

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 56, Issue 1

September 2012

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 needed as we continuously maintain and beautify our neighborhood. Your \$10 membership and continued participation are critical to the success of programs like the Neighborhood Watch and publications like the Echo. This is also a membership drive 'outreach year', which means we will undertake the additional effort of knocking on a few doors and making some phone calls to increase membership. Several years ago we knocked on almost every door in the neighborhood. This outreach year we will be a bit more targeted and reach out to neighbors only after they have had some time to renew already. You can save RCA volunteers valuable time by renewing promptly and saving us from having to call or knock on your door. Remember, keeping this neighborhood beautiful, safe and vibrant is everyone's responsibility, and even \$10 makes a huge difference. So 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.

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 to have one dropped off at your house. Alternatively, 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 and we'll make the arrangements.



Time to put out your RCA yard signs!

Upcoming Events

RCA General Membership Meeting

October 4th, 2012 8:00pm-9:30pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

RCA Community Day and Fun Run

October 6th, 2012 10:00am-2:00pm, Randolph Hills Local Park

For more information see page 5!

RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2012-2013

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Ways and Means
Nick Kriesle
4302 Star Lane
301-770-0119

President's Message

by Chad Salganik, RCA President

As the days get shorter, and summer draws to a close, we begin another 'RCA Year' for our community. After our summer hiatus, the RCA Board and volunteers ramp back up for another year of service to our neighborhood. First on the to-do list is our annual membership drive. It's been two years since we mounted a major campaign to stem the decline in membership. We were successful thanks to a group of volunteers who knocked on almost every door in RCA-Land. Last year we held steady, but we'll be looking to expand membership again this year. You can even renew online via our website, <http://randolphcivic.org>. Please spread the word. Do you have new neighbors that have arrived 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 \$10 membership and a network of volunteers. This all-volunteer organization does everything it can to advocate for adequate County resources, and protect our quality of life. Your \$10 is essential to things like keeping the Echo alive, the website up and running, holding events such as the Community Day picnic, and running the Neighborhood Watch. So do your part and please renew your membership.

As an all volunteer organization, we are always looking for helping hands. It's a great feeling to give back to the community that we all enjoy. The best way to get started is to come to a meeting. We have meetings on the first Thursday of most months. The next one is October 4th. 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. If we're lucky, we have cookies as well. So make a commitment to yourself now to attend one RCA meeting this year. We do our best to keep them running on time and lively. I think you'll find them interesting and useful.

(continued on page 8)

RCA Telephone Number: (240)668-4722.

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

Chris Knows The Randolph Area

Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park, and Montrose Park Sales

Latest Randolph Civic Area Sales

Status	Address	Beds	Baths	Listed	Sold	Sold Date	Seller Help
Sold	11116 Rock Rd.	5	2	\$379,000	\$375,000	8/15/2012	\$8,000
Sold	11907 Hunters Ln.	4	3	\$400,000	\$400,000	7/31/2012	\$8,000
Sold	11301 Ashley Dr.	3	2	\$359,900	\$350,000	7/27/2012	\$3,000
Sold	4702 Creek Shore Dr.	3	1	\$339,000	\$339,900	7/20/2012	\$4,857
Sold	11211 Troy Rd.	3	2	\$359,000	\$359,900	7/20/2012	\$1,700
Sold	11218 Troy Rd.	3	2	\$325,000	\$347,000	7/20/2012	\$10,000
Sold	4703 Macon Rd.	4	2	\$409,900	\$405,000	6/29/2012	\$12,550
Sold	12008 Galena Rd.	3	2	\$349,000	\$340,000	6/29/2012	\$8,500
Sold	12004 Galena Rd.	4	2	\$309,500	\$297,000	6/15/2012	\$3,500
Sold	11220 Ashley Dr.	5	2	\$349,900	\$370,000	6/13/2012	\$11,100

Just Sold (Chris Mann Real Estate Co.)

11101 Rock Rd.

4BR 2BA

List Price: \$364,900

Sold Price: \$355,000



I am happy to talk with you about your home sale.

