

# The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Digital Only Edition

Summer 2010

## Neighborhood Watch Update

by David Matera, RCA Public Safety Committee Chair

I hope you have been enjoying your summer so far. More than 40 days of over 90° and many more to go, and the earth shakes a little for us too, a reminder that we share this world with many a stronger force.

Our neighborhood watch program has been underway now for several months, and I can report that we have made progress in monitoring our community. We have had an influx of volunteers who have either decided to become block captains [thank you!] or those that would rather just be an extra pair of eyes. We are moving on to the next step, the more active part of our Watch, after the RCA clears up a few legal hurdles, i.e. having all volunteers sign a waiver form, providing proof of insurance, and receiving proper training. We are also in contact with the Montgomery County police, to apprise them and to keep them up to date on our progress. Additionally, we have ordered a

magnetic vehicle sign for our patrols, as well as window stickers for our fellow neighbors to place on their homes. They will be distributed by our block captains, and will also be available at our next RCA meeting in September.

The active part of patrol will comprise of at least two volunteers that will patrol the neighborhood, either by car, foot, bike, motorcycle, horse, or boat [just kidding!] for a couple hours at a time. I will put our new volunteers in touch with our scheduler, Ms. Mara Greengrass, once you have been properly trained. Keep in mind the more volunteers we can recruit, the more often we could develop regular patrols in RCA-Land.

A reminder to all: if you see anything that is suspicious in your area, please, please call the police department's non-emergency number at 301-279-8000 (or 911 if it is life-threatening). I am still looking for more volunteers; we need both block captains and regular assistants to keep eyes out on your street.

Thank you, stay safe, and keep your eyes and ears



**The Neighborhood Watch still needs volunteers. Contact [safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org) to get involved. Neighborhood safety is everyone's responsibility. We need your help!**

open.

## Upcoming Events

### **District One Candidates Debate and RCA General 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 3 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**

Save the Date! September 25th, 2010

More details will be in the Sept/Oct edition of *The Echo*.

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

### OFFICERS

President  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

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

2nd Vice President  
David Matera  
safety@randolphcivic.org  
202-412-6820

Secretary  
Christiana Drapkin  
11813 Ashley Drive  
chdrapkin@aol.com

Treasurer  
Nick Kriesle  
4302 Star Lane  
301-770-0119

Directors  
Kevin Kline  
4808 Randolph Road  
301-230-1486

Brian Hooker  
5003 Macon Drive  
brian.r.hooker@gmail.com

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND POINTS OF CONTACT

Echo Editor  
Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957  
marknensel@yahoo.com

Echo Production  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Echo Advertising  
Kendra Fletcher  
12109 Galena Road  
703-863-0906

Communications Committee  
(Primary Contact for Media Requests)  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Membership and Welcome Committee  
John Kehoe  
4814 Red Fox Road  
301-231-4933

Environment and Services Committee  
Matthew Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

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

Yard Sale Signs  
Lorena Moyer  
4802 Macon Road  
301-984-8727

Webmaster  
Chad Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
202-359-6158

Public Safety Committee  
David Matera  
safety@randolphcivic.org  
202-412-6820

External Affairs Committee  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

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

## President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

Welcome to the first 'digital only' summer edition of the Echo! We're giving this a try to see if it provides value to the neighborhood. Sometimes things come up during the summer hiatus that should be communicated in a timely manner and our thought was that this might be an effective way to do that. Please drop us a line if you have any thoughts related to this or other methods by which we communicate with the neighborhood.

Our biggest push this summer, in line with the community priorities we established last fall, is improving safety in the neighborhood. The cornerstone of this has been the restart of our Neighborhood Watch program. Currently a group of volunteers have taken on the role of block captain and some additionally are participating in patrols. If you care about the safety of the neighborhood, this is an excellent way to get involved. Both of these opportunities require only a minimal amount of your time. Please email [safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org) if you'd like to get involved. We are also planning a training session for our volunteers in August. Details will be sent out via the Yahoo group soon.

