

# The ECHO

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association*

Volume 54, Issue 1

September/October 2010

## Time to Renew Your Membership!

### *A Special Message From the Randolph Civic Association*

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. Like many neighborhoods within the County, we face challenges. Whether it's demanding more of Pepco or fighting for new amenities in our parks, the advocacy function of the RCA gives us a much needed voice.

Unlike last year, we will not be taking on the Herculean task of knocking on almost every door in the neighborhood and reminding you to renew. Instead, we ask you to please take a moment and fill out the form we've included with this Echo. Put it in the self-addressed envelope and drop it in the mail. Also take a few moments and donate a little extra to the Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF). 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.

It's important to note that \$10 is a relatively small amount compared to the large impact the RCA has on your community. Did you know that we have the lowest dues of any civic association in the county? Any additional funds you can contribute, even if it's only a

small amount, will make a huge difference.

Please fill out the membership form completely. Because of 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! If you did not get a membership form, envelope, or lost yours, please email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) to have one dropped off at your house. Alternately, if you would like to have your membership form and dues picked up by an RCA volunteer rather than mailing them, you can reach us at [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) and we'll make the arrangements.



*Time to put out your RCA yard signs!*

## Upcoming Events

### ***District One Candidates Debate and RCA General Membership Meeting***

September 2nd, 2010 7:30pm-9:30pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

**NOTE EARLIER TIME!** 7:30pm instead of 8:00pm. Our neighborhood will play host to the final debate between Roger Berliner and Ilaya Hopkins. See page 10 for more information.

### ***Primary Election Day***

September 14th, 2010 7:00am-8:00pm, Rocking Horse Center

Early voting runs from September 3rd thru September 9th at Montgomery County Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville 20850. Primary Day voting on September 14th will occur at Rocking Horse Center in our neighborhood.

### ***RCA Community Day***

**NOTE NEW DATE!** October 2nd, 2010 Noon-2:00pm, Randolph Hills Local Park  
Join your neighbors for games and food. It's free!

### ***RCA Executive Board Meeting***

October 7th, 2010 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

### ***RCA Community Bazaar (formerly the Fall Yard Sale)***

October 23rd, 2010 8:00am-1:00pm, Loehmann's Plaza

Show up early and claim a good spot! RCA members get a free space; Non-members pay \$10 per space.

## RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2010-2011

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301-938-7494

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301-231-4933

Environment and Services Committee  
Matthew Tifford  
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301-770-4377

Education Committee  
George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

Yard Sale Signs  
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301-770-0119

## President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

This is the beginning of another 'RCA Year' for our community. That means two things: time to renew your membership and time to get involved. After our summer hiatus, the RCA Board and volunteers ramp back up for another year of service to our neighborhood. We can't do it without your help though. Last year we mounted a major campaign to stem the steady decline in membership and succeeded by reversing that trend and growing by 10%. We won't be knocking on every door in the neighborhood again this year, so we will be relying more than ever on you to not only renew, but spread the word. Do you have new neighbors that have joined us in the last year? Use this Echo as an opportunity to introduce yourself and mention the RCA.

In our community we do not have a homeowners association or condo fees, but rather a very affordable \$10 membership and a network of volunteers. This all-volunteer organization does everything it can to advocate for adequate County resources, keep our neighborhood safe, and protect our quality of life. That quality of life is something no one in this neighborhood should take for granted. We get hotline calls and emails all the time from neighbors in need, and we do our best to address their concerns and advocate on their behalf if necessary. It is frustrating though when those requests come from folks who, in some cases, aren't members. Your \$10 is essential to things like keeping the Echo alive, the website up and running, holding events, and running the Neighborhood Watch. So do your part and please renew your membership (kick in a little extra too if you can!).

Aside from your membership, a little bit of your time is also essential. We have meetings on the first Thursday of most months. The next one is September 2nd (see front cover). Coming to meetings is a vital part of keeping our community conversation healthy. At meetings we decide policy, set our agenda and priorities, hear from interesting speakers, and get to know our neighbors. So make a commitment