(240) 497-0408

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www.ChrisKnowsRandolph.com

Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Your Future Begins October 15!** That's when The Career Gateway, JCA's innovative and highly successful job search training program, kicks off its next session. Featuring small classes, individualized attention, 30 hours of instruction over five class days, and long-term mentors, The Career Gateway is open to job seekers age 50 and over who want to turbo-charge their resumes, hone their interviewing skills, network more effectively, discover the hidden job market, and develop personal job search plans. Classes are held at the Ann L. Bronfman Center, 12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville MD. November classes also are open for registration. For more information, call the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA) at 301-255-4200 or visit our web site, www.AccessJCA.org.
- **Living Faith Lutheran, located at 1605 Veirs Mill Road, resumes choir rehearsals on Wednesday September 5.** If you enjoy singing, come sing! Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9 PM and Sunday mornings at 9:30 am before the 10:30 AM service. Male voices are especially needed. Excellent choir director and welcoming group. No audition required.
- **Want to throw a Block Party?** We can help! Go to randolphcivicfoundation.org to find out more.
- **The County Council has approved a bill that authorizes installation of cameras on County school buses to monitor vehicles that illegally pass stopped buses.** The bill authorizes the County's Chief of Police, after consulting with the Board of Education, to install cameras on Montgomery County Public School buses to monitor traffic. Drivers caught on tape illegally passing a stopped school bus would be subject to a maximum civil fine of up to \$250. No points would be assessed to an individual's driving record.

June Membership Meeting Minutes

by Jason Ott

1. **Call to order: 8:00 PM**
2. **Old Business**
 - Dan Hoffman presented an update on White Flint Sector Two. RCA has two official representatives (Dan Hoffman and Chad Salganik) who will attend a meeting on June 18th. It was noted that funding of Montrose East, which is not part of WF2, is put off for a few years. Parts of White Flint One are started. One change is at Mid-Pike Plaza, where there is now a Farmer's Market.
 - Matt Tifford gave an update of the Sign Land-

scaping. Karen Helfert led the efforts and is still incorporating annuals. Scouts and neighborhood volunteers have contributed to planting and watering.

- Matt Tifford gave an update on the proposal for incorporation of RCA. He will be organizing a committee to gather information to develop a clear understanding of what RCA stands to gain or not from these efforts.

3. New Business

- Mark Nensel attended a meeting on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Viers Mills from the Wheaton Metro to the Rockville Metro. BRT would run in the middle of the street and have stops along the route. The plans are still in the early stages. Studies and budgeting will be conducted over the next few years. Another meeting will be held later this year. RCA would like to have a presenter share at a future meeting.

4. Standard Business

- The minutes from the May 3, 2012, Executive Meeting were approved. It was clarified that Viers Mills ES will be open over the summer with limited access.
- The Treasurer's Report shared that the money has been collected from Music Fest and is being transferred to RCF.
- Committee Chair Reports
- Membership: A more active membership drive will be conducted in the fall. A plan will be developed towards this effort.
- Community concerns:
 - i. A citizen expressed an issue with a neighbor allowing a company to park in front of their house. Efforts to follow up with the citizen have been unsuccessful.
 - ii. Goodwill will be moving into the old Amazing Savings. Donation drop off will be in the alley between the building and the convenience shop. There is no tenant for the Goodwill site at this time.
- Education: Construction continues at Viers Mill ES. At Wheaton HS, efforts led to a decision to move forward with the rebuilding process. Construction of two sites will begin in about a year and last 6 or 7 years. George Gadbois is stepping down after a "really long time" as the Education Chair. The membership expressed appreciation for all of his efforts working on behalf of our citizens and schools. We are searching for a new Education Chair.
- Environment: Matt Tifford explained that efforts to get the Waverly-Schuylkill Park renamed are at an impasse because Parks and Planning wants \$5,000 for renaming rights.
- Public Safety: RCA-land may be getting moved into another policing district.
- An RCF Block Party will be held on Ashley on June 23rd.

5. RCA Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 P.M.

Community Day - Fun, Fitness and Food for Everyone!

by Brian Hooker

Fun, Fitness and Food are all waiting for you on Saturday, October 6. Come and join your neighbors for this exciting day! Community Day will be held at Randolph Hills Local Park pavilion from Noon until 2pm. The RCA is thrilled to announce the inaugural 5K and Kid's Fun Run to be held that morning. The 5K course will take you through some of your favorite local streets south of Randolph Road and on the Rock Creek Park Hiker/Biker Trail. The Kid's Fun Run will be held within the immediate area of the park. Details, including course information and sign-up information will be posted soon at Randolphcivic.org, please check the site frequently.

After the 5k and Kid's Fun Run stick around for your favorite grilled food and drinks and neighborly conversation at the Community Day picnic. This year's entertainment list will feature hyper local talent. Mark your calendars and come on out for the festivities on October 6th!

Easy on the Fertilizer!

by Christiana Drapkin

September is prime time for home gardeners to revitalize their lawn, I hear. Judging from the packed parking lot at Home Depot garden center, there must be something to it.

I look at our patchy lawn in the backyard with a mixture of despair and guilt: I know that our wonderful mature trees cast a dense shadow. I know that our soil is a clay pit. I know I've given up my battle with the Creeping Charlie, and my watering schedule remains spotty. Nevertheless, I'm tempted to get another 50-pound bag of dense-shade seed, and I look over the sacks of fertilizer and weed killer stacked high in the aisles at the store. Hope springs eternal, that this year I'll finally get it right. But how much do I personally contribute to the "better-living-through-chemistry" madness? Can I resist and admit that I may do more harm than good with my intermittent spurts of fertilizer craze?

