

# The ECHO

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association*

Volume 57, Issue 5

March 2014

## Safety Tips from Officer Oliver Janney

*By Mark Nensel*

RCA-land residents who attended the general membership meeting on February 6 were witness to a rather extraordinary neighborhood safety-talk/stand-up comedy performance by PO3 Oliver Janney, the MCPD District Two Community Services Officer. Rarely have we been so entertained at one of our meetings. But along with the laughs we were usefully instructed on methods of crime prevention and procedures for crime reportage.

The most common crime in our neighborhood is theft from vehicles. Officer Janney described reported situations such as thieves walking down our streets and lifting the handles on every car in the street, searching for the vehicle that is unlocked. Inevitably the thief finds an unlocked car and in a flash that car is rifled through – spare change is stolen, laptops are stolen, DVDs swiped, GPS units, radios, DVD players torn out of the car. It happens all the time, and the above scenario actually does happen in our neighborhood (and has been reported by alert residents and stopped by arriving MCPD patrol cars). The key to preventing this, Officer Janney reminded us, is to LOCK YOUR CAR, and to remove any valuables from the vehicle. If you can't remove the valuables, then hide them from sight, and never leave your keys inside the vehicle (like when you are warming up the car before you go to work and you are inside the house grabbing your briefcase or a to-go cup of coffee; you may come out the front door to find a missing car).

Any suspicious activity in our neighborhood should be reported to the police. The emergency number is 911

and the non-emergency number is 301-279-8000. Victims of burglary or theft should have the following information available for the responding officer: what was stolen and the amount of the item; make, model and/or serial number of the item; complete description of the item (picture or video is acceptable).

MCPD recommends that residents utilize the District's 'Operation Identification' program: valuables that can be easily stolen should be marked so that they can be easily identified as yours (engravers are available at the 2nd District); a list should be kept in a safe location with a description and serial numbers of all valuables that have been marked; Operation Identification stickers should be displayed which tell burglars that you are an active participant in the program; color photographs or video should be taken of valuables that cannot be marked such as china, silver or jewelry.

A personal home security survey can be completed by our MCPD Community Services Officer. For more information, contact PO3 Oliver M. Janney, Community Services Officer, 2nd District Police, 7359 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda MD 20814, 240-773-6728 or e-mail him at [Oliver.Janney@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Oliver.Janney@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Below are some other tips from Officer Janney's presentation. Additional tips (on neighborhood noise control issues, Identity theft prevention tips, Cell-phone advice and more) will come in the April and May ECHO issues.

### Target Hardening and Protecting Your Home.

Number One, according to Officer Janney: Get a dog, any size dog, as long as it barks.

Doors: all exterior doors should be metal or solid wood and have strong door hinges on the inside of the door with hidden

*(Continued on Page 8)*



Officer Oliver Janney

## Upcoming Events

### **RCA Executive Board Meeting**

March 6th, 2014 8:00pm-9:30pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

### **RCA General Membership Meeting**

**Meet the Candidates! Come meet your candidates in District 18!**

April 3rd, 2014 8:00pm-9:30pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

**Join us for Spring Cleanup on April 5th at 9am! See page 13.**

## RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2013-2014

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## President's Message

by Chad Salganik, RCA President

The plows are rumbling by as I write this after about a foot of snow fell on RCAland. Spring is right around the corner, and there is cause for optimism. I just ordered my annual haul of mulch from Boy Scout Troop 1083. The Scouts deliver it to your house, and as someone who has ordered mulch for the past five or six years from the Scouts, I highly recommend it. The order form can be found online at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org).

The Scouts now have ownership and management of the Community Bazaar / Yard Sale at Loehmann's Plaza. Earnings from the Bazaar benefit the Scouts, so be sure to reserve your table and buy a hot dog or two. The yard sale will be here before you know it on May 3rd.

Musicfest is right around the corner as well on May 4th. Musicfest is a fun event where we come together at Mem Sahib in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center for some great Indian food and musical performances by our neighbors and friends of neighbors. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and enjoy some live entertainment. More information on this year's performers will be coming soon. We had to scramble to sell tickets last year. Please join us and buy your tickets early! They will be available for purchase shortly on the RCA website: <http://randolphcivic.org>.

Thank you to Officer Oliver Janney from the Montgomery County Police, 2nd District for presenting at our last General Meeting. Officer Janney was entertaining and informative. For folks who could not attend, you missed a terrific opportunity to ask questions and engage with our local Police. In addition, Officer Janney shared with those in attendance how to get out of 90% of traffic stops. Could come in handy some day!

