property extends down the wooded side of the hill for 2.38 acres. Access would be over this crossing.



(left) The undisturbed woodland is home to deer, red fox, raccoons, opossums, wood thrushes, screech owls, red shouldered hawks, hairy and downy woodpeckers, and the spectacular pileated woodpecker. Some of the large poplar and tulip trees on the property are over 100 years old.

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SPECIAL SAVINGS FROM ROCKVILLE HEARING AID CENTER

FREE HEARING EVALUATIONS

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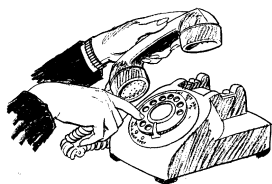
Call for your appointment
(301) 231-5171

Rockville Hearing Aid Center

133 Rollins Avenue #2
Rockville, MD 20852

Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

May 7, 2000 to
August 27, 2000



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

2000-05-07 (Mon) 1:48 pm Topping Road. Questions about the yard sale on Saturday (May). Location, etc.

2000-05-07 (Mon) 4:36 pm Mori Drive. Wanted to place ad in ECHO. *[Please call Eileen White, ECHO editor for residential ads, 301-984-2579]*

2000-05-07 (Tue) 10:58 am Anonymous. Two concerns. Why should sidewalks be repaired when you can't walk without getting blocked by a car? Believes that issue should be resolved first. Also, house at 48xx Wyaconda Road has been under renovation for months with overflowing trash, etc. No one from the County seems to help. Would appreciate cooperation by the RCA.

2000-05-07 (Wed) 2:14 pm Wants call about the RCA yard sale (May).

2000-05-07 (Thu) 4:14 pm Anonymous, but with a D.C. phone number. Is this a flea market? Looking for details. Please call. *[we did]*

2000-05-15 (Mon) 9:54 am Anonymous. 48xx Topping, cars blocking the sidewalk.

2000-05-15 (Mon) 11:15 am Caller owns a couple of homes in Franklin Park, but doesn't live there. Wants to get the ECHO via mail. *[We mail ECHOs to out-of-towners for \$10/year].*

2000-05-15 (Mon) 7:08 pm Concerned citizen. Ashley Drive and Boiling Brook Pkwy. Cars parked all over the place, on the wrong side of the street, etc. Called the non-emergency line, but it was busy.

2000-05-18 (Thu) 4:38 pm Anonymous. 48xx Topping Road. cars, vans blocking the sidewalk. Also, cars at several homes along the street are blocking the sidewalk. This practice is contagious.

2000-05-20 (Sat) 10:39 am Montrose Park, Brentford Drive close to Randolph Square apartments. Notice of special exception, Case # A-5413. 240-777-6600 County Board of Appeals. Hermene B. Jones, administrative specialist. Applicant wants to erect 10' fence. Hearing Wed, June 21, 9:30 AM. *[RCA spoke with resident, applicants, and attended the hearing. The fence seemed reasonable. While at it, applicant was asked to trim the bushes on Randolph Road that intrude on the sidewalk.]*

2000-05-23 (Tue) 12:54 pm Anonymous. Can the RCA do anything about the cars at the intersection of Grayling Lane and Ashley? Plus a commercial vehicle blocks the stop sign. Children play down there. Someone's going to get hurt.

2000-05-23 (Tue) 3:21 pm Etimine (?) Montgomery County Service Center (?) Wants RCA's email address.

2000-05-24 (Wed) 4:26 pm 4800 block of Wyaconda. 30-yr resident. A couple of homes on the 4700 block of Wyaconda have deep depressions in the sidewalk. Could the homeowners or county do something about this? Also, the 4700 block of Boiling Brook has become a parking lot. Front end loader, cars parked on right-of-way. Are county employees just parking there and collecting salaries? This is an abomination. *[The entire RCA-land is scheduled for complete sidewalk restoration beginning in spring/summer 2001. For the parking and commercial equipment violations, please call the police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000]*

2000-05-24 (Wed) 6:04 pm Anonymous. Wyaconda Road. There's a large black trailer-looking thing always parked on the street. It is impossible to see around it. Could someone please call the cops or whomever and have something done about it? It is not safe at all. Thank you.