I've learned to reduce our water consumption and garden a bit more wisely, with some help and valuable information from the "Maryland: Smart, Green & Growing" website. There's so much at your fingertips, take a couple of minutes and browse: <http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/> -- from watering schedules for your area to planting tips and so much more.

Maybe you need more data to convince you how your own green practices can lessen runoff pollution? Here's the link to The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust: <http://www.baystat.maryland.gov/sources2.html?tr=y&aud=10421685>

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment have been choking our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay for a long time and contributed to the dramatic decline in our oyster and crab population. The graphs that you see on

the website give you a breakdown on the amounts that have been flowing into the Bay. The good news is, due to more stringent regulations, we have cut some of these effluents nearly in half from 1985 to 2009. However, the improvement rates in runoff have flattened out lately. The lion's share of runoff is caused by our farm industry, as well as the farms in the other states that are part of the Chesapeake watershed: Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York. If you've followed news articles or blog posts over the years, you can well imagine that coordinating environmental legislation between these many states and their respective powerful special-interest lobbies (from hog- and chicken-farmers to housing developers) is complex. We've seen efforts to implement major industry-changes getting bogged down again and again.

However, the impact of our personal landscaping choices should not be dismissed out of hand: Wastewater treatment plants and storm water runoff together contribute almost as much nitrogen and phosphorus pollution as the runoff from farms. And that's where we individual gardeners and homeowners play a role and can make a difference. Explore other gardening options, go to some information workshops at Brookside Gardens; read up on the University of Maryland Extension website (they also support the wonderful 4-H education system for children); ask a neighbor who's installed a rain garden or hooked up a rain barrel; enroll in a master-gardener class; and just have some fun exploring some new and more beneficial ways of husbanding your little patch of green. Mother Nature will thank you, and so will all the critters between Boiling Brook and Rock Creek, from the Potomac River down to the marshes in Chesapeake Bay. Next time you dig into a fabulous local seafood dish, boil some crabs, or order a plate of fresh oysters, count your blessings that they're still here and ready for you to enjoy.

Here are some useful and informative links on all kinds of environmental tips and gardening issues. Feel free to share with your other garden-enthusiasts among your family and friends.

University of Maryland Extension

<http://extension.umd.edu/>

Grow It, Eat It!

<http://www.growit.umd.edu/>

Montgomery Parks, Brookside Gardens

<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/>



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Call 311 To Get It Done!

311 is Montgomery County's phone number for non-emergency government information and services. For emergency calls, residents should continue to call 911. A new website is available 24/7 at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311.

Phone Numbers for MC311

In Montgomery County, call 311 ■ Outside of Montgomery County, call 240-777-0311
The TTY number is 240-773-3556

Reminder: Call 911 for emergencies

Website:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311

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 for more information and to learn how you can help.



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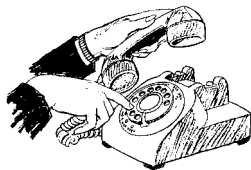
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Karen Wood has over 25 years of experience teaching piano to adults and children. She earned a Bachelor of Music with major in Piano and minor in Voice, and guides her students by standards of the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received May 21st, 2012
through September 2nd, 2012



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 reserves the right to not publish calls longer than 1.5 minutes due to the time it takes to transcribe and cost to publish. You can always email the RCA at info@randolphcivic.org or submit an article for publication to the Echo editor.

06-07-12 (Thurs) at 6:38pm. Anonymous. We've got thievery going on in Franklin Park. People's motorcycles are getting stolen, bicycles, cars getting broken into. And, it appears to be the same group of people that are doing it. One person that had been stolen from actually caught one of the people. The police took over an hour and a half to get here and then let the guy go. That's terrible. We can't tolerate that. *[RCA Note: Just as we do on the Yahoo group, we encourage callers to include details such as dates, police report numbers and other information so that our Neighborhood Watch group can effectively track and follow-up on these kinds of incidents. We can't do anything with such little information.]*

06-11-12 (Mon) at 8:33am. Anonymous. Good morning. I'm just calling to say what a great job I think the people who did the flowers, landscaping and entrances did – especially the one in Franklin Park. I'm very happy to enter to have people come into my neighborhood. Thank you for all of your hard work.

06-13-12 (Wed) at 6:10am. Anonymous. I'm calling because I'm reading in the Echo all this information and opinion about "improvements" [sic] to these existing commercial areas on Schuylkill and these other suggestions that things are going to be improved. I think these things aren't improvements. I think they're going to simply increase the cost of living totally in this area, as though we need an increase. I really think this is all a fallacy. Thank you.

