



President's Message

By Alison Dewey, RCA President

It's a new year for the RCA! We have new board members, a new wave of members, and will soon have a new foot bridge at our beloved Randolph Hills Park. We owe a great deal of gratitude to our outgoing board members - a hearty thank you goes to Nick Heras who served back to back terms as a director; Alexandra Tanico who served a two-year term as secretary and then as a director; Joe Divel who served as secretary; and Aida Hacopian who served as director. This group has helped keep the RCA board going over the last few years and is very appreciated.

I extend a warm welcome to the following new board members: Ellen Bourbon as Secretary and Tony Ieronimo, Franklin Stephenson, and Mark Hevey as directors. You can read more about these new board members in this ECHO. Welcome aboard and Thank you for serving the Randolph Hills community!

Our September RCA meeting and pasta dinner was a great success. Vignola Gourmet provided the delicious meal and there was plenty of food to enjoy. Council President Natali Fani-Gonzalez gave an engaging talk and answered many questions from the group. She opened her comments to the group with news that the County will be conducting a feasibility study of adding a bike/ped bridge over the CSX tracks to improve connectivity from Parklawn Dr. to Marinelli Rd. This would improve access to the Metro for Randolph Hills and help alleviate area traffic. There are more details in the meeting minutes about what Council President Fani-Gonzalez discussed.

Community Day is back and will be happening on Saturday, November 7. Come on out for fun, music, and festivities. Check randolphcivic.org for more details and to stay informed on any changes due to weather.

Upcoming Events in RCA Land

visit www.randolphcivic.org for more details

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 2026, 7:30pm
Virtual on Zoom. See the website for link.

S'mores Night / Fogata con chocolate

Saturday / sábado Nov 7 @ 7:30 pm
Rain Date / Fecha alternativa en caso de lluvia: Nov 21
4916 Boiling Brook Pkwy

Thanksgiving Fun Run for Kids / Trote de Acción de Gracias para niños

Thursday / jueves 26 nov @ 11am
4425 Garrett Park Road

Neighborhood News Updates

New Foot Bridge Coming Soon

The foot bridge at Randolph Hills local park is being replaced. Montgomery County Parks said the entire project should only take 2 months to complete, which means it should be done soon, since it was started in early September.

Stop Lines Painted

The intersection of Boiling Brook Parkway and Rocking Horse Road now has stop lines painted at the new stop signs.

Speed Humps

Ashley Drive will soon have 10 new speed humps installed in an effort to slow down traffic. Expect the speed humps to be installed this Fall.

Community Day Happening on Nov. 7

We're celebrating the Randolph Hills community on Saturday, Nov. 7. There will be a stream clean up in the morning, kids activities in the afternoon, and music to follow. Bring your chair, snacks, and your friends.

Randolph Civic Association Executive Board & Committee Chairs

OFFICERS

President

Alison Dewey
alison@randolphcivic.org

Vice President 1

Patty Simonton
patty@randolphcivic.org

Vice President 2

Andre Miesnieks
andre@randolphcivic.org

Secretary

Ellen Bourbon
ellen@randolphcivic.org

Treasurer

Diane Bertocchi
diane@randolphcivic.org

DIRECTORS

Tony Ieronimo
director1@randolphcivic.org

Franklin Stephenson
director2@randolphcivic.org

Mark Hevey
director3@randolphcivic.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Echo Editor

Fred Simonton
echoeditor@randolphcivic.org

Echo Advertising

Matt Tifford
echo@randolphcivic.org

Education Committee

Alison Dewey
alison@randolphcivic.org

Social Committee

Sarah Bailan

Environment Committee

Dean Evangelista

Membership Committee

Mark Hevey
director3@randolphcivic.org

Safety Committee

Open

Webmaster

Fred Simonton
echoeditor@randolphcivic.org

Contact RCA

Telephone (240) 668-4722

Recorded announcements of community events, 24/7.
Callers may leave messages.

E-mail

info@randolphcivic.org

Website

www.randolphcivic.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/
randolphcivic

RCA Membership

\$10 per year

www.randolphcivic.org/
about/membership

Other Contact Information

Traffic complaints

Officer Albert Hance:
240-773-6700
email: albert.hance@
montgomerycountymd.gov

Report street light outages

pepco.
streetlightoutages.com



Call 311 for all non-emergency
government services.

Montgomery County Police

www.mymcpnews.com

Non-Emergency:

301-279-8000

1st District

240-773-6070

100 Edison Park Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

(Serves Franklin Park, Montrose
Park, Hilltop Sq)



Emergency: 911

Crime Tip Line:

240-773-TIPS

2nd District

240-773-6700

4823 Rugby Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814

(Serves Randolph Hills,
Randolph Farms)

Randolph Civic Foundation Executive Board

The Randolph Civic Foundation board can be reached at
foundation@randolphcivic.org.