*(continued on page 6)*

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

## Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Come out and welcome your neighbors!** The RCA Welcome Wagon invites you to join us and meet new people. The group meets about every other month to visit new members of our community and provide them with information about our community along with a small gift of home-baked treats. These outings are a small dedication of time that draws our community closer together. If you are interested or have ideas to share about welcoming new neighbors, contact Alison Dewey at [sabaly@hotmail.com](mailto:sabaly@hotmail.com).
- **Can you spend a couple hours helping the RCA on September 14th?** We will be distributing our RCA voter guide at our polling stations during the primary on September 14th. Our voter guide does not endorse candidates, but does educate voters on which candidates are best aligned to the priorities of our neighborhood. The hours are flexible and you can help as little or as much as you like. Just email [dan@randolphcivic.org](mailto:dan@randolphcivic.org) to sign up.
- **This summer the RCA began revitalizing our Neighborhood Watch and we still need additional volunteers.** Don't just depend on others to keep an eye on the neighborhood, take action! Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs. You can be a block captain, help patrol, or take part in other activities. Just email [safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org) for more information.
- **Thanks to Boy Scout Eric Uglem, four of our neighborhood signs received a much needed facelift this summer.** To fulfill his Eagle community service project, Eric Uglem led a group of volunteers who scraped and painted the signs and added new plantings and mulch. Thanks Eric, the signs look great! On another front, the RCF is working with sign companies to come up with a new concept for future neighborhood signs. At some point in the coming year, we will present design options to the community. It is our hope to raise enough money to eventually replace the current signs, and maybe add some new ones.
- **It's time to put out your RCA membership yard signs!** Hopefully you kept yours from last year, but if not or you would like one, we will deliver a yard sign promptly. Please put it out in a prominent place and ask your neighbor if they will too. Just email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) to get your sign.

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](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) by the deadlines posted on page 15 of this issue. Thank you!



## YOUR FULL SERVICE SIGN RETAILER

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Awnings • Window Graphics  
Monument Signs • Trade Show Booths

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Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 770-8575

[sales@sar-rockville.com](mailto:sales@sar-rockville.com)  
[production@sar-rockville.com](mailto:production@sar-rockville.com)

**Mention that you saw our ad in the Echo Newsletter  
and receive 10% off your order over \$200.**



## Community Fixtures: The Friends of the Library Bookstore

by Christiana Drapkin

In our Community Fixtures series, we highlight points of interest right here in and around Randolph Hills, from stores and schools, to nature spots, and you-name-it. Today we're happy to feature a much-loved and very successful non-profit business, the Friends of the Library Bookstore, located in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center off Boiling Book Parkway.

Ah, I love going into a bookstore, preferably a used bookstore, where a whiff of age-old paper, glue, dust mites, and mystery envelopes you as soon as you open the door and step into the half-gloom between perilously high stacked shelves. Well, our "Friends of the Library Bookstore" is nothing of the sort! No musty smells, no gloom, no surly Einstein-haired hermit lurking at a back desk behind an antiquated cash register, barely looking up. On a recent Tuesday, I was greeted with a warm "good morning" by Les Rich, the manager, as I entered the well-lit, cheerful-looking store, while a bit of classical music played on the radio in the background. Even at this early shopping hour, there were already a handful of browsers; some made a beeline to their favorite section and returned to the register with an armload of used romance paperbacks. Another shopper scoured the shelves, eventually locating an old, precious-looking edition of a Kipling book.

There are so many books, with new donations piled in plastic bins right at the entrance, ready to be sorted by one the volunteers. The shelves are well-organized, with colorful and easy-to read signs hanging above (salvaged from another bookstore that closed). And the price is right: many well-used paperbacks go for \$1.50; other hard-cover books range from two to six Dollars. The busy children's section has everything from picture books (50 cents and up), and chapter books (\$1 and up), and it's frequented not only by kids and parents, but by many teachers who stock up on their own classroom libraries before the start of the school year. As if this weren't enough of a bargain, teachers get an extra 10% discount on their purchases.

I was surprised by many items I found that I hadn't had in mind when I entered: there are CDs and DVDs, the increasingly popular books on tape (on CD or cassette tape); comic books and Anime, puzzles, magazines, greeting cards for a dime, old LPs, and higher-priced, beautiful coffee-table books and other nearly mint-condition hardcovers, some of them autographed by the author, which can make a nice affordable present.

The many sections -- apart from the obvious fiction, history, classics, and sci-fi categories -- made my heart jump for joy: cook books, nature, sports, African-American, religion, science, foreign language instruction, drama. There are shelves filled with foreign-language literature. Les Rich pointed out that their Asia shelf could

benefit from a volunteer familiar with the various Asian languages and their respective alphabets; the books need to be sorted into Japanese, Chinese, Korean, etc. The same goes for the Russian literature section which is printed in Cyrillic. One can find books printed in Hebrew in the Judaica section, and there is an increasing amount of books in Spanish in the Latin America section. The entire foreign language section truly reflects the diversity of our neighborhood.

I asked Les Rich whether he and his colleagues ever come across a valuable first edition, and he didn't drop a beat, naming his latest "score", a first edition of Alice Walker's "The Color Purple". What happens with such valuable collectors items? The store posts them on the internet for auction at E-bay. Right now, you can probably bid on this item, which may be selling for around \$150 or more to the lucky winning bidder. The proceeds go directly to the Friends of the Library.

Volunteers are the backbone of this wonderful non-profit store, together with the eight part-time staff members who run the Friends of the Library bookstore. Some folks volunteer three, four hours per week, while one dedicated volunteer comes in three times a week, contributing greatly to the continuity and quality of service. On any given day, there can be 80 to 120 sales. The proceeds, after covering the store operations, go to the libraries here in Montgomery County, which have been hit severely with the recent 23% budget cut. The funds support education and arts programs and pay for much needed equipment that individual library branches are unable to afford.