06-16-12 (Sat) at 5:45pm. Anonymous. I've been in residence in Randolph Hills since 1957 and, at that time, the shopping center was supposed to be a rec center according to the Perlmutter people. I recently came upon the shopping center and now we have Goodwill, which is located at the rear of the shopping center, planning to move up to where the theater was. If you look at the rear of the shopping center where the

Goodwill is now, it looks like a junkyard. Now, according to the signs, the Goodwill is to move in soon. I should recommend that the people who made the decision to let them come in should have checked the 355 location of Goodwill, opposite the churches, and you can see that junkyard. It doesn't make sense that we should have to put up with this. I don't know where the members of the executive committee and committee chairs were located and if this was discussed. According to a recent Echo, someone was talking about some other area not matching up with our area. I don't think that Goodwill is going to fit in with our area, especially when you have a bunch of junk all over the place and all that chain link. This neighborhood has certainly gone downhill. *[RCA Note: Please make sure you read the follow-up message we got from this caller on 8-25.]*

06-18-12 (Mon) at 4:47pm. Not Anonymous. Received via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Hi!

There is a large pothole in front of 114xx Ashley Drive, in middle of the street, about 3 feet wide. Can you tell me who is responsible for repairing these and how I might alert them? It has been growing larger and larger over the past couple of months. I found the below listing, 240-777-2200, at - <http://randolphcivic.org/neighborhood/services/> but when I called it there was a recording saying "You have reached a non-working number at Montgomery County Government." Thank you. *[RCA Note: Call 311 to report potholes. We will update the website.]*

07-05-12 (Thurs) at 4:46pm. Not Anonymous. I live on Ashley Drive in Randolph Hills. Yesterday, someone came by with a bulldozer in my neighborhood and started piling up branches that fell in the storm in my yard. I called Montgomery County and they were unaware of this and they told me to contact you guys to see if you were the ones organizing this. Please call me back.

07-05-12 (Thurs) at 5:42pm. Anonymous. This is July 5th at about 5pm and I live on Macon Road and I still don't have electricity. Is there anything that anyone in the Civic Association can do to get a truck out here? I appreciate it. Thank you. *[RCA Note: Unfortunately the RCA has no control over Pepco. The civic association does however communicate daily with the County during severe storms such as this one and communicates what information we receive through the Yahoo group. Make sure you sign up!]*

07-19-12 (Thurs) at 1:40pm. Not Anonymous. Hi, I just moved onto Schuylkill Road and I called Waste Management to set up my waste disposal service and they said they don't have residential service, they only serve commercial establishments. But, I see the waste management trucks go by. They also asked if I was part of a homeowners association or anything so I was just wondering what I could do. Do I have to go through you or what to set up that service. Please call me back. *[RCA note: The County provides trash pick up service to RCA-land and if you need a bulk pick-up you can schedule that through the*

County as well. You do not need to pay for trash pick-up through Waste Management.]

08-13-12 (Mon) at 12:11am. Not Anonymous. Received via info@RandolphCivic.org. June 25, in the night, car was stolen out of driveway of 113xx Schuylkill and wrecked.

08-25-12 (Sat) at 4:43pm. Anonymous (same caller from 06-16-12). Several weeks ago, I left a message on the hotline indicating that Goodwill was moving from one location to another and that there would probably be another junkyard. I have to retract that statement because, so far, they've moved and I can't find the junkyard. I don't know what the old place looks like but I wanted to apologize before you sent that message out. *[RCA Note: We thank the caller for the follow-up. The RCA worked with the property owner prior to Goodwill moving and we were assured they would keep the back of the building clean and restrict drop-offs to the side of the building away from the road. Also, it is important to note that Goodwill is a respected non-profit that does excellent work in our community. We will continue to work with them and the property owner to make sure the area is well maintained, but are happy to see the space filled since at one point it was almost a bingo hall.]*

08-30-12 (Thurs) at 7:43pm. Not Anonymous. Hi, today is August 30th. We have had an unfortunate sighting of a rat in our backyard in the 4800 block of Ertter Drive. And, we were just wondering what the whole community could do to try to discourage rats. One person doing that is not going to be enough. We haven't seen any in our house but we saw this in our backyard and I'm sure there are others nearby. So, I wondered if we could join together in a joint effort. Someone saw the rat in the backyard so we just kind of wondered what we can do about this. *[RCA Note: This is a good issue to bring to an RCA meeting. Check the schedule on the front page of this issue.]*