President

Sara Montone

Vice President

Mara Greenglass

Treasurer

Ellen Bourbon

Director

Ryan Ecuacion

Director

Andrea Jones

Director

Carol da Silva

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police

Emergency

301-949-3010

Non-Emergency

301-949-8010

Montgomery County Division

12751 Layhill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906

The Echo is the official publication of the Randolph Civic Association, Inc., PO Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD 20852.

The Echo is published 7 times a year and distributed free to all residents of Franklin Park, Hilltop Square, Montrose Park, Randolph Hills, and Randolph Farms.

If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please email it to info@randolphcivic.org. Deadlines for submissions are listed at <https://tinyurl.com/yu53rd59>.

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..."





The RCF is a neighborhood organization focused on charitable activities including neighborhood beautification, community education, promoting environmental stewardship, and supporting our local schools and community youth groups.

by Sara Montone, RCF President

Please join us Saturday October 10th at 9 am in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center for our clean-up of Boiling Brook Parkway. Rain date scheduled for October 24.

During this summer we had some pretty incredible visitors to the trees along Ashley Drive. Three juvenile Barred Owls took to our trees in the evenings. At first they were identified using an app called Merlin, created by Cornell University, which listens to bird songs and bird calls to help identify them. But soon enough, the curious young owls came close enough to be seen.

It was really interesting to have such beautiful birds in our neighborhood. It goes to show that our large trees not only provide us lovely shade in the summer and stunning color in the fall but are also important habitats for birds.

The only way these lovely birds can exist alongside us in our community is through the diligence of its human members. Barred owls wouldn't be here if we didn't have such lovely mature tree cover. They wouldn't be able to survive if people used heavy metal poisons to manage rodents. So I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for doing their part in protecting our feathered neighbors and keeping the ecosystem in which we all live healthy enough to sustain them.



The Merlin app is free to download and was created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and nonprofit unit of Cornell University. If the bird songs in your yard have ever got you curious then check it out. My family has had a lot of fun identifying the songs of dozens of bird species.

BarrieSchool

What is School For? 2.0

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SERIES

Our yearlong series of free public conversations will bring together thought leaders, educators, parents, and community members to explore what children need now, and what education should be for the future.



DECEMBER

Why Are So Many Capable Kids Checking Out of School?



FEBRUARY

Is Your Child Being Prepared to Pass Tests, or Handle Life?



APRIL

What if School Actually Looked Like This?

Join us for honest, hopeful, and thought-provoking conversations about childhood, learning, and the future. Whether you're a parent, educator, student, or simply someone who cares about the next generation, you're invited!

Visit [Barrie.org/WhatisSchoolFor](https://barrie.org/WhatisSchoolFor) for details and to register.

Admission Open House

Infant - Grade 12

Saturday, Oct 17 9:30am

Stay for our Fall Festival!

[Barrie.org](https://barrie.org)

New Board Member Profiles

Ellen Bourbon



Tell us a little about yourself and why you chose to volunteer your time to be Secretary of the RCA?

I have lived in Randolph Hills for just over 14 years now. I really like the neighborhood, and have met many of my neighbors while walking my dog. I retired about 2 years ago from a career in the energy and environmental field and I now have more time to devote to volunteering. I've been involved with the Randolph Civic Foundation for the past few years.

I've been teaching English as a Second Language for 2 years and fostering dogs with PAW Rescue for just over a year. I also volunteer as a Weed Warrior, helping to

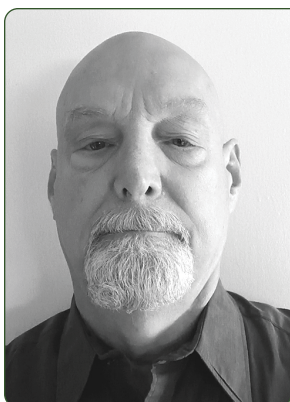
remove invasive vines from county parks.

When Alison asked if I could serve as Secretary of the RCA, I thought it would be a good way to get even more involved with the community.

What is one of your favorite things about living in Randolph Hills?

I like that Randolph Hills is ideally situated, close to shopping, parks and transit. I used to take the MARC train to work every day in DC. It's a gem, and I think more people should try it. I also especially like the diversity of the neighborhood, and the friendly neighbors. I feel fortunate that I'm able to live here.