As we plan for the last few General Meetings before the Summer break, I'd love to hear from folks in the neighborhood about who we should try schedule as a speaker. We've had arborists, gardeners, developers, police, local politicians and educators in the past. Who/what would you like to see at the next RCA General Meeting? Please email me ideas at [chad@randolphcivic.org](mailto:chad@randolphcivic.org).

**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](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)**

# Chris Mann Real Estate Co.

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

January 2014 Update

## Last 10 Randolph Civic Area Home Sales

Status	Address	Beds	Baths	Listed	Sold	Sold Date	Seller Help
Sold	11409 Ashley Dr	5	3	\$434,900	\$419,000	1/6/2014	\$12,570
Sold	4704 Randolph Rd	3	3	\$400,000	\$400,000	1/3/2014	\$11,500
Sold	12111 Putnam Rd	4	2	\$425,000	\$415,000	1/2/2014	\$0
Sold	5002 Randolph Rd	4	3.5	\$419,000	\$407,000	12/23/2013	\$8,000
Sold	5006 Macon Rd	4	3	\$350,000	\$365,000	12/17/2013	\$0
Sold	11706 Rocking Horse Rd	4	2	\$369,900	\$369,900	11/27/2013	\$5,000
Sold	4823 Eritter Dr	3	2	\$419,000	\$414,000	11/5/2013	\$0
Sold	11207 Ashley Dr	3	2	\$389,000	\$389,000	10/29/2013	\$10,759
Sold	12012 Galena Rd	5	2	\$345,000	\$347,000	10/23/2013	\$0
Sold	11504 Patapsco Dr	3	2	\$359,900	\$355,000	10/11/2013	\$8,000

## Maximizing Your Home Price



Prices have gone up this year significantly. I am happy to analyze your home and give you it's likely sales price. I am an expert in the Rockville market. If you are considering selling this coming year, I am happy to help you put together a strategy to sell your home for its highest possible price. High traffic and exposure are the keys to maximizing price. I will show you how to market, stage and position your home to attract a quality buyer.

**Chris Mann**  
Chris Mann Real Estate Co.  
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## February General Meeting Minutes

by Jason Ott

1. Call to order: 8:05 PM
2. Old Business
  - Several RCA Board members met with MCDOT to observe traffic at the Rocking Horse and Boiling Brook Intersection. Several problems were previously identified and were observed. One issue is people on Boiling Brook coming toward Ashley but not making a stop as they turn. Another is confusion on Boiling Brook because it is not striped for one or two lanes. One possible solution is striping Boiling Brook towards the school at Rocking Horse to make it a single lane. Stop signs at the intersection is not a viable option. A bump out is being considered to make what seems like two lanes on Boiling Brook to be one clear lane.

- There is also a traffic issue at Boiling Brook and Schuylkill where there is a right-hand turn with no stop. RCA has previously requested that this be marked as an actual stop.

3. Guest Speaker

- Community Liaison Officer Oliver Janney with Montgomery County Police presented. Much of RCA has been part of the Bethesda District (District 2) for about a year. The section north of Randolph is in District 1 – Rockville. RCA-land is typically safe and low in crime. However, Officer Janney gave a spirited presentation about protecting ourselves.

- Thefts from autos is a main crime of the area. Lock your car doors and do not leave items where they can be seen. The neighborhood does see some stolen vehicles and burglaries.

- Lock your house. If you have a home alarm system, turn it on.

- When you go out at night, park in a well-lit area no matter where it is. When you leave, get in your car and go. Don't sit in your car and call someone on your cell-phone.

- If you are going out of town, inform a neighbor that you trust so they can keep track of your property. It is helpful to put some lights on a timer or to have someone turn on lights at night.

- When reporting an incident to police, give them as much specific information as you can; and call the police promptly, within minutes of the incident. Do not wait a day or two to report an incident.

- Wear your seatbelt to avoid a fine. Also, cell phone fines have increased significantly. Please be hands free!

- If you observe a person in the neighborhood who is soliciting services door-to-door but they don't have markings on their vehicle, they are probably not legitimate. Get the tags, if you can.

- A letter has been drafted to MCPS regarding the trash accumulation and parking misdirection at Rocking Horse Center. It will be sent to the MCPS facilities manager.