08-31-12 (Fri) at 11:19am. Anonymous. Yes, this call is anonymous. I currently live in the Randolph Hills estates right on Troy Road. I'm a special education teacher and the part that I'd like to be typed in the newsletter is about the smart meters. If you Google the smart meters that are being installed by Pepco, we've refused them in our neighborhood and have found that there are 50 cities that have banned them recently because of health-related problems. You can put in the Echo the information that people have refused smart meters as a result of health complaints and all they have to do is Google "smart meters health related problems" and they will see that there are about 30 or 40 health-related problems related to smart meters being installed in people's homes and the reason being that it emits a high frequency signal that actually lasts up to two miles. It actually affects people's sleep, can cause migraines, heart palpitations, I don't want to list all of the symptoms here. It's also attributed to the possibility of the

recurrences of cancers and/or brain tumors. All people have to do is refuse the smart meters being installed in their neighborhood. And, also, if there has been one installed in their neighborhood, they just have to call PEPCO and the number of PEPCO's customer service, they just have to give their name and address to refuse a smart meter or have one removed and the old one reinstalled. The customer service number is 202-833-7500. And I just called today and they indicated that in the next few months all of our area will have smart meters installed unless people have called to be taken off the list. They've also attributed it, evidently, in the state of Maryland, as well as in Pennsylvania and DC, to the possibility of fires being started in the homes, something about a short in the meters. So, I just thought it was something that people should know about and know that their health is possibly at risk as a result of them being installed.

RCA President's Message

(continued from page 2)

This coming year will be interesting. Construction in White Flint continues apace with more projects slated for the future. Board members and volunteer residents spent the summer gearing up for the White Flint 2 Sector Plan, which you can read about in this issue. As the County has decided to postpone the White Flint 2 Sector Plan, we will re-focus our efforts and energies accordingly.

I received some concerns from residents this summer over PEPCO's plans to install Smart Meters on our homes. Smart meters replace traditional meters and make it easier for PEPCO to read the meters and know about outages. The meters transmit radio frequency signals, and some would prefer that such devices not be installed on their homes. PEPCO has information on their website and you may opt out from having the smart meter installed on your home by contacting PEPCO.

Lastly, Community Day is right around the corner, and we are holding our first 5K and children's fun run thanks to the efforts of board member Brian Hooker. Stick around after the race for grilled food and drinks and neighborly conversation. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

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Girl Scout Troop 1079

By Leora Hernandez

Girl Scout Troop 1079, aka Cadettes, is for girls in grades 6th-12th. At the Cadette troop level the girls have opportunities to grow leadership skills, earn SSL hours, and have fun! Our troop will begin meeting the first week of October.

Our recent New York City trip was a lot of fun. We enjoyed eating pizza at Lombardi's and then went to Hard Rock Café for a little souvenir shopping. The girls were surprised at how many floors the big city's stores had!

Amanda H. and Jacklyn M. are joining Venture Crew 1083 in addition to the Girl Scouts. Recently, they attended the Guppie Gulch Camping trip. While there they participated in many water-themed activities including snorkeling and a beach party.

Girls in 6th-12th grade – are you interested in joining us? Contact Leora Hernandez at 240-593-9318 or leorah2o@yahoo.com for more information.



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Sherwin-Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-4672
Vision Cleaners	(301) 881-7142
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VENTURE CREW 1083 PLANS FOR 2012/2013

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

As Venture Crew 1083 begins its fifth year, 2012/2013 is shaping up to be a pivotal one. Infused with some new members from the Girl Scouts, the Crew returns to co-ed status. Also, the Venture Crew is now officially the focus of all Scouting High Adventure activities. Finally, there are new uniform shirts, designed by the Crew themselves!

In June, the Crew made plans for the coming year. Those plans include gymnastics, ice skating, camping and hiking in the Shenandoah and on the Appalachian Trail, an evening at Dave & Busters', a skiing/snowboarding trip (in addition to Troop 1083's February trip to Ski Liberty), a visit to a rifle range, riding ATVs, and of course, to top it all off, two weeks at the Philmont High Adventure Ranch in July 2013. The Crew also elected officers: Matthew Best is the new president and Jacklyn Molina is the vice-president.

The first weekend after the 2011/2012 school year ended, the Venturers joined the Boy Scouts at the annual beach campout at Assateague State Park. Nothing like kicking off summer vacation with a little sun and fun at the beach!

By far, the highlight of the Venture Crew summer was spending the week of July 29–August 4 at Guppy Gulch, an aquatics-themed summer camp just north of the Mason-Dixon line in Delta, PA. The camp is centered by a deep quarry lake, and activities include scuba diving and testing one's balancing skills on the "rodeo"—a floating platform anchored to the lake floor. The camp's location near the Susquehanna means it offers hiking opportunities with cliffs, gorges, waterfalls, and other remarkable scenery...and the Crew took advantage of them. There were movie nights and a closing "beach party" campfire. It was awesome!

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 21. The Crew will meet every Monday night during the school year, from 6:30–7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Why not join us? Bring a like-minded friend so you'll already know someone else at the meeting! For more information, contact crew advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755.