The RCA has also been busy planning our fall schedule. Our first meeting back from the summer break is an important one. We are hosting the third and most likely final debate of the primary race for the District One County Council seat. Incumbent Roger Berliner and challenger Ilaya Hopkins will debate on September 2nd at the Viers Mill recreation center. **PLEASE NOTE: To allow sufficient time we will be starting at 7:30pm rather than 8:00pm.** Please see the article in this issue for more information about the format. I hope to see as many people there as possible.

I hope everyone is having a great summer! Mention this edition of the Echo to your neighbor and make sure they're part of the Yahoo group.

**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)

# 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.



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



## 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	301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuykill Parks)</i>	
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	877-463-6497
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Services	240-777-3000
Fire Marshall (Non-Emergency)	240-777-2457
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3785
<i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Locations, Accounts, Etc.	240-777-0001
Metrarail 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
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
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.

---

## Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Thanks to Boy Scout Eric Uglen, four of our neighborhood signs received a much needed facelift this summer.** To fulfill his Eagle community service project, Eric Uglen 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 RCA 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.
- **After two years of work by RCA volunteers, including countless meetings, phone calls, and e-mails, the long awaited picnic shelter is on its way for Randolph Hills Local Park.** At the June RCA meeting, President Dan Hoffman appointed a committee to study the proposed designs put forward by Park staff. Construction of the octagonal shelter (see photo), with features including picnic benches, barbecue grill, decorative landscaping, and a sitting wall, is planned for Spring 2011. However, according to Park staff, the project may happen sooner. Look for more details in the September Echo.



**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). Thank you!**

---

## The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received May 19th, 2010  
through July 24th, 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.*

05-19-10 (Wed) at 12:18pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is not in the RCA but is on the website trying to learn more about it. Caller is unsure what RCA's role is and what RCA provides so is unsure whether this call is up the RCA's alley. There's a door-to-door meat business that goes around in the community and they, basically, rip people off. Caller can provide more information about them and what they do – or what they don't do in that they aren't legal and don't have any verification. Caller thinks it's something the community should be aware of or maybe caller can publish something on your website.

05-31-10 (Mon) at 7:18pm. Anonymous. Caller is call-

ing about some overgrown bushes that cover the sidewalk so you can't even walk on the sidewalk. They are between Rock and Ford Roads on Star Lane. They are on half the side of the street, that half-block is covered with hedges so you can't even walk. It would be nice if they could be trimmed. Thanks.

06-08-10 (Tues) at 10:37am. Not Anonymous. Received via [Info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:Info@RandolphCivic.org). Hello RCA, I emailing about a bank owned vacant foreclosed property at 46xx Creek Shore Drive. I live at 46xx Creek Shore Drive and I have been in contact with the county about this property because the grass is uncut and about 2 feet high. Inspector Benitas is handling the case and she has been trying to get HSBC Bank, the current owner, to cut the grass but has been unsuccessful. Her number is 240-777-3628. After another inspection she will be putting a CLEAN & LIEN on the property but currently the county budget is frozen, so no grass cutting until July. Does the RCA have funds to hire a landscaper to clean up the property? It is a definite eye-sore and a hazard for walkers. I would appreciate a response if anything can be done. Thanks so much!! (RCA Note: We do not have funds for landscaping abandoned properties, but do follow-up with the County about such matters regularly. The property has since been mowed by the County)

06-15-10 (Tues) at 6:10pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is calling from Coachway Drive and trying to reach David

# Randolph Civic Association June Meeting Minutes

by Christiana Drapkin

Call to order at 8:10 p.m.