2000-05-24 (Wed) 7:49 pm Galena Road. Looking for classified about a cleaning service. Caller usually saves on to the ECHOs, but has misplaced these issues. Could an ECHO be delivered? Or is there a file of past ECHOs? *[Yes! Visit the RCA web site at www.randolphcivic.org. Past ECHOs can be downloaded from there. If you have no Web access, we do have a few copies of back issues.]*

2000-0x-xx Comment re: hot line call re: rabbits. Caller said county does not allow rabbits in back-

(continued on page 12)



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RCA Hotline

(continued from page 11)

yards. Montgomery County says this is not true. Animal control does allow this, as they are considered household pets.

2000-0x-xx (Mon) 8:37 pm. Mori Drive. Wants to run an ad for Spanish tutoring for children. Has degree in Spanish and wants to run this for the summer. Also willing to write a story about the flags. Where have they all gone? It was Memorial Day and in the community there were just under 5 flags in 50 homes. This is disappointing not to see more patriotism in the community. If we could encourage people to fly them for 4th of July that would be good. Where to send ad? *[Eileen White, ECHO editor]* Tell the officers thank you for doing a wonderful job.

2000-0x-xx (Tue) 9:25 am. Wrote check for \$15 for membership fee and not cashed. Please call.

2000-0x-xx Wed 6:46 pm. Ashley Drive. Interested in campaign re: changes in school boundaries. She has written letters to school board president Patricia O'Neill, Superintendent Weast, and school board member Nancy King. Anything else that we can do? Thank you for your hard work. *[We need about 50 more parents willing to do the same thing. The lack of support from the school board regarding overcrowded schools, particularly in the Wheaton Cluster, is amazing.]*

2000-0x-xx Sat 6:40 pm. Very loud music standing on Boiling Brook Parkway, 10:36 pm. Police called on non emergency # and told that after 9 pm any evening it should be quiet. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

2000-0x-xx Sat. 10:35 pm. Just a quick reminder. Check your numbers on last page of Echo. Animal Control should be: 301-area code. *[Thanks.]*

2000-0x-xx Sat. 12:13 pm. 11324 Schuykill. Can we find out who owns 11452 Schuykill. Looks like abandoned house. Yard in terrible shape. What can be done? *[Call housing code enforcement, 240-777-3600. They know who the owner is via land records.]*

2000-0x-xx Thurs. 12:31 pm. Schuykill Rd. Having problem w/landscaping vehicle parked outside caller's property for 3 weeks or more. Gets moved once in a while. Filled with grass clippings that are decomposing and smelling. Caller called abandoned vehicle hotline but needs to know who it is. *[If vehicle parks on the street, the police should be called. 301-279-8000.]*

2000-0x-xx Thurs 3:32 pm. Call concerning large trucks parking up at Rocking Horse Center.

2000-0x-xx Sat. 10:44 am. Heard from Montgomery County Code Enforcement Division that the house at 11452 Schuylkill Road will be cleaned up by Monday. If owners, who are Fanny Mae, don't take care of it the county will do it. *[House has not been cleaned up. RCA has reopened the case.]*

2000-0x-xx Tues 6:26 pm. A lot of rabbits around. Any way to get rid of them? Who do I call? *[Animal control? 301-279-1823]*

2000-0x-xx Wed 4:20 pm. Sent letter re: Oakland Terrace Elementary school. Notice re: classroom addition.