Mark Hevey



Tell us a little about yourself and why you chose to volunteer your time to be a Director of the RCA Board?

I'm a retired STEM worker who has lived in the vicinity since 1973. I have decided to be active in the RCA because I believe it is important to support institutions that foster community. Families need resources to raise children in healthy social settings. I accepted the nomination because service is about doing what is asked of you.

What is one of your favorite things about living in Randolph Hills?

It is hard to choose but I will start with access to Rock Creek Park. Just that feature alone is tremendous. Then there is the easy access to mass transit.

Finally, it's the food! Restaurants and every type of grocer within a few miles. I've looked at homes elsewhere but nothing matches up for the value.

Tony Ieronimo



Tell us a little about yourself and why you chose to volunteer your time to be a Director of the RCA Board?

I am a Federal employee and have lived in Randolph Hills since 2005. I have two, grown children who have fond memories of autumn leaves, trick-or-treating and good conversations with kind neighbors. I volunteered to be a Board Director because the RCA has done great work over the years for families like mine. I want newer families in the neighborhood to continue

having the RCA as their advocate.

What is one of your favorite things about living in Randolph Hills?

Living close to the trails along Beach Drive is one of the best parts about Randolph Hills. I feel very lucky to live in such peaceful surroundings while still being able to commute reasonably quickly into Washington each day.

New Board Member Profiles

Franklin Stephenson



Tell us a little about yourself and why you chose to volunteer your time to be a Director of the RCA Board?

With 30 years of experience as a Chief Project Manager at the Food and Drug Administration/Center of Drug Evaluation and Research and as Supervisory Project Manager at FDA/Center of Biologics Evaluation and Research, I offer extensive expertise in regulatory requirements, operations, and drug and biologics development. I am confident that my regulatory knowledge, leadership experience, and operational expertise would be a valuable asset to the RCA and our neighborhood.

What is one of your favorite things about living in Randolph Hills?

I've lived in Randolph Hills since 1981, and I still remember the first day we moved in. My next-door neighbor stopped by with a huge platter of homemade cookies to welcome us. She was so sweet—she asked all about us, gave us the full history of everyone on the block, and let us know when trash day was. She even gave us her number and told us to call if we ever needed anything, which was such a huge help at the time.

Since then, I've made sure to welcome all my new neighbors, and I've built some really great relationships here. We definitely miss the ones who have moved away.

RCA Treasurer's Report for August 2026

By Diane LaGrega Bertocchi, Treasurer the of RCA

The beginning balance as of August 1, 2026 was \$12,285.64

There were \$2,141.00 in membership fees and donations to the RCA and RCF.

Total revenue in August 2026 was \$2,141.00

There were four expenses in August 2026

- \$400 to the Ana Isabel Soare for June 27, 2026, performance at the Civic Green for the RCA Concert Series
- \$848.00 to Quick Printing for Printing the August 2026 ECHO
- \$569.13 for Inmark Media, LL for mailing the August 2026 ECHO
- \$1,598.74 Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF) Reconciliation 2026

Total expenses paid in August 2026 were \$3,415.87.

Please note that expense for Ana Isabel Soare Performance (\$400) and RCF Reconciliation (\$1,598.74) were paid in August 2026 but are for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The ending balance as of August 31, 2026 was \$11,010.77

Total Y-T-D for Fiscal Year 2027 for Membership Collection:

- RCA Membership and Donations - \$1,913.00
- RCF Donations - \$545.00
- PayPal Fees deducted - \$76.72

Approximately **43** of **1,400** households have paid RCA membership dues for Fiscal Year 2027

Randolph Civic Association - General Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Community Pasta Dinner 6:30-7:30pm

Compliments of Vignola Gourmet

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 7:30-8:30pm

Alison welcomed everyone and introduced current Board members.

Thank you to Vignola Gourmet for providing the delicious food tonight.

Notetaker: Ellen Bourbon

Approval of June 4 and August 6 Meeting minutes

Motion to approve; motion seconded; minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report for RCA for August 2026

See page 5 in this issue of The Echo

Full Board Slate

RCA Board Slate for Fiscal Year 2027

President: Alison Dewey

Secretary: Ellen Bourbon

Director: Tony Ieronimo

Other nominations were taken from the floor - Mark Hevey and Franklin Stephenson

Question re: Director's responsibilities. They help guide the RCA and vote on measures. The Board meets once a month on the first Thursday of the month, alternating between in-person and virtual. We're looking for people who want to get involved and who are willing to attend meetings. We also have committee chairs, like environmental, safety, etc.

Motion to approve the entire slate as read by Alison was approved and slate elected.