This was our last monthly meeting before our customary summer break. We will resume regular monthly meetings again on September 2, 2010. After welcoming the 30+ Randolph Hills residents who came out to our meeting, Dan Hoffman gave the floor to our guest speaker State Delegate Al Carr, who complimented RCA as being "the best civic association in our county." Thank you, Al. He gave a quick summary of the past legislative session, where in the short span of 90 days 2700 bills were introduced, and of them 810 bills and four resolutions were passed. Additionally, the State's budget had to be balanced and passed (which is a Maryland state constitutional requirement). Al serves on the Environmental Matters Committee, which covers environmental concerns, transportation, traffic, local governance, and ethics. The Committee is involved in Chesapeake Bay related water issues, pollution control and rainwater runoff control, including agricultural runoff. One can obtain more detailed information directly from his office. Residents can contact Al Carr's office and ask for help regarding constituents' services, county issues, and possible scholarship monies.

Some highlights from this year's legislative session:

- Carr's office participated in getting solar energy legislation implemented. His staff is helpful in assisting residents with their options on installing solar panels, and in getting hooked up to the grid which enables them to actually "sell back" unused generated energy to PEPCO.

- The legislature was also instrumental in passing a Green Buildings Law. Environmentally friendly building standards are now mandated for public buildings, and Community College buildings.

- This year's legislature also passed the ban on texting while driving, as well as no talking on a handheld cellphone while driving, both are enforceable as secondary offenses.

- Plastic baby bottles and other food-related plastic products must now be BPA-free (see the May Echo).

## Special Discussion: Public Safety in RCA Neighborhoods

Dave Matera, our Public Safety Committee chair, and himself a police officer, working in Virginia introduced the main agenda point of today's meeting. The County's Public Safety budget is being cut 8-10%. (By comparison, our county libraries budgets have taken a hit of 24%.) Police officer positions have not been reduced, but there was no new police academy class recruited for July, for budget reasons. We have about 1.2 police officers assigned for every 1,000 residents,

which puts us well below the national average of 2.5 officers for every 1,000 residents.

There is discussion whether the independent Parks Police should be folded into the County Police Department (maybe as a special Division). There are some logistic pitfalls, where jurisdiction of one or the other department ends, or whether isolated pocket parks could be patrolled more effectively by County Police. The two departments combined might be able to operate more efficiently. Also, the Community Officers positions might be reassigned to other police duties. Councilman Elrich is in support such a merge. As we have some reoccurring issues with tent encampments (by the railroad tracks, or over by Parklawn), RCA has an interest in how policing and support services of these public green spaces are being handled between the two police agencies.

Overall, violent crimes keep dropping in numbers, while thefts from vehicles keep going up. In the RCA neighborhood, there were 27 incidents reported in May, mainly larceny and theft from vehicles (unlocked cars or windows being pried open), home burglaries, and burglaries at commercial properties. Two assaults were reported on Wyaconda & Creek Shore, and on Schuylkill, no further details. Overall, Matera reported, we have no specific concentration of criminal activity in Randolph Hills. There has also been no increase in reported gang activity, if at all, then on the other side of Dewey, towards Veirs Mill Road. The County Council receives quarterly crime reports, but these numbers are county-wide, not specific by neighborhood. One can also check on locations of reported crimes on the website [www.CrimeReports.com](http://www.CrimeReports.com)

RCA Neighborhood Watch: With the recent uptick in crime reports on the RCA listserve, there has been renewed interest in getting our Neighborhood Watch active again. We have currently 19 block captains and volunteers, but we need more participation (on all levels of involvement) to be effective. Although Randolph Hills is a well-established neighborhood, we've had lots of turnover, people moving in and out and not getting to know their neighbors. Here are some basic practices that every resident can apply, just to contribute to overall safety and neighborliness:

- introduce yourself to new (and old) neighbors
- keep an eye out; if in doubt, call the police, and put these numbers into your cell phone now: Park Police non-emergency: (301) 949-8010; If action is not park-related, County Police Non-emergency number: (301) 279-8000.
- report groups of people walking about late at night, who might be probing car doors
- keep your bushes trimmed and your grass cut to not let your property look abandoned, or to provide an easy hiding place
- upgrade your outdoor lighting, motion lights, security cameras
- lock your utility shed, lock your ladder, lock your storm/screen doors
- When you buy electronics, do register them with the company, write down the serial number in your manual. Today's re-sell venue is not so much the pawn shop, rather

*(continued on page 6)*

## RCA Meeting Minutes (continued from page 5)

E-Bay.