2000-0x-xx 1:22 pm. Recently did traffic study on Rocking Horse Road through the county. 450 cars per hour during both morning and evening rush hour. Included over 30 violations of trucks over 7 of a ton. Included caterers, food suppliers, dump trucks, Fresh Fields tractor trailers. Large amounts of traffic having a serious effect on our community. What can we do? *[Ask police for a checkpoint for a few days. Also, contact or write a letter to Fresh Fields.]*

2000-0x-xx Wed 2:42 pm. When is next community sale at Loehmanns Plaza? *[October 7]*

2000-0x-xx Sat 8:43pm. Montrose Park resident. Needs licensed electrician to change our fuse box. Recommend someone? *[Sounds like an opportunity for someone to advertise in the ECHO!]*

2000-0x-xx Tues 3:28 pm. Steve Kelly. Llewellyn Realtors. How to advertise in the ECHO? 301-424-0900 ext 131.

2000-0x-xx Fri 7:43 pm Boiling Brook Parkway. Does anyway know about the traffic cones that have blocked the street? Creates a safety hazard.

2000-0x-xx Mon 10:32 am Anonymous. Please publish an updated neighborhood map that shows a pedestrian path from the Jewish school (Smith school?) to the Safeway. Caller is a dues-paying member of the RCA. Why can't the map be updated? Caller has requested this two times. *[Richard Zierdt here. I believe one can walk from the Smith School (formerly Randolph Junior High) through the ball fields, through the Rockinghorse Center*

(continued on page 14)



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RCA Hotline

(continued from page 13)

(formerly Rockinghorse Elementary school), onto Macon Road, and then down to Safeway. I don't believe this is an "official" paved path, and it's not lighted. I am assuming this is the path to which the caller refers. However, give me a call (301-881-0283) to discuss this further.]

2000-0x-xx Wed 8:18 am Who pays for sewer line replacement when tree roots (from the county right-of-way) invade the pipe?

2000-0x-xx Wed 11:24 am Anonymous. House on Rockinghorse Road has hedge that has overgrown the sidewalk, and pedestrians have to walk around it. Something ought to be done about it. [Anyone can call housing code enforcement at 240-777-3600 and report a violation. You do not have to leave your name.]

2000-0x-xx Sat 9:42 am Anonymous. New occupants at 4711 (no street name!) with five cars. Very young kids. [young adults?] Considerable traffic has ensued since they moved in. Character of neighborhood has changed in only two weeks. How many occupants are permitted in a house? [Up to five unrelated people may occupy a home at one time. Caller should call back and leave street name.]

2000-0x-xx Mon 10:57 am Would like to place ad in ECHO. Moving sale. [Call the ECHO editor]

2000-0x-xx Tue 5:18 pm Anonymous. Can the RCA do something about all the cars and the commercial vehicles parked at the bottom of Grayling Lane blocking the stop sign. People are going to have a head-on collision down there. Please somebody do something. [Richard Zierdt here. I'm not sure what the exact county traffic code is, but typically some distance must be maintained between a stop sign and parked cars, say 25 feet. Anyone is free to call the police non-emergency phone number 301-279-8000 at any time to report violations. The RCA has printed several articles about commercial vehicles in residential areas. Clearly, residents who are parking too close to an intersection should park further away.]



Don't Forget!

When visiting or calling our
advertisers, please mention
The Echo!

Well-Maintained Neighborhoods are the Most Desirable

by Richard Zierdt (sort of)

The following is from a letter published in the May 28, 2000 edition of the Washington Post Magazine. It was written in complement to an earlier article on the anxieties of home buying. They are not my words, but are worth repeating. They support the RCA's position that a strong civic association helps to build a strong neighborhood. There are many ways to build this strength, but that I believe can be placed into two basic groups, (1) those that build the social fabric (yard sales, Boy Scouts, neighborhood picnics), and (2) those that enforce housing and zoning laws designed to maintain desirable neighborhoods (sidewalks not blocked, grass must be cut, etc).

No one complains about our yard sales and support of the Boy Scouts, but some residents will complain about code enforcement. If any homeowner felt "picked on" because (s)he received a housing citation (most of which simply ask that the problem be corrected without a monetary fine), contemplate the following:

"Paula Span's 'The First Time' (March 26) did an excellent job of informing readers about the rigors of home-buying in general and the stress felt by many first-time homebuyers.