Big thanks to Nick Heras who served on the Board for multiple terms and to Joe Divel who served a year as secretary.

Presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award

The award goes to a person who is very dependable and reliable. He does wonders with designing the Echo. Fred Simonton is always willing to lend a hand. He has done a lot of work on the website, even while on vacation. He loaded and unloaded vans for the concert series and worked the membership table. He's funny, approachable and calm. His volunteer hours are invaluable to the organization.

Community Day

will be held Saturday, November 7. More details to

come. We have received financial support from Allen Kronstadt. Thank you! He has pledged to provide another \$1000 this year.

Featured Speaker - Council President Natali Fani-Gonzalez

Patty Simonton introduced Natali Fani-Gonzalez.

Natali said she goes to a lot of civic associations and RCA is one of the most fun, because people really like each other.

She was on the planning board and worked on the White Flint II sector plan. She worked to have a safe crossing over the CSX tracks. She is now chair of economic development for the Council. Montgomery County is #3 in the nation in terms of life sciences. We want to be #1. Institute of Health Computing will be on top of the North Bethesda metro station.

The Governor spoke to WMATA, DOT and wanted to reach out to the federal government to get connectivity between Randolph Hills and North Bethesda metro. Yesterday, Natali got an email from the federal government saying they just approved allowing the county and WMATA to implement a safe crossing.

We can have a community meeting as early as the end of October to get community input on where the safe crossing should be. The idea of a second MARC station was not brought up at the meeting, but we will bring it up in the future. She will coordinate with Alison.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – Veirs Mill sector plan. We were approved for funding for BRT on Veirs Mill Rd. and it looks like we will receive the money. Other grants for transportation/pedestrian programs have been canceled.

Q&A with Council President Natali Fani-González

Natali: Are there any streets or sidewalks that need repair, or any issues with Pepco?

Q: What is the status of the bridge connecting Beach Drive and Schuylkill?

Alison said it's been delayed again. There was an update in the Echo. Randolph Hills Local Park footbridge should be completed in about 2 months.

Alison recently contacted DOT about the intersection in front of Wheaton HS, which is very dangerous. A lot of students take the public bus, and she thinks the crossing should be safer. Perhaps no turn on red.

Q: What is the County's current fiscal health?

Natali: We're ok but could be doing much better. This last budget was the most controversial in the last 30 years. We're not getting the funding from the state and federal government that we used to get. Thousands of people have lost their jobs. She has never seen so many professionals that are now going to food banks. The number of requests for rental assistance from former federal workers is stunning.

Elrich's budget proposed a 6% property tax increase and an income tax increase for everyone.

Labor agreements are between the unions and the county executive. The council doesn't have a say. Natali wanted to open up the labor contracts to address the 6-10% increases. She didn't get the votes to open the contracts, so they had to cut quite a few things to balance the budget.

Natali is proud of the budget the council passed. For the first time ever, they passed a progressive income tax.

Next year will be very tough. All the labor union contracts will be up for negotiation.

Natali will have a work session in November talking about how the county should be spending its money and what things we should change.

She has met with businesses and nonprofits and has asked them to submit ideas to her by the end of October regarding what we should change.

The solid waste incinerator issue is also a big one. There will be work sessions every other week starting September 15 about how to handle trash in Montgomery County. The current operator of the incinerator will make a presentation at the September 29 meeting to present options.

One person pointed out that Connecticut is a cautionary tale regarding trash disposal.

Q: What's happening with data centers?

Montgomery County has an 18-month moratorium on data centers. One is being built in Dickerson, far from any communities. Natali started working on a zoning proposal. Council is doing a study on the impact of data centers on communities. We need to have a strategy involving all the states in the PJM grid region.

Q: What is the county school enrollment?

Student population is down. The school board is about to look into boundary changes for elementary and middle schools. They will need to consolidate some schools. Reaching out to the school board.

Q: Is the County population growing?

Yes, but not the student population. We still need more housing at every income level.

Q: You passed the Trust Act, Immigrant Safety Act. There is growing distrust with the surveillance state. What is your thinking on cameras, safety and security for immigrants and people in general?

We don't share our technology with the federal government. We have a drone program to aid first responders. Theft at Westfield Wheaton Mall has decreased dramatically due to the drones. The drones can see if the suspects have weapons.

Natali recommends attending the Police Academy for residents.

Maryland General Assembly deals with anything having to do with crime. The state gave the county authority to use cameras that can capture the sound of the cars going by. Montgomery and PG Counties did an RFP, but the camera/sound technology failed. They are looking for other technologies.

Alison: We have an election coming up on November 3, so get out and vote!