- Don't let newspapers and flyers accumulate on your doorstep, suspend your subscriptions.

Some meeting participants complained about the many circulars that are being left on the walkways and doorsteps. Some find "The Examiner" (twice a week), or the "Gazette" (once a week) a nuisance. The plastic sleeve of the Examiner actually bears a phone number one can call to stop delivery.

David Matera disseminated various safety flyers (which are being posted on the RCA website), including "What is a Neighborhood Watch?" He mentioned some incidents in high-crime areas in Connecticut, how some criminal "businesses" went about staking out their targets in startlingly professional manner, having "spotters" on the street who noted down ("on an Excel spreadsheet") when residents were coming and going for work, etc.

Dan Hoffman asked the assembled participants, what could be useful for You, having a Neighborhood Watch? Some responses: Having more "RCA Neighborhood Watch" signs posted.

Now about the Nuts and Bolts of Organizing our Neighborhood Watch:

- we have more block captains signed up (ongoing)
- make a schedule
- schedule training, work with the police
- co-ordinate patrols
- dog walkers make ideal participants, as they're often out at regular hours
- have active (patrol) and passive (eyes-and-ears) involvement possibilities
- make our organized watch public and visible. Everybody should know.
- Post "Neighborhood Watch" signs and yard signs
- Make window stickers, and post the decal on the RCA website
- Determine when our patrols will be most effective, and workable (day and night hours)
- Bi-lingual and foreign-language outreach to our international neighbors
- Environmental policing: report burned-out street lights (each light pole has a number, and you can dial 311 to report the burned out street light with pole number). Wooden light poles are PEPCO, metal poles are the County's).

What does a Block Captain do?

- lets neighbors on the street know about the effort, to increase awareness and participation
- recruits more neighbors
- makes a list of participants: address, phone, email
- hosts a meeting

- organizes an engraving initiative where neighbors can get their electronics engraved with ID
- there can be more than one block captain on one street, it just means assigning a workable group of homes (10 – 20 homes) to each captain.

Old Business:

Voter Guide: Following the RCA meeting last November, RCA has developed a Voter Guide that will list our County politicians' votes and actions on schools, safety, and revitalization issues. They can also list specific accomplishments, their goals, and their engagement with us constituents. This voter guide will go out to our elected officials shortly. Dan Hoffman made a call for volunteers to analyze and compile the responses. We will present these data in our September Echo, just in time for the September 14 Primaries. One meeting participant commented that we should include, under "quality of our parks", specifically our Rock Creek Park safety. Another participant was impressed by our rubric "engagement", pointing out the importance of this aspect of our public discourse. **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONS, WITH THE SUGGESTED EDITS.**

Farmers Market: Christiana Drapkin has done some legwork on finding out about starting a farmers market in RCA-land. Unfortunately, the property managers of the site at the 4701 Randolph Road Health Center, are not welcoming the idea. However, there are other sites for us to look at and analyze. And we want to be in a

(continued on page 8)

### 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.

### 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/>

---

## News from Venture Crew 1083

*By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary*

Hot enough for ya? The Venture Crew is chilling through the steamy summertime, waiting for the fall and the start of a new Venturing year. On June 13 the Crew celebrated the end of a fun and successful year with a backyard barbecue and a planning session for the upcoming year. There's plenty to look forward to in 2010/2011: ice skating; laser tag; rock climbing; sailing; horseback riding; backpacking on the Appalachian Trail (no, not the whole trail!); trips to New York City, Philadelphia, and the White House; and building a trebuchet and/or catapult. See what happens when the Crew members choose their own activities?