4. New Business

- Musicfest 2014 is May 4th at Mem Sahib from 4 to 6 PM. The acts are being booked.

- Some RCA residents on Ashley have had their electricity go out frequently during storms. RCA is in support of writing a letter to Pepco addressing the lack of quality of service.

- An update was provided on White Flint. Pike and Rose will start turning over some residences this summer. Some retail will open this fall. A bowling alley will be included in about 3 years.

5. Standard Business and Reports

- The minutes from the December General Meeting were approved.

- The Treasurer reported that there have been two transactions since the last report. This includes a payment of the Echo.

- Committee Chair Reports

- Amber Tedesco presented the Education report. There is a county-wide proposal to change bell times. Kindergarten orientation is in May. Veirs Mill Elementary school will be closed this summer for bathroom renovations and a roof replacement.

6. The RCA Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.



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## Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Save the Date: RCA MusicFest Sunday May 4th, 4-6pm at Mem Sahib!**- A relatively new tradition in RCA land is the RCA MusicFest- a fundraiser that brings together families and performers from within the community for an afternoon of great music and delicious food. At this writing, we are still confirming the location, and the individual performers. Full details will be available soon on the RCA website and also in the next Echo. We are also always looking for new talent, so if you are a musician or have a neighbor who is, let us know!
- **RCA seeks volunteers for several positions** - The RCA is successful because of the dozens of volunteers that perform important tasks such as managing its finances, editing and laying out The Echo, organizing events, and working with County officials. If you're new to the neighborhood or just feel like you could do a little more for your community, we'd love to hear from you. Please attend the membership meeting on March 6th at 8pm to meet some of your neighbors and learn how you can get involved. Details and location are on the cover.
- **Attention RCA-land residents:** If you have any Box Tops for Education that you have been collecting and don't know what to do with them, please consider donating them to Viers Mill ES. While they don't seem like much, they do add up. If you would like to donate them to Viers Mill you can: 1) e-mail tessier05@comcast.net and we can arrange a time for me to pick them up; 2) Give them to a Viers Mill student in the neighborhood to bring in to the school; 3) Drop them off at Viers Mill or mail them to Viers Mill: 11711 Joseph Mill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20906. Thank you for supporting our neighborhood school!
- **Holy Redeemer School in Kensington MD is now accepting applications for Pre-K programs:** Half-Day 3s, Half-Day 4s and Full Day 4s. For more information, contact the school at 301-942-2567. To apply visit <https://mytads.com/a/holyredeemerkensington>. You will be directed to create an account for your family and then be able to begin the online application process.

## coming to STRATHMORE

### IN THE MUSIC CENTER

Michael Bolton

SUN, MAR 2, 7PM



Pat Metheny  
Unity Group

with Chris Potter,  
Antonio Sanchez, Ben  
Williams & Giulio Carmassi

FRI, MAR 21, 8PM



Jimmy Katz



Celtic Nights:  
The Emigrants Bridge

FRI, MAR 7, 8PM

Olympia Dukakis  
in a Concert  
Reading of *Rose*

THU, MAR 13, 8PM



Christian Oth

Estrella Morente

flamenco singer

WED, MAR 19, 8PM

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Bernardo Dorai

Lily Tomlin

FRI, MAR 28, 8PM



Matt Hoyt



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*Who says snow isn't fun?! (At least a little...)*



*Please remember to shovel your side-walks. If you are unable to shovel, just ask for help on the RCA Yahoo list.*



# The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received January 13, 2014  
through February 12, 2014



*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 any calls that could be viewed as solicitations, personal attacks against neighbors or 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](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) or submit an article for publication to the Echo editor.*

1-22-14 (Wed) at 11:45am. Not Anonymous. I am helping the owners of 47xx Macon take care of that property. Our tenants moved to Tennessee last week and I am wondering if there's anyone in the neighborhood who does snow shoveling. I'd be grateful for a suggestion.