Every day generous donors come in the door and bring in books, from full shopping bags to boxes and boxes at a time. The Friends of the library have benefited so much from the generosity of donors (or the donor's need to downsize their possessions), that they run not only our Randolph Hills store, but also the Wheaton store on 11701 Georgia Avenue, and their newest store, at Quince Orchard Plaza in Gaithersburg. If you consider bringing a truckload of material, say, 30 years worth of National Geographic magazines, go straight to the Gaithersburg store, which has the most amount of space and is just starting up. But anything more manageable

*(continued on page 6)*



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## Guest Contributors: The Montgomery County Council

### Problems with Pepco

*[RCA Note: Given the recent and frequent power outages that have struck our community this year, we felt the following information would be of interest to RCA-land. Here we reprint a letter sent by the County Council to the Maryland Public Service Commission, the entity that regulates Pepco.]*

July 29, 2010

Mr. Douglas R.M. Nazarian  
Chairman  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
45 Calvert Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to ask the Commission to open an investigation into the reliability of electricity in Pepco's Montgomery County's service territory. Our residents and businesses have suffered an unacceptable number and duration of outages for many years, outages that have harmed public health, public safety and the County's economy. As a distribution-only utility, the quality and reliability of Pepco's service is exclusively within your authority. We ask you to invoke that authority to ensure our citizens of

acceptable levels of reliability.

We recognize that severe storms like the most recent one to ravage our community, as well as the blizzards this past winter are occurrences of nature that can not be blamed on the utility. However, the extreme results this storm produced highlighted the underlying reality that the distribution system in Montgomery County is extremely vulnerable. Even on cloudless, idyllic days, our residents have experienced unexplained outages. And this happens all too often leading us to ask whether or not Pepco has sufficient in-house staff to maintain its infrastructure.

We also recognize that our county and our citizens value our tree canopy, and that trees are often blamed for outages. But that simplistic response begs the question – what are the full range of measures necessary to bring our system to a level of reliability that meets the legitimate needs of our community, including measures that mitigate the impact of trees? Pepco officials told our Council Tuesday that they have investigated undergrounding those portions of the system that have experienced repeated outages.

We believe such measures, and others that could increase reliability, require a thorough investigation by your Commission. While it is often said that undergrounding and other measures are expensive, the cost to our county and to the state of these repeated outages is also very large – economically and otherwise.

More broadly, we believe that every outage ought to be reported to your Commission, with a report on its causes, the length of time

*(continued on page 11)*

## Help Make our Community a Safer Place Become a RCA Block Captain



The RCA Safety Committee is reviving the neighborhood watch program. The goal of the program is to make our community a safer place and to increase communication regarding safety issues and other neighborhood concerns.

Becoming a Block Captain simply means joining the RCA Safety Committee email listserv and keeping an eye out for safety issues on your street.

Email [safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org) for more information and to learn how you can help.

## Community Fixtures

(continued from page 4)

will be welcomed at our local store right here.

The Friends of the Library Bookstore, which is now in its sixth year at the Randolph Hills Shopping Center, maintains a collegial, good-neighbor relationship with the Goodwill Store next door. Both of them are open seven days a week, and at both stores you will receive a donation receipt, which might come in handy at tax time.

I asked Les what he would wish for a prosperous future for the Friends of the Library store. He says he always welcomes dedicated volunteers into their team. And he'd love to have more space, to turn over more books and serve more readers. They had to do away with the sitting area in the front of the store, because the books kept coming. Having a nice sitting area outside does not seem to be possible, due to traffic considerations. And a Starbucks-like coffee machine is also not in the cards. But Les looked happy and satisfied, looking around and focusing on the store's main mission: to welcome ever more browsers and to turn them into avid readers.

Friends of the Library Book Store, Montgomery County  
[www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org)  
 4886 Boiling Brook Parkway  
 Rockville, MD 20852  
 301 984-3300  
 Mon – Fri 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
 Sat 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Sun 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Become a volunteer today!

## President's Message

(continued from page 2)

to yourself now to attend at least a few RCA meetings this year. We do our best to keep them running on time and lively. I think you'll find them interesting and useful. Our first one back will be a good one: RCA will be hosting the final debate between Roger Berliner and Ilaya Hopkins before the primary elections on September 14th. We hope to see you there!