Before the heat and humidity got out of hand, the Crew enjoyed some spectacular early summer outings. The Venturers solved the ancient summer vacation dilemma—beach or mountains?—by doing both. The first weekend after school ended, the Crew joined the Boy Scouts at the annual beach campout. Then, the weekend of the 4th of July, the Crew journeyed to a cabin in the remote highlands of north central Pennsylvania. There was biking, hiking, swimming, boating, guitars, campfires, starry nights, and of course, fireworks; and it all took place among good friends in crisp clear mountain air. Sure sounds good right about now, doesn't it!

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 21. Crew meetings are every second 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.

***For more information about getting your child involved with Venture Crew 1083, contact Crew Advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755***

---

## Troop 1083 News

*By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster*

Troop 1083 just keeps growing, and its Scouts keep having more fun and reaching more milestones. On June 14 the Troop conducted its annual spring Court of Honor to recognize the accomplishments of individual Scouts. Among those accomplishments were a total of 33 merit badges earned between February and June by 18 different Scouts. In addition, 25 rank advancements were earned—with one boy, Robert Skaats, rocketing through three ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, and Second Class) in that short span. Commemorative patches were distributed to boys who participated in the annual ski trip. Finally, Brad Gessford was honored (in absentia) as Troop 1083's

2009/2010 Trivia King.

That same week, school let out (finally!) and the Scouts and many of their families celebrated in Troop 1083 tradition with the annual first-weekend-out-of-school beach trip to Pocomoke River State Park. This outing features several hours at a local go-cart track, a day in the sand and surf at Assateague Island, and a night on the boardwalk at Ocean City. Year after year, everyone has tons of fun on this outing!

July means summer camp for the Scouts, and this year the Troop, as usual, offered two camp options: Camp Rodney on the Upper Chesapeake in early July and Camp Olmsted at the Goshen Scout Reservation in the Blue Ridge Mountains late in July. The troop was well represented at both camps; some boys went to both! The 2011 Philmont Crew also spent an additional week at Goshen, participating in the Lenhok'sin High Adventure program.

The Troop is proud to share news about its recent and soon-to-be Eagle Scouts. The rank of Eagle is a rare and significant achievement. One of the many requirements of attaining Scouting's highest rank is to devise, plan, coordinate, procure the necessary labor and materials for, and execute a community service project. On July 5, Eric Uglem completed his Eagle Project, leading fellow scouts and other volunteers in renovating four weathered wooden Randolph Hills signs in RCA-land—a project that featured extensive landscaping of the grounds under and around the signs.

An Eagle Board of Review—the formal presentation of the candidate before a panel that judges his Eagle rank application—was held on July 16 for Kyle Blakely, and one is scheduled for Eric Uglem on August 20. Eagle Courts of Honor—ceremonies that recognize and celebrate the accomplishment—were held on May 22 for John Pitkin and on July 11 for Joseph Owen. The Troop and the community at large are very proud of all these boys.

Troop meetings will restart after the new school year begins. 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)***

**RCA Meeting Minutes**  
(continued from page 6)

---

good relationship with a property owner. There are help, resources and information, on several websites:

USDA Farmers Market Resource Guide

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2006/03/0081.xml>

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is the state agency that works with Farmer's Markets. They have a website with a Farmer's Market directory at [http://www.mda.state.md.us/md\\_products/farmers\\_market\\_dir.php](http://www.mda.state.md.us/md_products/farmers_market_dir.php)

Christiana appealed to the participants to gauge their interest, and 10 people signed up right away. A First meeting will be held shortly. RESOLVED THAT RCA SUPPORT AN EFFORT TO CREATE A FARMERS MARKET IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

V New Business:

Matt Tifford was instrumental in getting a new picnic shelter designed, to go next to the playground off Ashley Drive. They presented architectural and landscape design drawings two beautiful picnic shelters, one rectangular and slightly larger, accommodating 8 tables, and the other octagonal, accommodating 5 tables. Both have a BBQ-grill, paving, and other landscaping features. RESOLVED BY A VOTE OF 27 YEAS TO 3 NAYS: TO ACCEPT THE OCTAGONAL PICNIC SHELTER DESIGN. There is no electricity (or electric lights) at the picnic shelter. The question arose if that can be added, and whether RCF would chose to supplement some other functionalities. Meeting participants were asked to form a committee to determine the finer points of the plan.

Committee Reports:

No Treasurers's report.

Education Committee: George Gadbois gave a very quick update on various renovation projects underway.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

Attendance: 34

**Hotline Calls**

(continued from page 6)

---

from the Neighborhood Watch. There was a break-in this morning on Coachway Drive. Some electronic equipment was stolen and one of the neighbors actually spotted the robber leaving the property. The neighbor followed him for a little while and called the police but, unfortunately, they didn't catch him. So, caller would like to reach David to make a report for his records. Thank you very much. (RCA Note: This was forwarded to Dave. Email him directly at [safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org))

06-21-10 (Mon) at 10:14am. Not Anonymous. Received via [Info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:Info@RandolphCivic.org). To the Executive Committee, I would like to know if you can help us find out if the house at 120xx Rocking Horse Road is a Subsidized rental house? If so who can we contact to complain? The occupants of the house have been caught in neighbor's

yards, letting their pit bull run loose and have even been heard to sic the dog on other people. The police seem to be there every other day. These are not the type of neighbors I want around me or my fellow neighbors. Thank you. (RCA Note: Please email any Board member directly. See contact information on page 2)

06-25-10 (Fri) at 1:30pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is calling from the even side of 4700 Boiling Brook Parkway. Who can caller complain to about the people who, across the street, cut a lot of the beautification plants, bushes and flowers that they've put in there. When the county or whoever came to cut the grass, they took a weed whacker and destroyed a bunch of them but left every weed that actually needed to be dealt with. Caller doesn't know what the point is of them planting things to hide the rocks they put in there without our permission or knowledge and now they cut them down and waste all that money. On top of that, they left the weeds. A month ago they barely cut around them because they were fearful of running over the mulch and bushes and this time the guy came in with a weed whacker took about half of everything out. Please either call with who caller should complain to or just post the answer in the next Echo. Thank you.

06-25-10 (Fri) at 1:38pm. Not Anonymous. Same Caller. Caller just found the number that needs to be called. The number, in case anyone else has this problem, is listed in the Echo as the Weeds/Rubbish Complaints number. Caller spoke with someone at that number and they put in a work order and are supposed to be sending someone out. Caller told the representative that caller doesn't know how many houses had the landscaping damage by the people that came and cut the grass but that, at least at caller's house, it was pretty severe. They are sending someone out and hopefully this will be the last time this happens.

06-25-10 (Fri) at 9:56pm. Anonymous. Caller had a concern to hear fireworks whizzing around the neighborhood. This obviously is not a county-sponsored function and sounds like individuals who are out there simply playing with fireworks. It's kind of alarming. Caller just wants to remind everyone that this is totally illegal in Montgomery County, as far as caller understands. If you please could verify that and publish it in the Echo, that would be great. Caller is not comfortable with what caller is hearing with the fireworks and wants to make sure people are safe as possible. Enjoy the 4th of July and the official fireworks celebration.

07-15-10 (Thurs) at 7:05am. Not Anonymous. Received via [Info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:Info@RandolphCivic.org). 7/14 at night someone tried to steal scooter in my driveway 5012 Macon Rd. With handlebar locked they managed to move the scooter to the street, destroyed the steering lock, destroyed the "glove box," and removed contents. For some reason they did not take it- perhaps they did not have a truck to carry it away. It is in bad shape, though.