2-3-14 (Mon) at 4:42pm. Not Anonymous. Received via [info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:info@RandolphCivic.org). Good afternoon. There has been a small semi-truck parked outside of 47xx Coachway Drive for 2 weeks with a for sale sign. Is this allowed? It does not belong to us, and it is very difficult to get up the street, and is also in the way for when we have guest who needs to park. Thank you in advance if there is anything you can help us with. *[RCA Note: Call 311 to report a violation such as this.]*

2-4-14 (Tues) at 8:38am. Not Anonymous. Received via [info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:info@RandolphCivic.org). Hi, For future reference is it at all possible for the newsletters to be left in the storm door handle rather than on the ground? I read all the newsletters and it was disappointing to find it soaking wet from rain on the ground. Thanks so much. *[RCA note: If your Echo is ever delivered wet or damaged, please email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) to get a replacement.]*

2-6-14 (Thurs) at 9:46am. Anonymous. I'm a resident of Montrose Park and recently came back from a month abroad. My cleaning lady mentioned that on Wednesday, January 22nd, she came to the house and it looked like somebody had been inside. Didn't take anything but appeared someone took a shower in our upstairs bathroom. Have you heard of anything like that in the neighborhood? It sounds very strange. Nothing was out of place, nothing was taken. But, there were footprints and signs of someone taking a shower. *[RCA Note: We have not. Please report things like this to the police non-emergency number.]*

2-7-14 (Fri) at 9:48am. Not Anonymous. Received via [info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:info@RandolphCivic.org). To whom it may concern, this is to draw attention on the bulk trash disposed for couple of weeks in front of the property on 48xx Ertter Dr. This house is listed for sale. Montgomery County declined to pick up the bulk trash. Please address this issue properly and have the Sale Agents taking care of the issue. *[RCA Note: Call 311 to report a violation such as this.]*

2-12-14 (Wed) at 8:13am. Not Anonymous. Received via [info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:info@RandolphCivic.org). I've lived at the corner of Rocking Horse and Red Fox for many years now and I've noticed that the on-street parking problem has gotten progressively worse. The parking problem used to be concentrated further down Red Fox (between Timber La. and Ashley Dr.), but now it's moved up the street. There's a Toyota minivan that belongs to someone at 48xx Red Fox that parks in front of that house in the opposite direction of traffic. There's also a Chevy Impala that belongs to someone at 48xx Red Fox that parks so close to my driveway apron that I have a hard time entering/leaving my own driveway. When both of these cars are parked there, something as simple as getting out of my driveway becomes a lesson in three point turns. I shouldn't have to fight to get out of my own driveway. Is there someone in the county gov. or police that I can contact about this? *[RCA Note: Call 311 to report a violation such as this.]*



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## Safety Tips

(continued from page 1)

or non-removable pins; door areas should be well-lighted, and doors should have a wide-angle viewer so that you can see who is outside without opening the door; properly install doorframes on all exterior doors and doors from attached garages so they cannot be pried apart; install security-type door strikes on all exterior doors; improve security on existing sliding glass doors by installing key-locking devices that secure the door to the frame; adjust the track clearance on sliding doors so they can't be pushed out of their tracks; put a piece of wood in sliding door tracks to prevent the door from opening even if the lock is jimmied or removed.

**Locks:** install strong, reliable deadbolt locks that extend at least one inch when in the locked position; consider double cylinder deadbolts (keyed inside and outside) or deadbolts with reinforced strike plates and extra-long mounting screws to anchor the lock; install good quality deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and any doors from attached garages.

**Windows:** window locks or bars may be used to increase security, especially on all windows that are accessible from the ground; use window coverings such as curtains or mini-blinds to decrease visibility into your home.

**Lighting:** use automatic timers all of the time, not just when you are away; utilize specialty lighting in high security areas; install lighting around doors, porches, windows, garage and all points of entry; consider motion detectors; illuminate house and grounds; increase visibility and eliminate potential hiding places.

**Appearance:** direct visitors by means of fences, walkways and shrubs; plant thorny bushes around windows to make illegal entry more difficult; trim shrubs and trees that could conceal criminals; cut back tree limbs that might allow thieves to climb into windows; use landscaping to provide maximum visibility to and from the house.

**Vacation:** have a trusted adult or neighbor check on your house periodically and provide that person information on the date and time you are leaving (and returning), your travel itinerary, how and where you can be reached in case of emergency; avoid scheduling painters or repair persons to enter your home during your absence; keep all tools and ladders out of sight and locked; radios can also be set to a timer; arrange to have grass cut, trash cans put out on trash. Day, mail and newspapers picked-up (or arrange to have mail and newspapers stopped during your absence); ask a neighbor to park their car in your driveway.

**In General:** when you're not at home, make it look as though somebody's there; never let people know when your home will be empty (i.e. don't post on Facebook that you have a big trip coming, and don't

post Facebook pictures while you are on-vacation; save that for when you have returned!); avoid advertising your expensive purchases.