You Can Help Our Neighborhood Kids

By Lindsay Hoffman

The PTA at Viers Mill Elementary School is looking forward to another great year! We are a Parent/Teacher Association comprised of community members just like you! But, you don't need to belong to the PTA, or even have a child at VMES, to support your wonderful neighborhood elementary school. Just designate Viers Mill Elementary when signing up for the bonus programs at our local 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. It's completely free to you so sign up online or the next time you shop at your grocery store – for most programs, you must re-link your card annually. Also, when you see those Box Tops for Education on some of your common food packaging, did you realize those are each worth a dime to VMES? And, those dimes really add up! Please trim them when you see them. A neighbor will happily pick them up – just contact the PTA!

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! 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. Membership is only \$10 and 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! We want to make this a great school year for our kids! Call us at (240) 428-8239, email us at VMESPTAPres@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/viersmilles/pta for more information.



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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/>

Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster

Summertime always brings lots of outdoor fun, learning, and service activities for the Scouts, and 2012 was no exception. Let's start with Eagle Scout news: on June 15th, Jake Blakely passed his Eagle Board of Review -- the final formal step in the long and arduous climb to the Eagle rank. On April 15th and 28th, Jake led his work crews in re-landscaping the plots that surround the five Randolph Hills neighborhood signs. Although the plantings around the signs were always attractive, the RCA had long wished for the plots to contain native species only. Jake consulted with a horticultural expert to devise the best solution. At each location, Jake's work crews dug up all the existing plantings, re-tilled the plots, replaced the non-native species with newly acquired native species, preserved and replanted the existing native species, and spread mulch. It was a big job, and the results are impressive. Congratulations to Jake and his family!

In other Eagle news, on July 22nd, the Troop held an Eagle Court of Honor to recognize Robert Skaats for completing the climb to scouting's pinnacle. The Eagle Scout Class of 2012 is already among the largest in Troop history, and there are still a few months to go!

On June 15-17, Troop 1083 celebrated the end of the 2011/2012 school year with its annual beach campout at Assateague State Park, featuring an afternoon riding go-carts, a day at the beach, and a night on the

boardwalk. The weather was fine, just breezy enough to keep the sand flies away. 75 Scouts and family members attended this year; it's amazing how the Troop has grown over the years.

The week of July 8-14, a dozen Troop 1083 Scouts and adult advisors hit the Lenhok'sin high adventure trail on the Goshen Scout reservation in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Although Lenhok'sin is an exciting destination in itself, this trek marked the second of two weeklong tune-ups (the first was in 2011) in preparation for next summer's High Adventure trip-of-a-lifetime to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Back at Goshen, two of Troop 1083's senior scouts, Matthew Best and Jason Beam, served on the camp staff as counselors this summer. They both had a great time. You've got to admire a Scout who figures out how to draw a paycheck for doing something he loves!

Beginning July 29th, three dozen Troop 1083 Scouts attended a week of summer camp at Camp Rodney, on the scenic upper Chesapeake. The place was hopping -- the camp, over 80 years old, set an attendance record the week we were there! The Scouts earned merit badges and special awards, learned new skills, and most of all, had fun.

2012/2013 is going to be another great year in Troop 1083. We have outings throughout the year, where we learn a lot and have a lot of fun. Why not join us? 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 Elementary School. You can call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048, or check out the troop web page at www.troop1083.org.



Jake Blakely and his Eagle Scout service project volunteers

President's Message

by Lindsay Hoffman

Greetings from the Randolph Civic Foundation! What a wonderful summer – I can't believe another is behind us already. For many of us, fall marks the true New Year as our kids return to school. And, for our neighbors with children beginning sixth grade and higher, there's a way the RCF might be able to assist.

Middle and high school students now need up to 75 Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours in order to graduate and these hours must be signed off by an approved organization. The Randolph Civic Foundation is authorized to approve SSL hours! So, if any RCA-land students wish to benefit their own neighborhood while getting closer to their high-school graduation, please email me at LindsayHoffman@aol.com. We're open to any ideas that will improve, better and beautify our community and would love to see our youth getting more involved.

Also – don't forget about the RCF's new Block Party Sponsorship Program! Already, two groups of neighbors have closed their blocks to traffic and thrown wonderful outdoor parties. By taking advantage of the RCF's sponsorship program, these neighbors have also been reimbursed for a portion of their expenses. Let the RCF help with the cost of food, non-alcoholic beverages and entertainment when you throw your block party! For more information on the program and how block parties work, please visit the RCF's website at www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org.

We are looking forward to a fantastic Fall and hope to see you in the neighborhood soon!