## 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/>



## Important Websites

Randolph Civic Association	<a href="http://randolphcivic.org">http://randolphcivic.org</a>
Montgomery County	<a href="http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov">www.montgomerycountymd.gov</a>
Montgomery County Parks	<a href="http://www.montgomeryparks.org">www.montgomeryparks.org</a>
Montgomery County Schools	<a href="http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org">www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org</a>
Washington Metro Area Transit Authority	<a href="http://www.wmata.com">www.wmata.com</a>



## Important Phone Numbers

Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	240-773-6070
Park Police: Emergency (for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)	301-949-3010
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	240-773-6411
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6260
Consumer Affairs and Protection	240-777-3636
Crisis Center Hotline (24 hours)	240-777-4000
Department of Natural Resources (wildlife nuisance problems)	877-463-6497
Disability Services	240-777-3000
Fire Marshall (Non-Emergency)	240-777-2457
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3785
(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Locations, Accounts, Etc.	240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus (wmata.com)	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society (Non-Emer)	240-773-5960
Montgomery County Humane Society (Emer)	240-773-5900
Motor Vehicle Admin (mva.maryland.gov)	800-950-1682
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Report Power Outages	877-737-2662
PEPCO: Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Pollution Complaint (Dumping, Noise, Burning)	240-777-7700
Post Office: Rollins Ave, Rockville	301-231-5973
Montgomery County Public Schools K-12	301-309-6277
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept)	240-777-1245
RCA Hotline	240-668-4722
Recreation Classes	240-777-6870
Recycling Info	240-777-6410
Senior Programs (55+)	240-777-4925
Street Light Out	240-777-6000
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623
(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)	
Tree Maintenance	240-777-6000
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-4001
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-7700

If any of these websites or phone numbers are incorrect, please email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) or call the RCA Hotline at 240-668-4722.

# *Your 2010 Neighborhood Voting Guide*

*The 2010 Voter Guide of the Randolph Civic Association*

## A Message from the Randolph Civic Association:

Thank you for taking the time to read the Randolph Civic Association voter guide. Candidates from both parties were invited to complete a questionnaire focused on the issues important to our neighborhood. The questions were developed by the RCA Board and approved by a vote of our general membership. You can view the full responses by visiting [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org). When reading our analysis it is important to remember that **these are not endorsements**. Had every response been equal, or every candidate equally aligned to our neighborhood priorities, they would all have gotten the same number of stars. A panel of Board members scored each question response and those scores were then averaged. The panel was only allowed to use information from four sources when scoring: the question responses, the official website of the candidate, the voting record of the candidate (if applicable), and any direct experience that Board member has had in the past (such as a response to a constituent request). The final score resulted in a number of stars being assigned: **Five stars being the highest possible and Half a star being the lowest. Two and a half stars is a neutral rating.** The brief summaries below come from a panelist who reviewed the responses from that candidate.

## *Candidates for District One County Council*



**Roger Berliner (D): ★★★★★**

Councilmember Berliner's responses to our questionnaire demonstrate a strong record of service to the neighborhood. His work on retaining the growth policy tests related to school capacity, his attention to our parks, his work on the MARC station location, and the responsiveness of his staff clearly indicate a strong alignment with issues important to our community.

– Christiana Drapkin, RCA Secretary



**Ilaya Hopkins (D): ★★★★★**

Ilaya Hopkins gave strong answers related to school size/capacity and transit-oriented development. However, on questions relating to safety or how she will engage our neighborhood it was difficult to determine if she had much knowledge of our community. Much of her focus appears to be on Bethesda, where she undeniably has served her community well for many years.

– Matt Tifford, RCA Past President

## *Candidates for At-Large County Council*



**Marc Elrich (D): ★★★★★**

Strong support for Bus rapid Transit (BRT) and an understanding of challenges with our schools balanced out some votes that were counter to RCA positions (initially voted against our preferred MARC station location). Councilmember Elrich has also made himself available to our community, either by attending meetings in-person or sending his staff (often on short notice).

– Chad Salganik, RCA Vice President 1



**George Leventhal (D): ★★★★★**

Responses in the 'Accomplishments' and 'Engagement' queries demonstrated a strong knowledge of our neighborhood and a solid working relationship with the RCA. When the need arose, he supported motions related to the MARC station location. Leventhal also played a strong role in promoting BRT.

– Matt Tifford, RCA Past President



**Jane de Winter (D): ★★★★★**

Jane de Winter's responses to education-related questions were substantive, thoughtful, and showed a clear knowledge of our neighborhood. She has taken the time to meet with neighborhood parents in small groups to provide advice about running a PTA, and has attended an RCA meeting. She also showed a good working knowledge of our intentions related to the second stage of the White Flint Sector Plan.

– Dan Hoffman, RCA President



**Hans Riemer (D): ★★★★★**

Hans Riemer is a transit and cycling advocate with a track record of engaging youth and seniors. He also has been supportive of organizations like the Citizens League of the Montgomery County, and worked closely with some members of our RCA leadership. His positions are also in-line with ours when it comes to school size and land use.

– Brian Hooker, RCA Director



**Duchy Trachtenberg (D): ★★★★★**

Councilmember Trachtenberg scored very highly in the 'Accomplishments' portion of the questionnaire due in large part to her role in the White Flint Sector Plan and her development of oversight legislation related to the plan. Councilmember Trachtenberg also has engaged the RCA membership frequently by coming out to speak or contacting RCA Board members.