"However, by focusing on the house, it missed an opportunity to explain that the house itself actually plays a lesser role in determining value than many think, and that it is the quality of the neighborhood that determines whether there will be more buyers sniffing around than there are houses for sale.

"Second, the article adroitly introduced the complex relationship between home-ownership and a range of social stabilities enjoyed by owners, yet failed to link these enjoyments to the web of social and civic networks that are at the foundation of all neighborhoods, and which more than anything else make one neighborhood "hotter" or "colder" than another."

Charles Buki, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, Washington

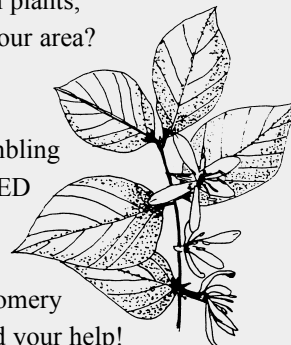
RCA Meetings

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

"WEED WARRIORS NEEDED"

Do you have an interest in plants, especially those native to our area?

The Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission staff is assembling a team of volunteers (WEED WARRIORS) to monitor and remove invasive alien plant species from Montgomery County Parks and we need your help!



As a WEED WARRIOR Volunteer you will receive a short training session from MNCPPC Forest Ecologist Carole Bergmann in the identification of and removal and control techniques for alien invasive plants. WEED WARRIORS can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Many current WEED WARRIORS live near an M-NCPPC stream valley park or regional park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or taking an occasional hike through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation throughout the 26,000 acres of Montgomery County Parkland.

How to Sign Up for WEED WARRIORS

Call the volunteer services office and an application will be mailed to you. The WEED WARRIOR Program is managed by the MNCPPC Forest Ecologist Carole Bergmann. Once you return your application you will be contacted about upcoming training opportunities. JOIN US TODAY! You'll be helping to maintain biodiversity in Montgomery County parks. In addition, you will be getting some outdoor exercise while learning about native and non-native plants in Maryland.

CALL NOW – 301 495-2504.

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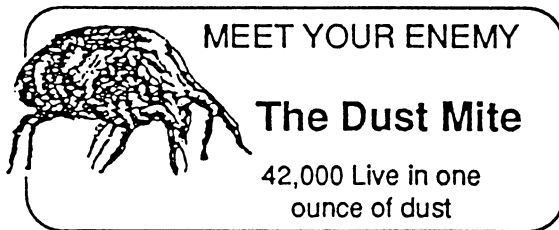
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4. After the vents are blown down we take a small tool call the aire sweep and insert it in the main duct runs. The aire sweep moves down the duct run each time air pressure is applied. This action sweeps grime, dirt and dust back to the vacuum hose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

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MCAFCE

by Mary Lee

Welcome to Fall!
Hope you had an enjoyable summer.

For our Pot-luck Dinner on September 11th, we met at the home of Shelby Hurt with Mary Lee serving as hostess. It's always a delight tasting all the good food and enjoying seeing each other.

On September 18th at 7:30 p.m., we will have a workshop at Judy's working on Paint Smocks for Head Start and Placemats for Meals on Wheels. Please bring old Christmas Cards and scissors.

On October 2nd we will have our meeting at the home of Judy Fewell at 7:30 p.m., with Sue Karslo helping as hostess. We will continue working on Head Start and Meals on Wheels projects.

For our October 16th workshop, we will meet at Judy's at 7:30 p.m. We will be making Pilgrim Candlestick Holders. Bring \$5.00 for this project.

Also, for a later project we will be needing glass jars (mayonnaise jar size or smaller).

Just a reminder of the Harvest Festival on October 7th, 11 to 4, at the Agricultural Farm, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood. It's fun for all, games, bake table, plant sale and craft tables, etc., for \$5.00 per car.