The next general meeting will be hosted online Thursday, Oct 1 from 7:30 to 8:30PM.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:35pm

BoBo on the Go

By Loretta E Chi



RCA Hotline | Summer 2026

240-668-4722 (4RCA), or info@randolphcivic.org

The following calls/emails have been edited for privacy and current relevance.

Jun 2, 2026

Could Randolph Civic request installation of speed humps on Macon Rd between Putam Rd and Hunter Ln? According to MoCo, a representative of registered civic organization would need to do it in person.

RCA Response: *We requested speed humps on Macon Rd. when the townhomes were built. MCDOT did a study and found that the street didn't meet the qualifications for a speed hump plan. That was about 4 years ago so we can try again. I know there has been an increase in traffic and probably an increase in the speed of cars. We are just getting through the process of getting support for speed humps on Ashley Drive so we are familiar with the process.*

Jun 13, 2026

Thoughts on the new stop sign going in at the bottom of the hill? I'm thinking it's gonna cause bad traffic jams down there.

RCA Response: *The RCA is optimistic that the new stop signs will make the intersection safer for road users.*

Aug 1, 2026

Hello I would like to provide the report regarding a reckless and speeding driver who is driving a silver Honda. It's a small four door car with the license plate number XXX-XXX. This driver was speeding around the bus stop and Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School and I have a huge concern because I'm a parent and I want to put out alert on the car. The driver also has no hubcaps on the tires. So I'd like to leave a report. Again, it's a silver four-door Honda. Thank you.

RCA Response: *We are concerned about speeding in the neighborhood and urge people to contact the police to report reckless driving. School is back in session so it is important that kids can wait for the bus safely; everyone deserves safe streets.*

Aug 13, 2026

I am writing to express my appreciation for MCDOT's installation of the new stop signs at the intersection of Rocking Horse Road and Boiling Brook Parkway.

Years ago, MCDOT sought neighborhood input on this intersection. Although my initial suggestion for these signs was dismissed due to commercial truck traffic concerns, safety risks for pedestrians and drivers remained high. Having witnessed numerous near-

misses in the north crosswalk, I believe this change is a critical safety improvement that will also allow for better traffic flow during peak morning hours. My child crossed this intersection to catch the school bus over the last six school years, and safety here was a regular concern for me.

Since the removal of the temporary warning flags, many drivers appear confused by the new traffic pattern. I contacted 311 to request that the warning flags be temporarily replaced to alert drivers as families return to school routines.

RCA Response: *Thank you for writing with your support for the new Stop Signs. I too think they are a good addition. Although, people should still drive with caution because I think there may be people that will forget about the new Stop Signs and drive through the intersection as they used to. It will take a while for people to get used to them. MCDOT offered some interesting statistics when I asked them about the reasoning behind the decision:*

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) performed 12-hour turning movement counts at the intersection in May 2026 and noted that the intersection was well balanced. Volumes of the previously free-flow movements were within 10% (if not exceeding) of the stop-controlled approaches. The 2026 volumes were also compared to previously collected volume data from 2021 and were shown to be similarly balanced, which shows that traffic patterns had not changed. MCDOT also reviewed 10-year crash history which determined that 19 collisions had occurred where approximately 32% (6 of 19) resulted in injury and approximately 74% of crashes (14 of 19) were angled collisions.

Installation of All-Way Stop (AWS) control was determined to be an appropriate change in traffic control to help address the high rates of angled and injury crash patterns over the last 10 years. The volume and pattern of traffic also supported this type of control to improve operations.

Aug 14, 2026

Yeah I went to high school at Woodward in the early 70s. That building was - I thought - in very good shape, but I see that they have torn it down. So where is the new Woodward High School located at? Thank you.

RCA Response: *The new Woodward High School is located on Old Georgetown Road. Northwood High School is currently using the school as their school is being renovated. The new Woodward High School is scheduled to open next Fall.*

Aug 14, 2026

I have lived in Randolph Hills for over 10 years, and I really like being here. However, recently there have been few incidents that have gotten me frustrated. One is about the speed bumps/humps on Ashley. I certainly witnessed cars going too fast, but I am uncertain how effective these bumps will be, and I am curious where they will be placed to fulfil their intended purpose. Probably bringing more frustrations. When I see that stop signs were placed on Boiling Brook, I wonder if they would have served a better purpose on Ashley.

Nonetheless, Ashley has a second problem related to the residents parking on the street when there is space available on their driveway. It seems that the number of cars per household has increased, and they find it easier to park on the street rather than move another car. When cars are parked on both sides of the street close to the same location, visibility becomes a concern. Should parking permits be issued to reduce this problem? Or allow an alternative right/left parking on certain sections of the street?