– Christiana Drapkin, RCA Secretary



**Nancy Floreen (D): ★★★★★**

Council President Floreen was the key vote against our preferred MARC station location and then later blocked adequate zoning for the station. However, her responses show a strong local knowledge of the neighborhood, made positive comments related to civic engagement and demonstrated a commitment to economic development. She also pushed for acceleration in planning for the second stage around White Flint, something the RCA supports.

– Brian Hooker, RCA Director





**Becky Wagner (D):** ★★☆☆

Several responses related to safety, White Flint Two and parks lacked clear definition and/or ideas. As a result it was hard to gauge her alignment. She did score well on topics related to schools and had substantive, thoughtful responses related to community engagement.

– Matt Tifford, RCA Past President



**Robert Dyer (R):** ★★☆☆

The responses in his questionnaire showed a clear misalignment with our neighborhood priorities. This candidate testified in opposition to the White Flint Sector Plan. Also, many responses did not address the question and instead made negative attacks.

– Dan Hoffman, RCA President

The following candidates were invited to participate but did not take the time to respond: Robert Vricelli (R), Brandon Rippeon (R), and Fred Evans (D). The questionnaire was sent to official candidates of all parties at the time the questionnaire was finalized.

## *What Were the Questions?*

The same questions were posed to all candidates and questionnaires were scored with a consistent criteria. If you would like to read the responses of all responders, please visit [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) for the full answers from everyone who responded.

### **Accomplishments (In the case of challengers, focus on your qualifications, prior public service and how they would benefit our neighborhood priorities.)**

1. In what ways did you facilitate the passage of the White Flint Sector Plan? Please include any role you played in promoting Rocking Horse Center as a school site and Nicholson Court as a MARC station site.
2. What have you done to alleviate over-crowding in our schools, especially at the elementary school level?
3. Please describe your role in improving the quality of our parks (specifically those in or around our neighborhood), with a focus on facilities and safety.
4. Please describe your role in promoting transit-oriented development and improving infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

### **Goals**

1. What will you do to help us improve safety and mobility within and around our neighborhood, with a focus on our parks and transit-oriented development?
2. How will you address school capacity challenges and what is your position on community elementary schools versus larger 'mega' elementary schools?
3. What will you do to facilitate economic development? What are your thoughts on development of the White Flint Two sector plan?

### **Engagement (In the case of challengers, focus on steps you would take to engage our community.)**

1. Please describe the dialog you have had with our community in the past and how you plan on working with us in the future.
2. What role should elected officials play in building civic activism?
3. In what way will you improve County decision-making processes to encourage the participation of working families, youth and vulnerable populations?

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## Randolph Civic Association to Host Final District One Debate

by Dan Hoffman

On September 2nd at 7:30pm the RCA will host the final District One Council debate before the primaries. The primaries will be held on September 14th. This important event will showcase the two Democratic primary candidates, Roger Berliner and Ilaya Hopkins, and allow our residents to make an informed decision



at the polls. The event will take place at the Viers Mill Recreation Center at the corner of Beach Drive and Garrett Park Road.

Questions will be asked by a three-person panel. The panel will consist of Barnaby Zall (Friends of White Flint and Citizens League of Montgomery County), Marc Korman (Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board), and Chad

Salganik (RCA VP and Citizens League of Montgomery County). The audience will be able to personally ask questions in addition to submitting question cards, which will be given to the panelists. The candidates will each have one minute to respond and will be allowed one rebuttal for each question.

At this critical time in our County, it is more important than ever to make an informed decision at the poll. Some of the topics are sure to be the County budget, schools, economic vitality and the White Flint Sector plan. Please email [dan@randolphcivic.org](mailto:dan@randolphcivic.org) if you would like to volunteer at the event.



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*[RCA Note: The RCA does not endorse candidates, but does promote voting and political engagement via forums and voter guides.]*

## A Note from the Viers Mill Elementary Parent/Teachers Association

By Lindsay Hoffman

The PTA at Viers Mill Elementary School is looking forward to another great year! Our Parent/Teacher Association is a group of parents, caregivers, teachers and administrators who work together for the welfare and education of our children. Some of our activities include providing funds to teachers for classroom books, sponsoring students' cultural arts programs, planning a Spring Fair for the whole community, supporting Family Learning Nights and other fun activities, and organizing Scholastic Book Fairs. We always appreciate the support of our community. Whether you can offer a little or a lot of your time, talent or treasure, we welcome your help! Membership is only \$10. The PTA is open not only to parents and caregivers but also individuals and businesses in our community! Donations made above your membership dues are tax-deductible!



*President Obama visited VMES last October*

There's also a wonderfully easy and free way to support your local elementary school - by participating in the bonus programs at our nearby supermarkets. Giant's A+ Bonus Bucks for Education, Safeway's eScript and Harris Teeter's Together in Education programs all contribute a portion of your purchases to the school of your choice. Sign up online or the next time you shop at your grocery store.