## Conflict Resolution and Mediation

Residents may have a problem with: a neighbor (over noise, a driveway, a cat or dog); your partner, or ex-partner (over finances, harassment, belongings); your roommate or a rooming situation; people at work (over duties, working together); a business or customer (over unfinished work, unpaid bills, small claims).

If a crime has been committed, you may file a criminal complaint with Montgomery County Police, 1451 Seven Locks Rd, Rockville MD 20850; phone 301-340-0160 to file or for additional information.

Another option to resolve conflict is mediation. Mediation is a voluntary, free and confidential process that uses neutral third parties to help people resolve their own disputes. Mediation can help feuding neighbors, friends/roommates, families, businesses, parties to lawsuits, consumers/merchants.

In a mediation session, trained mediators meet with involved parties at an agreeable day and time. The parties tell their side of the issue and are helped to create mutually agreeable options and possibilities for solutions. These solutions are put into writing for each to sign. Mediators do not decide who is right or wrong, nor do they impose solutions on the parties. Most mediation sessions last about two hours. If more time is needed, further sessions may be scheduled. Approximately 85-90% of the cases that go through mediation result in an agreement. Most participants (95%) later report that both sides are living up to this agreement.

If interested, contact the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County at 301-942-7700 or the Office of the State's Attorney Mediation Center at 240-777-7415.

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## New Italian Market in Randolph Hills

By Chris Biondo and Matthew Tifford

Vignola Gourmet, a relatively new addition to Randolph Hills Shopping Center, has been pretty much a secret to this neighborhood in the six months since they opened. But, with a little word of mouth hopefully it won't be for long.

In 1982, Arturo and Irene Vignola opened the original Vignola Pasta Gourmet in the heart of downtown Rockville. What started out as a small Italian market grew into a large sit-down restaurant run by the Vignola family, now including son Luciano and his wife Alma. The restaurant remained very busy until the 2004 Rockville Town Center revitalization project forced them to close, according to the Vignola's.

In 2008, Giovanni (son to Luciano and Alma, grandson to Arturo and Irene) and wife Ashley Vignola started a catering company providing hot lunches to private schools in the area. The success of the catering business, along with a chorus of requests to open a new restaurant, led them to decide to try a small gourmet market with a carry-out menu.

In 2013, the Vignola's turned their Randolph Hills Shopping Center warehouse storage space into the small Italian market that is there today. Like the original Vignola Gourmet, they feature fresh homemade pastas, sauces, mozzarella, sausage, to-go specialty meals (like Alma's eggplant parm and Arancini) and high-end subs and salads, and have also added specialties of their own. Giovanni received his culinary training in Florence, Italy and loves to get creative with the menu. Daily specials and specialty subs (i.e. the porchetta) provide him an outlet to express his passion for Italian cuisine.

Located in Pizza Leo's old spot across the parking lot from and facing Moti's, Vignola Gourmet is open Monday thru Friday 11-7 and Saturday 11- 4. Check them out at [www.vignolagourmet.com](http://www.vignolagourmet.com).

### Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2013-2014 Issue year are:

April 2014.....	March 14th
May 2014.....	April 18th
June/July/Aug 2014 .....	May 23th

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## News from Cub Scout Pack 1081

By Leora Hernandez

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

In December the pack participated in caroling at Randolph Hills Nursing Home and Wreaths Across America at Arlington Cemetery. At the December Pack meeting Santa brought the boys in the pack their pinewood derby car kits. Each boy is encouraged to make a pinewood derby car to race.

In January the pack brought their finished derby cars to race. The competition is often and this year was no different. The winners of each den will go on to in the district pinewood derby. Webelos I and II visited the Boy Scouts Klondike Derby which is held at Little Bennett in Gaithersburg. There they participated in fun outdoor challenges like trying to walk on coffee tins.

In February the boys will have an opportunity to go skiing with the Boy Scout Troop/Crew 1083 at Ski Liberty. The Blue and Gold Dinner which celebrates the birthday of cub scouts will be held on February 22nd.

During the past months the boys have earned numerous pins and belt loops and five boys earned their Bobcat Badge. They have been working hard towards earning their ranks as well.

A BIG thank you goes out to all the parents who continue to help make it possible for the pack to continue to grow and thrive!

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](mailto:rchackenberg@verizon.net).