RCF Executive Committee for 2012-2013

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Vice President

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Karen Helfert
11429 Ashley Drive
301-468-0236

Alison Dewey
5003 Macon Drive
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The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community. The address is: Randolph Civic Foundation, PO Box 489, Garrett Park, MD 20896-0489

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

Advertise in the Echo



- Reach over 1,300 homes in our local community
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- 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 echo@randolphcivic.org



Heavenly Harvest Fall Festival

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www.faithworkshere.com/harvest.html

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Derecho Stories

By Mark Nensel and the Stanley Family

It came along at 10:30pm on Friday June 29, 2012, the beginning of the Fourth of July week, and in the midst of an oppressive heat wave – the 2012 Derecho – and none of us who were here in RCA-Land will ever forget that night, as well as the following week when scores of our homes suffered without power for up to (and beyond) seven days. In our home, we were spending a quiet evening-in when suddenly a monstrous clattering pounded on our roof – the sound of a rain of rocks, hailstones, probably – made my wife and I leap to our feet, alarmed, heading to the windows. The lights went out almost instantaneously and we could hear the howling winds beyond our walls. We peered out through the windows at the trees in our backyard swinging and bending like pom-poms, utterly out of control. I shouted that we must get away from the windows, and we did, finding our flashlights and trying to corral our panicky cats into the basement. When the storm abated after a few minutes, I ventured out onto our screened-in porch, and in the short glimpses of our property afforded by the frequent lightning flashes, I could see that a new patch of sky had opened up on our yard's western side. "Wasn't there a tree there?" I asked my wife. We gingerly stepped out onto our porch and swung the flashlights around: a huge tree had come down, completely bisecting our back yard, and had – thankfully, mercifully – just skimmed our porch. The only damage was torn screens caused by protruding branches.

Obviously, we were amongst the lucky ones. Numerous other homes in RCA-Land suffered catastrophic damage – trees that landed directly on roofs and cars; damage still evident over two months later. But that night was truly a bonding community experience. I know on our street, Rocking Horse Road, several of us neighbors – people I had never met before -- spent the next three hours trying to turn around oncoming vehicles from plowing through downed power lines draped across our street (it was an ultimately futile effort; but thankfully the lines were not 'live', and no-one was injured). But it was good to get to know our neighbors, as well as other residents who wandered through that early Saturday morning, and to experience us just checking up on each other and making sure we were all safe. It was a fascinating dress rehearsal for the apocalypse, and by and large, RCA-Land kept its cool – even through the following week of sweltering 100+ degree heat.

According to the Stanley Family on Schuylkill Road: "A hurricane punch without the hurricane warning' sums up the experience. The first clue was the lights flickering as never before. Weather radar showed a frightening image: 'There's a whopping big storm bearing down on us—prepare the tornado corner!' Peering from a basement window, we were relieved that a twister never arrived, yet this was clearly more than an ordinary thunderstorm. Fierce winds snapped tree limbs and blew debris almost horizontally. We were spared major damage, but the days and nights of relentless stifling heat with no electricity became tedious. We were grateful to neighbors and Harris Teeter for ice. We adapted to all but one hardship: we just couldn't sleep in totally stagnant, oven-hot air (we now have a battery-operated fan for 'next time'). We lamented that the silence that used to be a silver lining of a power outage is gone as more and more people fire up their noisy generators. Someone's going to become a millionaire by making and marketing a QUIET one! Despite mosquitoes and drizzle, we enjoyed the full moon in the sky".

As the website Xweather.org describes it: "A derecho is a wide, powerful windstorm that is caused by a potent line of thunderstorms. To qualify as a derecho, the storm front must be at least 240 miles wide and the winds must be a minimum of 57 miles per hour along most of the storm's length. Derechos are mostly produced by 'bow echo' storms, which are storms that have a bowed or curved shape when viewed on Doppler radar. The bow echo storm results from the powerful winds reaching the ground and the pressure on the Earth's surface 'feeding back' and distorting the entire storm. The storm is generally rapidly moving as well, another precondition for creating the massive straight line winds that make up a derecho ... a derecho is an impressive sight for those who have the opportunity -- and perhaps the misfortune -- to witness one. Beneath a roof of dark storm clouds, a huge, jutting

(continued on page 15)



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, 31 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

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Will assist Seniors in the evenings with meals, light housekeeping and errands; Mature, experienced. Call Kathy (301) 943-4014.

The Randolph Lions Club is a fun loving group of people who enjoy serving their community. We are especially interested in serving youth in the community, sight and blindness issues and meeting other community needs. We are local volunteers that are part of an international organization. In our community we sponsor Cub Scout Pack 1081, buy eyeglasses for needy people, collect used eyeglasses for international redistribution, support the Lions camp for deaf and blind children and adults and support Lions projects for vision research. Our meetings are a fun social time. If these ways of caring for your community interest you, or if you just want to learn more—contact Ray Mitchell at 301-770-7750. or Brian McGahey at 301-770-7882. Currently we meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Ambrosia Restaurant at the Giant Flagship shopping center. (12015 Rockville Pike).