We want to make this a great school year for our kids! Call us at (240) 428-8239, email us at [VMESP-TA@hotmail.com](mailto:VMESP-TA@hotmail.com) or visit our website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/viersmilles/pta](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/viersmilles/pta) for more information.

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## Troop 1083 News

*By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster*

Coming off a terrific summer of camping and learning, Troop 1083 is looking forward to kicking off a new scout year full of fun outings, advancements, and achievements. Scouts and adults availed themselves for three different weeks (not all consecutive) of summer camp opportunities this year.

During week one, the Troop sent 11 scouts and three adults to Camp Rodney. At Rodney, the Scouts enjoyed swimming in the camp swimming pool, boating on the magnificent Chesapeake Bay, the Brown Sea Island program for the first year campers, and working toward earning a wide variety of merit badges.

In week two, seven scouts and three adults attended Lenhok'sin High Adventure Camp, where they hiked and participated in a scheduled program and most importantly, worked toward becoming a solid team in anticipation of next year's High Adventure trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

In week three, 30 scouts and 17 adults spent the week at Camp Olmsted on the Goshen Scout Reservation, where one of the troop's former scouts spent the summer serving on the camp staff. Jason Beam did a fantastic job as senior patrol leader (SPL), leading the scouts throughout the week. In addition to a Troop hike to Swinging Bridge, participation in the Trail's Head program, and seven scouts and four adults completing the mile swim, the scouts completed over 120 Merit Badges.

For more information on Troop 1083's summer 2010 activities and honors, see last month's web-only edition of the ECHO. If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday night at 7:30 at Viers Mill ES, or call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org).

***For more information  
about getting your son  
involved with Boy Scout  
Troop 1083, contact  
Scoutmaster Dave Talbott  
at 301-933-0048 or visit  
[www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org)***

## Fall Community Day Moved to October 2nd

*By Dan Hoffman*

Due to some logistical and scheduling challenges, the fall RCA Community Day will be held on October 2nd from Noon until 2pm at the Randolph Hills Local Park (the one located on Ashley Drive).

We will be serving up burgers, hot dogs, drinks, and snacks for community members for free! There will also be some games for the kids and music. If you'd like to help volunteer at the event, please email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) for more information.

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### Problems with Pepco

*(continued from page 5)*

a customer was without power, and the measures that Pepco is taking to ensure that the cause of the outage is rectified. We also suggest that the Commission adopt minimum reliability standards so that Pepco can be held accountable – assuming that you provide Pepco the resources that it needs to significantly improve the system.

And finally, we strongly suggest that you ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, there are human beings answering the phones when there are outages. When a customer loses power, getting a recorded message, often with misleading information, is infuriating. Residents deserve accurate information regarding restoration efforts and a good faith estimate as to when power will be restored. In addition, Pepco should be required to use the best technology and mapping systems available so that customers can avail themselves of real time, accurate information online.

Mr. Chairman, we urge you to act promptly on this request and to set in motion a collaborative process that will lead to a substantial improvement in the reliability of PEPCO's system.

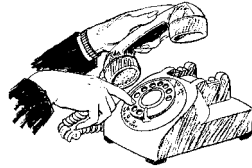
Sincerely,  
Roger Berliner, Lead for Energy and Environment Council  
Nancy Floreen, Council President  
Valerie Ervin, Council Vice President  
Phil Andrews  
Marc Elrich  
Mike Knapp  
George Leventhal  
Nancy Navarro  
Duchy Trachtenberg

*[Update: The Maryland Public Service Commission announced on 8/12/10 that they would investigate why power has been unreliable, why Pepco takes so long to bring it back, and why Pepco has been poorly communicating with its customers when there are outages.]*

## The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received July 26th, 2010  
through August 11th, 2010



*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.*

07-26-10 (Mon) at 7:54am. Not Anonymous. Caller is calling for a complaint number. There is an incessant high-pitched barking from a dog that gets left out in a yard for long stretches. This has been going on since before 7am this morning at 46xx Macon Road. This incessant barking has been happening for many days and for long stretches at a time. Caller has rung the owner's bell but they don't seem to be home and just leave the animal out in the day and in the heat. Please return call with the number for these complaints. (RCA Note: Please see the phone list on Page 6. If this is a chronic problem or the County does not respond,

please email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org))

07-29-10 (Thurs) at 5:06am. Not Anonymous. Received via [Info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:Info@RandolphCivic.org). I would like to advise your readers that there has recently been a series of car break-in's in the Randolph Hills area. Apparently the thieves are looking for the usual GPS units and other items left in vehicles. Please remember to not leave anything visible in your vehicle that could attract trouble. In addition, it is now possible to fill out a police report online at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/poltmlpl.asp?url=/content/pol/coplogic/cologic.asp>. All the info and rules that you need to be aware of are on the web page. I highly encourage everyone to fill out a police report if you're vehicle is broken into. If the police arrest anyone and find stolen goods, the police report will probably be all they have to go on to identify the origin of the stolen items. Also, they need to know what's going on, if they are to react.