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



Summer Doings with Troop 1083

by Brian McGahey

We've all finally gotten the mud off our boots. After a week of rain and mud the Scouts of Troop 1083 brought home a load of Merit badges. **Archery:** Joe Ridesatthedor, Jacob Bolt, Collins Murphy; **Rifle Shooting:** Chris Soares, Joe Ridesatthedor; **Shotgun Shooting:** Tim Tao; **Swimming:** Alex Cassel, Jacob Bolt, Scott Talbott; **Canoeing:** Andrew Tao, Chris Soares, Alex Shtirberg, Alex Cassel; **Rowing:** Joe Ridesatthedor; **Small Boat Sailing:** Nachi Roper, Tim Tao; **Soil & Water Conservation:** Andrew Tao; **Weather:** Chris Soares; **Leatherwork:** Scott Talbott; **Backpacking:** Tim Tao; **Wilderness Survival:** Jacob Bolt; **Cooking:** Scott Talbott.

We had a great time. Special thanks to Mr. Dave Murphy, Mr. Greg Skolnik, Mr. Sasha Shtirberg, and Mr. Mike Saunders. They came along for the week and really helped make a great week.

We have many adventures set for this year. We meet every Monday night when school is in session at Viers Mill Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. If you are a boy who is eleven years old you can join us. Call Mr. McGahey at 301-770-7882. See you outdoors!



Editor's Note: We ran out of room this month, but please look for more delicious recipes from MCAFCE members in next month's issue!

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STUFFED CABBAGE

the above served with vegetable de jour and rice or potatoes

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the above served with vegetable de jour

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WITH LETTUCE, TOMATOES, ONIONS & FETA CHEESE
SERVED WITH TZATZIKI SAUCE & FRENCH FRIES

WITH THIS COUPON ONLY
ONE COUPON PER TABLE
EXPIRES OCT. 31, 2000

DINNER SPECIAL
BUY ONE GET ONE HALF PRICE
WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
BUFFET ONLY
SOUP & SALAD BAR
ROAST LEG OF LAMB SPANAKOPITA DOLMADES
MOUSSAKA STUFFED CABBAGE CHICKEN FLORENTINE
PASTA PRIMAVERA MEATBALLS POTATOES VEGETABLES

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...AND MORE

CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR SALE: (3) 10' x 10' Plexiglass canopies, may be seen at rear of 11802 Ashley Drive. Orig. cost \$600 each, bought used for \$300 each in 1988, sell now for \$150 for all three! If interested, call Phil at 301-770-7199 (o.b.o.)

RCA COMMUNITY EVENTS

RCA Community Picnic

Saturday, September 23

11:30 am until the food runs out.

Randolph Hills Recreation Center.

Free food, and its all-you-can-eat!

Bring the family!

(No rain date)

RCA Community Yard Sale

Saturday, October 7

8:00 AM until 1 PM

Loehmann's Plaza.

Cost is \$5 for RCA members, \$10 if not.

No registration required, just show up.

Bring your own table(s) if necessary.

(No rain date)

*Don't forget to check out
Randolph Civic Association's
WEB SITE*

at <http://www.randolphcivic.org>

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Important Phone Numbers



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



Hot Hot Hot Summer of Home Sales in Randolph Hills and Franklin Park!

It's hard to believe that
Autumn is right around
the corner, but home sales
in the neighborhood
continue to be strong.

Prices are up, and homes in
nice condition are selling
fairly quickly.

*"Professional Service
with a
Personal Touch!"*

Denise's Recent Sales...

4711 Creek Shore Drive - \$163,000
4811 Boiling Brook Parkway - \$197,000
12012 Galena Road - \$175,000
4711 Red Fox Road - \$174,900
12118 Galena Road - \$190,000

Under Contract with Denise...

11212 Troy Road - listed at \$174,900
11214 Troy Road - listed at \$179,500
4905 Ertter Drive - listed at \$219,500
11510 Monongahela - listed at \$192,000

Listed with Denise...

11407 Grayling Lane - \$195,000
11418 Schuylkill Road - \$178,000
10911 Troy Road - \$179,900
4705 Oxbow Road - \$189,900

Denise
SZCZUR
301-452-5544