News from Cub Scout Pack 1081

By Leora Hernandez

Cub Scout Pack 1081 is accepting boys from 1st grade to fifth grade into their pack. The boys enjoy learning all kinds of life skills and experience a wide variety of activities such as camping, trips to museums, bowling, and skiing.

Come to Join Scouting Night at Viers Mill Elementary School on September 12th at 6:30 pm to learn more about our troop and cub scouts.

Even though school was out for the summer the cub scouts still had fun activities each month.

In June we had our annual picnic at Cabin John. Families in attendance were the Hackenberg's, the O'Donnell's, the Alaya's, and the Levy's.

Also in June, J. Cobb, F. Ayala, M. Ayala, J. Hackenberg, C. Hackenberg and T. Parker went on a Buddy Hike in Silver Spring.

In July, the Cub Scouts held a car wash. The washers were F. Ayala, M. Ayala, J. Hackenberg, C. Hackenberg, J. Levy, L. O'Donnell, W. Metelko, and J. Cobb. Great job Cubbies!

Webelos I and II had the opportunity to earn pins towards their rank at Camp Tuckahoe -- a sleep-away camp. This year the theme was Medieval times. They spent a one of their nights in a castle. The boys who attended were F. Ayala, J. Hotaling, J. Hackenberg, M. Charron, S. Hernandez, L. O'Donnell, W. Melelko, and J. Tallman -- who caught four fish!

In August, the troop had a potluck party at Connecticut Belair Swim Club. Though it rained a little the boys and families enjoyed the pool, food, and socializing.

The Pack meets Mondays at Viers Mill Elementary School during the school year starting at 6:30 pm. Boys in grades 1st - 5th are welcome to join. You can contact our Pack Master at rchackenberg@verizon.net.

Derecho Stories

(continued from page 14)

"shelf cloud" projects close to the ground, with darkness underneath it. This huge mass of clouds tumbles and seethes across the sky at incredible speed, sometimes advancing as fast as 70 miles per hour, accompanied by an intense wall of wind. The approach of a derecho resembles nothing so much as the end of the world -- its speed, darkness, hugeness, and violence is a memorable event for anyone who has lived through one of these rare but spectacular storms".

And the www.spc.noaa.gov website declared: "The June 29, 2012 Ohio Valley / Mid-Atlantic derecho was noteworthy in producing the all-time highest recorded June or July winds gusts at several official observing sites along its path (Fort Wayne IN, Zanesville OH, and Huntington WV), in addition to widespread significant wind damage. Five million people lost power from Chicago to the Atlantic Coast, and 22 were killed. The storm also was notable for being arguably the first derecho to capture widespread media attention, striking as it did nearly every metropolitan area in a broadening path that extended from Chicago and Indianapolis to Baltimore, Washington, and Tidewater Virginia".



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>
11918 Rocking Horse Road	\$324,900	\$320,900	28	\$12,836	01-May-12
11520 Patapsco Drive	\$299,900	\$299,900	37	\$8,200	01-May-12
4701 Coachway Drive	\$275,000	\$255,500	5	\$0	03-May-12
11231 Ashley Drive	\$340,000	\$340,000	4	\$9,000	07-May-12
4813 Boiling Brook Pkwy	\$319,900	\$320,000	3	\$8,000	11-May-12
11116 Troy Road	\$349,000	\$349,000	15	\$7,000	15-May-12
4622 Creek Shore Drive	\$399,900	\$399,900	3	\$0	15-May-12
11814 Timber Lane	\$359,900	\$363,100	5	\$0	21-May-12
12101 Hunters Lane	\$305,900	\$305,900	287	\$0	25-May-12
4610 Creek Shore Drive	\$369,900	\$360,000	13	\$0	12-Jun-12
11220 Ashley Drive	\$349,900	\$370,000	4	\$11,100	13-Jun-12
4703 Macon Road	\$409,900	\$405,000	38	\$12,550	29-Jun-12
11218 Troy Road	\$325,000	\$347,000	125	\$10,000	20-Jul-12
11211 Troy Road	\$359,900	\$359,900	41	\$1,700	20-Jul-12
4702 Creek Shore Drive	\$339,900	\$339,900	6	\$4,857	20-Jul-12
11301 Ashley Drive	\$359,900	\$350,000	102	\$3,000	27-Jul-12
11116 Rock road	\$379,000	\$375,000	78	\$8,000	15-Aug-12
4805 Ertter Drive	\$329,000	\$310,000	10	\$0	27-Aug-12
11913 Ashley Drive	\$384,500	\$380,000	7	\$0	30-Aug-12

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