08-03-10 (Tues) at 8:54am. Not Anonymous. Caller is making a complaint about a moving van sitting in front of 11xxx Monongahela for two weeks. It is a hazard because it is blocking so much of the road. Caller has called the police department but they have not been responsive. And, another thing, all those railings that go around leading off from the shopping center are all damaged. This throws a bad light on this development. Thank you.

### PLANNING ON SELLING YOUR HOME?

#### KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING TO BUY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Why not choose someone who knows your neighborhood personally?

My Grandparents were original owners in Randolph Hills. They purchased their home on Topping Rd. in 1955, where I spent extensive amounts of time growing up. Sadly, it was sold in 2009 as part of my Grandmother's estate.

Put my extensive knowledge of your neighborhood to work for you! Contact me today.

**COREY GAQUIN**



3410 N. High St, Olney, MD 20832  
Office: 301-924-8200 Direct: 301-938-6223  
[Corey\\_Gaquin@verizon.net](mailto:Corey_Gaquin@verizon.net)

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## Pro Feed Pet Nutrition Center

- **Healthy Pet Food**
- **Frozen Raw Diets**  
New in the Freezer- Answers, Stella & Chewy's, Wolfie's
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*Receive one FREE bag of dog or cat food!  
This coupon can be redeemed for a bag 8 pounds or less before September 30, 2010.*

5542 Randolph Rd  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-468-7387

#### Hours:

Monday - Friday	10am-8pm
Saturday	10am-7pm
Sunday	11am-6pm

[www.profeedpet.com](http://www.profeedpet.com)

Ask about  
our frequent  
buyer's  
program!



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# Loehmann's Plaza

5200 – 5290 Randolph Road, Rockville MD

A decorative graphic consisting of a large, light-colored swirl with a yellow center, surrounded by smaller, darker swirls and dotted patterns, positioned behind the business listings.

Boston Market	(301) 984-0990
Care Cleaners	(301) 816-2092
Chuck E. Cheese	(301) 468-2491
Congressional Bank	(301) 984-6000
Hair Systems	(301) 881-0338
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

JBG Rosenfeld Retail • 4445 Willard Avenue, Suite 700  
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 • Phone: (301) 657-0700; Fax: (301) 657-9850

## President's Message

by Matt Tifford

I don't know about you, but for us at the Randolph Civic Foundation, the summer went by all too fast. Nevertheless, rested and rejuvenated, your Foundation is ready to get the ball rolling on neighborhood beautification projects. Keep a look out; this year the RCF will be adopting a road in the community. While easy access to public transportation is one of the many assets we enjoy, one unwanted side effect is periodic littering near bus stops. Working together, we can keep our roads litter free. Please let us know if you would like to help out.

Do you have a green thumb? We need you! Please consider helping us maintain our neighborhood flower beds. As you may have seen or read about in the summer Echo (online only), scout Eric Uglem led a group of volunteers who painted the wood and upgraded the flower beds at four of our neighborhood signs. These flower beds will need some periodic maintenance throughout the year to stay in top shape. We will also be taking over maintenance of new landscaping and a rain garden as part of the coming picnic shelter at Randolph Hills Local Park.

As we have since the Foundation first began, the RCF is proud to sponsor our local scouting and youth organizations. Our community has always been generous in its support. Please help us to continue that tradition.

Last year, many of you gave generously to our Sign fund. We are hoping that you will all give again, and encourage your neighbors to give as well! We have been researching designs and meeting with sign companies, and believe me, signs are not cheap! However, while pricey, signs are a worthwhile investment. Prominent and well-placed neighborhood entrance signs bring enormous benefit to a community. They help create what urban planners call a "sense of place", a quality that can increase our enjoyment of our homes, encourage community participation, improve property values, and calm cut-through traffic. We also would like to put a call out to anyone who might have any skills and experience that would help, including architects, designers, trade professionals, and landscapers.

One more thing! When you donate to the RCF this year, please check to see if your employer matches charitable donations. The RCF is a registered 501 (C)3 non-profit corporation. So, any donations made to the RCF are eligible for employer matching programs- and tax-deductible as well. We appreciate your help. Working together we can achieve great things!

## An Invitation from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Jennifer Tifford

Troop 1028 is gearing up for another exciting year of Girl Scouting. Look for us at the Viers Mill Elementary Back to School Night to sign up your daughter for the coming school year. Meetings will be held twice a month and will start later in September. There is always a place for adventurous girls who are looking for a positive group to belong to! Last year, we had a real blast. Our activities included snow tubing, camping, dance and gymnastics parties, nature hikes, and a trip to a planetarium. We are putting together another action packed year, so don't miss out!