In addition, I salute people who use the field for exercise. However, cars are parked in the 'no parking' zone this is not acceptable. Cars coming from either direction cannot pass through.

Regrettably people tend to do what is easier for them. By not respecting simple rules, everybody will pay, one way or the other.

RCA Response: *Hello, Thank you for your thoughts on neighborhood traffic patterns. I have attached information on the Speed Hump location and a FAQ Sheet from MCDOT on their effectiveness. As far as the parking on Ashley is considered, I suggest calling the police non-emergency number if people are parked illegally. I know it can be frustrating especially when there are so many cars parked there for events in the fields. Illegal parking should be reported to the non-emergency police: 301-279-8000.*

September 24, 2026

Yes, good morning. We are a concerned family in the Randolph Hills area. This call is in regards to the 19 year old named XXXXX who not only stole the vehicle from the Food Stop store in the Randolph Hills plaza but also armed robbed that store two subsequent time since then. I believe this is all within the last couple months time frame. Several families are concerned about the trespassing, harassment, stalking, and encroachment through their yards and personal properties and persons.

If you could give us a call back we would like to

discuss this with you. We also suggest that the owner of the entire Randolph Hills Shopping Center Plaza be encouraged to exercise a no trespass for that criminal and his family, or at least the criminal that was arrested. We would like to circle the wagons with other concerned citizens and private property owners that are incurring crime from the individual as well. Please give us a call back.

RCA Response: *Thank you for bringing this to our attention, the RCA tried to reach out to the caller to discuss the issue. Neighbors should continue to report illegal activity to the police.*

Sept 28, 2026

My fellow neighbors, I'm sure many of you have either heard about or been affected by the multiple car break-ins that have happened recently. Not to mention, Ring cameras, on many occasions, have captured people snooping around backyards and checking for unlocked doors in the middle of the day. Lastly, but certainly not least, there was a grand theft auto that took place in the wee hours of 9/21/26.

It's evident that our neighborhood is quickly growing in value, as we can see from the increasing number of second-story additions and other improvements throughout the community. We are becoming a high-end neighborhood, and I believe our security should reflect that.

I've spoken with several neighbors about this idea and have received nothing but support and positive feedback. I'd now like to reach out to the rest of the neighborhood to hear your thoughts.

I would like to propose having an overnight security patrol car in our community. Because of the large number of residents, the cost would be relatively minimal when divided among everyone. In my opinion, this would be a small price to pay for the added security and peace of mind for our families and friends. Most importantly, we need to send a clear message that criminal activity has no place in our community.

Please email me with your thoughts. If there is enough interest, we can explore the options and costs together.

Thank you, Mike — mikectpu@gmail.com

RCA Response: *The RCA is supportive of exploring ways to increase safety throughout RCA land. We encourage residents to report any illegal or suspicious activity to the Montgomery County police. It is our understanding that the more reporting there is on illegal activity, the more patrolling time the police will dedicate to the neighborhood.*

News Bulletins from Montgomery County Regional Services

August 21, 2025 - September 28, 2026

News Bulletins are sorted by release date and edited for current relevancy.

August 21, 2026

Montgomery County Brings Local Cable Access Content Directly to Residents with New Connect Montgomery App

Montgomery County recently launched the Connect Montgomery App, a new mobile platform that gives residents convenient, on-demand access to informational and educational content from across the County's public access channels.

More info: <https://tinyurl.com/3e2s522y>

September 1, 2026

New Public Calls for Service Dashboard

The Montgomery County Department of Police has launched a new Public Calls for Service Dashboard, providing the community and media with timely, basic information about recent police calls for service throughout Montgomery County.

The dashboard provides information about recent calls for service and is updated every 30 minutes. Information is displayed with a 30-minute delay and remains available for approximately three hours.

More info: <https://tinyurl.com/4x2e6ar6>

September 18, 2026

Grand Opening of The Chimes, New Housing Development Near North Bethesda Metro

The Chimes includes 163 affordable rental apartments for households earning between 30% and 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) and is supported by a \$19.45 million loan from the County, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement, and financing from the State of Maryland. The Chimes is part of the County's significant investments in economic development, transportation, and housing that are transforming North Bethesda into a community hub and center for life sciences research.

More info: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3d3wm9>

September 23, 2026

Montgomery County Charges Ahead with 70 New Electric Capital Bikeshare Bikes

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has announced the purchase and rollout of 70 new electric-assist Capital Bikeshare ebikes. This is the

County's first purchase of the popular bikes that have driven record ridership growth in the region's Capital Bikeshare network. The ebikes are an investment that improves first- and last-mile transit access, reduces traffic congestion, and offers a cleaner, healthier transportation choice.