## Plant Flowers!

By Matt Tifford

Although it's bitter cold out right now, it's heartening to know that Spring is right around the corner bringing to our area some of the best weather of the year. We may still have a few more weeks of huddling indoors, however that makes it the perfect time to beginning planning for Spring gardening. As you probably know, the RCF has been active in working to keep our community entrance sign flowerbeds looking their best. As the weather improves, it will soon be time to clean up and mulch the beds.

As always, we are in need of volunteer gardeners to help with this project. In particular, we need people to help with these locations:

Randolph Hills sign: Garrett Park Road and Schuylkill Road

Franklin Park sign: Randolph Road and Hunters Lane (North Side)

Montrose Park sign: Randolph Road and Lauderdale Drive (Loehmann's Plaza)

The RCF will provide all materials, including mulch, plants, lawn bags, and even gardening gloves, but we need you to make it happen! If you can free up an hour or two to help make your community shine, please call or e-mail the RCA hotline with your contact information:

[info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org)  
240-668-4722

## Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin

The Troop 1083 family extends its gratitude to the many friends and neighbors who supported us during our successful Christmas tree sale in November and December. It's always nice to see the familiar faces of our repeat customers, to meet new customers, and to greet old friends who stop by just to say hello. We truly appreciate the support we receive from the community!

For the first time in over 20 years, Santa Claus was unable to get away from the North Pole in order to visit RCA-land for his annual fire truck tour before Christmas. The elves from Troop 1083 and Venture Crew 1083 were very disappointed that they were not able to distribute candy canes to all the good boys and girls in the neighborhood, but they understood that 2013 was just one of those years for poor old St. Nick. On the day he was scheduled to visit for the fire truck ride, December 21, Santa began sending text messages to the Troop very early in the morning to let the Scouts know that the weather at the North Pole was as foggy and cloudy as he had ever seen it, and to make matters worse, Rudolph was sick in bed with a cold! As the morning wore on, the fog only got worse. "Much as I hate to miss seeing all my friends in RCA-land," he wrote, "I'm afraid I'd better play it safe and cancel my visit this year. But I'll be there as usual on Christmas Eve! Signed, Mr. C." (Santa is still kind of new to texting.)

The Troop's annual holiday party went on as scheduled that evening. It was special event, as always. Webelos II scouts joined the party and introduced themselves, and many old friends and former Scouts dropped in for surprise visits to say hello. It was a regular reunion party!

On January 17-19, the scouts put their winter weather scouting skills to work at the Klondike Derby campout at Little Bennett State Park in Clarksburg; and on February 16, they enjoyed the annual skiing/snowboarding trip to Ski Liberty in Pennsylvania.

If you are a boy who has finished the 5th grade, you can join Boy Scout Troop 1083. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org).



## RCF President's Message: Join the Annual Spring Cleanup!

by Lindsay Hoffman

Every year in early April, you've likely noticed a barrage of Scouts and their families fishing trash and litter from our local waterways and parks. The Annual Stream Clean-Up results in bags upon bags of refuse lining our streets awaiting proper disposal and cleaner, freer-flowing waterways. But, the waterways are not the only areas in RCA-land that could use some intense attention. Surely you know of pockets around the neighborhood where trash accumulates.

Last year, the RCF spearheaded a movement to get the whole community involved in the effort with a great result! A huge group of folks ranging from pre-schoolers to retirees turned out to have an impact on their neighborhood and we're ready to do it again!

On Saturday, April 5th, the Randolph Civic Foundation will join the Scouts to beautify RCA-land. While the Scouts will continue their focus on the streams and waterways, RCF volunteers (that means YOU!) will be sent throughout the neighborhood for a clean-up of our surface roads and other areas. There are two ways you can pitch in. First, email me at [LindsayHoffman@aol.com](mailto:LindsayHoffman@aol.com) with suggestions for where we can focus our efforts. Second, join us at 9am on April 5th in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center Parking Lot to collect your gloves, bags and assignments. Your whole family is welcome! It will be a great way to connect with your neighbors, and to keep our neighborhood a source of pride!

See you on Saturday, April 5th!

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## RCF Board of Directors for 2013-2014

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

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## News from Girls Scout Troop 1079

By Leora Hernandez

This troop is for girls in 6th-12th grades. At the Cadette Troop level the girls will have opportunities to grow leadership skills, earn SSL hours, and have fun!

The troop has not been able to meet as much this year due to unforeseen circumstances but they are busy working on the Rising Tide Patch program based on the "Hunger Games: Catching Fire" book.