Troop 1028 is a combined troop featuring Daisies, Brownies, and Junior Girl Scouts, covering grades K-8, and is led by an enthusiastic team of scout leaders. If you have any questions about our troop feel free to contact Jennifer Tifford at [tiffordband@gmail.com](mailto:tiffordband@gmail.com).

Don't forget to look for us at Back to School Night at Viers Mill Elementary School!

## RCF Executive Committee for 2010-2011

### OFFICERS

#### President

Matt Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

#### Vice President

Lindsay Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-775-9807

#### Secretary

Bob Walker  
11813 Ashley Drive  
[amorworks1@aol.com](mailto:amorworks1@aol.com)

#### Treasurer

Richard Zierdt  
4707 Coachway Drive  
301-881-0283

#### Directors

Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

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.

[www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org](http://www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org) - Phone: 240-389-4723



### King's Way Care Pharmacy

4701 Randolph Rd Ste G-4  
Rockville, MD 20852

Phone: (301)770-5545

Fax: (301)770-5547

Free Local Delivery

**We carry Durable Medical Equipment!**  
Mention this ad and receive 20%  
Off your Over-the-counter Purchase!



# Advertise in the Echo

- Reach over 1,300 homes in our local community
- Prices start at a low \$24/per issue
- Eight issues are printed each year

For more information, go to <http://randolphcivic.org/echo/media-guide/> and click on the link for "RCA Media Kit". Or, just send an email to Kendra Fletcher at [vtkendra@hotmail.com](mailto:vtkendra@hotmail.com) for more information.

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

## 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.

### Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2010-2011 Issue year are:

November 2010 .....	October 11th
December 2010 .....	November 19th
January/February 2011.....	January 7th
March 2011.....	February 18th
April 2011.....	March 11th
May 2011 .....	April 15th
June/July/Aug 2011 .....	May 20th

## Consider Writing an Article for the Echo

*A message from the Communications Committee*

The RCA is always looking for new, relevant and original content for the Echo. Eight times a year the RCA produces and delivers the Echo for our community at no small cost or effort. Aside from editing, laying out, and delivering, it takes many people to develop the content for the Echo. You may have noticed that over the past year we have changed and added things to the Echo. We've changed the masthead and added features like the Community Fixtures and Guest Contributor sections.

Community Fixtures is a section that aims to highlight people or places in our community who add to the quality of life and vibrancy of our neighborhood. These may be well established unique or local businesses that many residents may not be aware of, non-profits, or people who contribute to our mutual well being. Guest contributors are local leaders who would like to provide our community information or their opinion on an issue of importance to our neighborhood. If there is an issue of interest to you that you would like to see in the Echo, contact us and we will arrange for the right person to contribute a guest article. If you know of a Community Fixture or Guest Contribution that you would like to see in the Echo, please contact [marknensel@yahoo.com](mailto:marknensel@yahoo.com) and be mindful of the deadlines listed on this page. Thank you!



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

<u>Address...</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>DOM</u>	<u>Subsidy</u>	<u>Date Settled</u>
11415 Schuylkill Road	\$338,900	\$326,000	13	\$1,950	16-Apr-10
4702 Wilwyn Way	\$275,000	\$275,000	48	\$8,250	30-Apr-10
11510 Patapsco Drive	\$335,000	\$325,000	95	\$8,500	30-Apr-10
4817 Mori Drive	\$369,900	\$370,000	23	\$0	30-Apr-10
11013 Troy Road	\$375,000	\$365,000	6	\$0	30-Apr-10
12017 Galena Road	\$379,000	\$370,000	14	\$2,750	14-May-10
4815 Topping Road	\$249,900	\$270,000	11	\$0	14-May-10
4704 Coachway Drive	\$334,999	\$326,000	12	\$5,000	15-May-10
11905 Rocking Horse Road	\$366,000	\$366,000	6	\$0	19-May-10
4809 Oxbow Road	\$357,000	\$357,000	5	\$5,000	20-May-10
11220 Troy Road	\$286,900	\$310,000	48	\$12,000	26-May-10
11815 Ashley Drive	\$369,900	\$369,900	7	\$1,500	26-May-10
4306 Star Lane	\$374,900	\$374,900	4	\$0	28-May-10
11503 Ashley Drive	\$369,900	\$374,000	46	\$10,000	11-Jun-10
11448 Schuylkill Road	\$279,900	\$245,000	0	\$0	17-Jun-10
11909 Ashley Drive	\$399,000	\$400,000	5	\$0	18-Jun-10
10908 Troy Road	\$374,500	\$365,000	186	\$4,000	30-Jun-10
11907 Ashley Drive	\$299,000	\$305,500	11	\$0	14-Jul-10
11517 Patapsco Drive	\$249,999	\$265,000	6	\$8,000	16-Jul-10
11104 Schuylkill Road	\$350,000	\$325,000	113	\$0	30-Jul-10

***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***



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