The current cost of a fifteen-minute rental for ebikes is about \$2.25 for Capital Bikeshare members and \$6.25 for nonmembers. Ebikes can be rented through the Capital Bikeshare app by scanning the QR code located on the bike.

More info: <https://tinyurl.com/7urx9br9>

September 28, 2026

Montgomery County Launches 2026 Online Community Survey

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich today announced the launch of the County's 2026 online resident survey. The survey, accessible on the County's website, aims to gather feedback on local government services and the perception of overall quality of life in the County. The survey will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 19. The survey is open to County residents 18 and older. To participate, access the survey here: <https://tinyurl.com/4darws35>.

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Public Safety Update by Nell Rumbaugh

DUI Enforcement Unit

MCPD is disbanding its DUI enforcement unit. The unit is responsible for keeping drunken and impaired drivers off the roads. The department cited “reduced staffing levels of sworn police officers and the operational needs of the department.”

More info: <https://tinyurl.com/4d6mxcnk>

Noise Abatement Cameras

The pilot program has moved more slowly than expected. The County's existing automated enforcement vendor declined to build it out due to cost and complexity. MCPD has since been working with Prince George's County, whose vendor agreed to develop a system tailored to Maryland's pilot program, and proof-of-concept testing is now underway as that system is built from scratch. Questions can be directed to MCPD's Automated Traffic Enforcement Unit at ATEU.manager@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Speed Enforcement

Speeding remains a concern countywide, including on Beach Drive. MCPD has been expanding automated speed enforcement, adding highly visible mobile cameras in high-risk areas such as school zones and crash-prone roads. Requests on camera placement should also go to ATEU.manager@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Police Staffing

The Council's Public Safety Committee continues to receive regular updates on staffing challenges, overtime, and workload. Despite being short-staffed, the department has maintained patrol performance across multiple metrics. The FY27 Operating Budget allocated \$384 million to MCPD, intended to sustain current service levels, strengthen workforce capacity, and expand technology-supported operations.

DAILY FOOD DONATIONS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Anyone can help facilitate free food donations at the Randolph Hills Shopping center daily.

This activity provides volunteer opportunities for Student Service Learning (SSL) hours.

Visit *So What Else* for more information about the Food Rescue Bank:

<https://sowhatelse.org/>
<https://sowhatelse.volunteerhub.com/vv2/>

SCOUTING AMERICA

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SCOUT TROOP 1083 CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

- 9:00am–4:30pm
- November 28–December 20, 2026
- 4315 Howard Avenue, Kensington MD

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

- Food Collection November 14th
- Leave on your front porch by 8:30am or drop off at Loehmann's Plaza by 12:00pm



Fa-boo-lous Halloween Block Party!!

Join us for a community block party Saturday, October 31 on Creek Shore Drive!

The event will begin around 3 pm with a potluck (please bring a dish to share) and continue after dark with family- and teen-friendly Halloween activities, yard games, music, and opportunities to mingle.

Costumes are encouraged but not required.

Creek Shore Drive will be blocked off with traffic cones between Patapsco Drive and Creek Shore Place in the afternoon and into the evening.

Please be aware of potential increased foot traffic in the area. Check Nextdoor for any day-of changes.

Let's eat, drink and be scary!



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Randolph Hills Local Park

Improvement Update By Brian Hooker

As I'm sure all of you diligent readers recall, in 2021 our state delegation secured funding (\$150,000 bond bill) to replace the pedestrian bridge over Rock Creek in Randolph Hills Local Park.

In October 2021 I reported that we had four separate projects that were slated to occur over the next few years.

One was the trail improvements and Rock Creek Bridge crossing renovations, the second is the tennis court drainage issues, the third is ADA compliance to park amenities such as the athletic fields, and the fourth is the driveway culvert crossing replacement / stone wall repairs.

Once the pedestrian bridge replacement is complete the only remaining project is the culvert crossing and stone wall repairs.

Randolph Hills Local Park website says that the foot path will be closed until early November but the construction manager is optimistically forecasting they will be done mid to late October (weather permitting). The new paved trail and bridge will be 8 feet wide in alignment with current designs.

So potentially two months of Viers Mill Elementary School kids unable to walk/bike/scooter to school (see: <https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/randolph-hills-park/>).

The new stone wall/stream culvert crossing project is on hold right pending some field improvements planned in the future. My questions regarding the nature of those future field improvements were unanswered as of the deadline for this article.