The girls are also in the midst of selling Girl Scout cookies. Our council decided to only sell the top six types (Thin Mints, Samoas, Trefoils, Tagalongs, Savannah Smiles, and Do-Si-dos). Some of our customers were sad to see the Dulce-de-leche and Thank You Berry Munch cookies disappear. Some nearby counsels also use another baker and offer a different selection. By the time you read this article, troops will be selling outside the local store fronts; we appreciate the support!

We excited about again participating in the Japanese American Cherry Blossom festival. It is both a learning experience and a service project for us.

Are there any girls in 6th-12th grade interested in joining us? Contact Leora Hernandez at 240-593-9318 or [leora-h2o@yahoo.com](mailto:leora-h2o@yahoo.com) for more information.

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## Venture Crew 1083

By Ben Pitkin

On December 23, the Crew had an all-hands planning meeting at the home of advisor Greg Skolnik. To start the festivities, the Crew wolfed down an unknown number of boxes of pizza. After confirming that no one had lost any fingers in the pizza chow-down, it was time to tear into the cupcakes. After those were reduced to a fine vapor of crumbs, it was time to get down to business.

In typical business meeting fashion, many ideas for Venture Out venues were discussed, along with bigger—potentially, much bigger—outings for extended weekends in the summer. Ideas were pitched and variously kicked around, modified, praised, approved, shouted down, or laughed out of town. Future Venture Out events will include bowling, a Wii sports tournament, putt-putt golf, and a major league ballgame. Also in typical business meeting fashion, most of the ideas for the bigger summer outings were left in "tentative" status, pending further research and discussion.

Other business including electing new officers. With 100 percent of precincts reporting, we can project the following election returns: President, Brady Grundy; Vice Presidents, Devon Rappaport and Aidan Gibbons; Treasurer, Matthew Best; and Recording Secretary, Kevin Oakes.

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 20. Crew meetings are Monday nights from 6:30–7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. 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.



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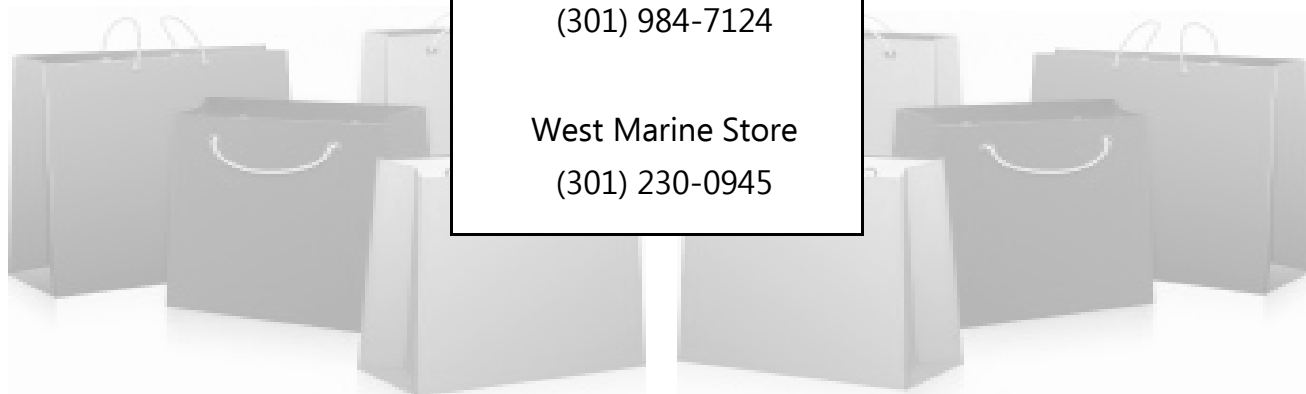
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11706 Rocking Horse Rd	\$369,900	\$369,900	14	\$5,000	27-Nov-13
5006 Macon Road	\$350,000	\$365,000	4	\$0	17-Dec-13
5002 Randolph Road	\$419,000	\$407,000	58	\$8,000	23-Dec-13
12111 Putnam Road	\$425,000	\$415,000	32	\$0	02-Jan-14
4704 Randolph Road	\$400,000	\$400,000	23	\$11,500	03-Jan-14
11409 Ashley Drive	\$434,900	\$419,000	19	\$12,570	06-Jan-14
4714 Topping Road	\$379,900	\$375,000	55	\$10,000	30-Jan-14
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