Separately, I contacted the County point of contact for the stream bank stabilization work that was just completed next to the Garrett Park Road bridge. The staffer requested that I submit a Maryland Public Information Act request in order to have my question answered. Seems a bit excessive to me for a simple question, but perhaps it will be more content for the next Echo.



Volunteer of the Year Awardee – Fred Simonton by Alison Dewey

The RCA is a volunteer run organization so our important work can't happen without people giving their time and effort.

Every year, the RCA bestows the title Volunteer of the Year to one helpful resident who has stood out in their generosity of volunteering.

Fred Simonton has been giving his time to make Randolph Hills a better place for years. Fred attends RCA meetings, does the layout and organization of the ECHO, and is always quick to give his time to help out at events.

You may have seen him at the music series this past summer lifting audio equipment and collecting membership forms.

The RCA is thankful for Fred being a standout volunteer. He is the kind of person that makes Randolph Hills a great place to live. Thank you, Fred!

Tell us a little bit about yourself and why you volunteer your time to help the RCA.

I have worked at the Library of Congress designing digital products for 20 years while living in the city for most of that time. After we moved here in August of 2020, my wife noticed the Echo's call for volunteers. As her involvement deepened, I lent a hand with the Echo and by January of 2024 I was Echo Editor. Community is built on effort and intention, our planet needs participation to shape a future benefiting more than just a handful of voices.

What has been your greatest reward when volunteering for the RCA?

Playing a set at a summer music event was a very good time. I got to meet some of the other musicians here and enjoyed picking and practicing a bunch of songs worthy of sharing on a sunny afternoon.

What is your advice for someone who would like to get involved in the RCA?

Start out in any way that fits your current bandwidth, getting to know your neighbors deepens your appreciation for these collaborative efforts.

What is something you think everyone should know about the RCA?

There are many ways that the RCA can continue to improve everyday life here, the input and participation of our neighbors increases the leverage and pace of that trajectory.

Give us an interesting or funny fact about yourself.

Back in the mid-90s, my three-piece band had the honor of opening for *Burning Spear* and *Toots and the Maytals* at the Reggae at the Lake festival on the north shore of Lake Tahoe. The sound crew was still dialing in the system while we played; they tested some thick reverb settings and turned our performance into a live dub remix. It was a challenge to make it through some of our songs and way more amusing to us in retrospect.



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Our small but mighty civic association team of volunteers is here to help keep you informed about the changes that will impact you and your neighbors, and to help advocate for issues that are important to you.

Our \$10 annual donation is the lowest of any civic association in Montgomery County and every contribution helps.



Your contribution of \$10 (or more!) to the Randolph Civic Association helps make it possible to publish and deliver this ECHO to each one of the 1,400 households in our community.

Additional donations to the Randolph Civic Foundation, which supports and sponsors community beautification efforts and local youth groups, are tax deductible.

SEE OLD FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS THIS FALL

S'mores Night / Fogata con chocolate

Saturday / sabado Nov 7 @ 7:30 pm

Rain Date / Fecha alternativa en caso de lluvia: Nov 21



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RCA Neighborhood Real Estate Market Update

Randolph Hills • Randolph Farms • Franklin Park • Montrose Park

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy	DOM	Date Settled
11407 Grayling Lane	\$558,900	\$537,500	\$20,000	52	21-Sep-2026
4812 Topping Road	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$0	66	15-Sep-2026
4806 Topping Road	\$665,000	\$650,000	\$0	15	10-Sep-2026
11315 Schuylkill Road	\$624,900	\$625,000	\$8,000	12	20-Aug-2026
11913 Hunters Lane	\$875,000	\$835,000	\$0	50	31-Jul-2026
5111 Macon Road	\$830,000	\$830,000	\$3,500	25	27-Jul-2026
5115 Brentford Drive	\$675,000	\$655,000	\$0	13	20-Jul-2026
4718 Boiling Brook Parkway	\$699,999	\$675,000	\$0	80	28-Jun-2026
11111 Schuylkill Road	\$655,000	\$655,000	\$3,500	8	19-Jun-2026
11448 Schuylkill Road	\$725,000	\$725,000	\$14,500	11	02-Jun-2026
4613 Wilwyn Way	\$675,000	\$657,000	\$0	31	15-May-2026
5101 Brentford Drive	\$669,900	\$730,000	\$0	6	12-May-2026

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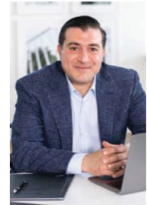
Give Denise and Aret a call when it's time to sell your home, or buy a new one!



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