

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 58, Issue 8

June/July/August 2015

Randolph Hills Sign Vandalized: A Message from the RCF President

by Ashley Salganik

The Randolph Civic Foundation is continuously working to beautify our neighborhood. In addition to our neighborhood cleanups throughout the year, we work hard to ensure our neighborhood signs look great, planting flowers every summer and cleaning up the flower-

beds each fall.

Unfortunately on May 26th one of our Randolph Hills signs (at the intersection of Garrett Park Road and Schuylkill Road) was destroyed by vandals. A police report has been filed. In 2011, there was a tremendous effort to raise money for several new neighborhood signs. We will have to start this effort again to replace this Randolph Hills sign that was recently destroyed.

If you would like to donate money to replace this sign, please go to randolphcivic.org and use the PayPal button located on the Membership tab. You can note that you would like your donation to be used for the replacement sign. Or you can mail a check payable to the Randolph Civic Foundation to P.O. Box 489, Garrett Park, MD 20896-0489, with "Sign Replacement" in the memo field. All RCF contributions are tax-deductible.

And just a friendly reminder: if you ever see or hear anything that seems suspicious in our neighborhood, please call the police. The police non-emergency number is: 301-279-8000



Vandalized Sign at the Entrance to Randolph Hills

Upcoming Events

RCF Annual Meeting and Spaghetti Dinner RCA General Membership Meeting
June 4th, 2015 Dinner 6:00-8:00pm, Meeting 8:00pm-9:30pm, Viers Mill Recreation Center

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! THE ECHO WILL RETURN IN SEPTEMBER!

Also, SAVE THE DATE for these events later this year:
RCA Community Day and Fun Run, Randolph Hills Local Park, Saturday October 3, 2015
RCA Community Bazaar, Loehmann's Plaza, Saturday October 10, 2015

RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2014-2015

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External Affairs Committee Mark Nensel 11830 Rocking Horse Rd 301-351-1957

Ways and Means Mara Greengrass safety@randolphcivic.org

President's Message

by Brian Hooker, RCA President

Greetings RCA-land! It was a pleasure to meet some of you for the first time at last month's MusicFest at El Patio in Loehmann's Plaza Shopping Center. This year we decided to have a brunch instead of a dinner, and the event was still accompanied by some great local musical talent. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this happen, especially Matt Tifford, without whom there would not have been a MusicFest this year. At MusicFest I had the pleasure of presenting Lindsay Hoffman with RCA's Volunteer of the Year Award. Lindsay has served our community greatly over the years as the president of the Parent Teacher Association at Viers Mill Elementary School, former president of the Randolph Civic Foundation, and as the Executive Director of the Friends of White Flint. Throughout her work Lindsay has represented our community well. If you're disappointed that you missed the last community event, please mark your calendars for October 3, 2015. On that Saturday we'll be hosting our Community Day and Fun Run. This event is a great time to come meet your neighbors, get some exercise and eat some great food.

With the longer days and bustle of the summer come the sometimes unpleasant transportation woes. During these days the smallest accident can cause significant delays. One recent source of those delays has been the CSX crossing at Montrose Road. As reported in the Washington Post on February 18, 2015, salt got into the electronics of the gate and the entire system will need to be replaced this summer. I've asked CSX for an update to the repair schedule but as of press time I hadn't heard back. Check the Yahoo Group or Facebook page for updates. Contrary to my previous President's message, the re-zoning hearing for the Montrose Baptist Church property has been pushed back once again. Now it is scheduled for September 21, 2015 at 9:30am. If you are interested in learning more about the history of the school and its once famous basketball program the Washington Post sports section published articles on April 16th and May 18th about the Montrose Baptist sports program (and a local civic association president was quoted).

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 distribute 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.ord.

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

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/

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 <u>safety@randolphcivic.org</u> for more information and to learn how you can help.



May Executive Meeting Minutes

By Diane LaGrega Bertocchi

- 1. Call to Order Brian Hooker 8:20pm
- 2. Old Business
- a. Welcome new board members/positions. Chris Moran is our new Director and Mara Greengrass is our new Treasurer.
- 3. New Business
- a. Guest Speaker for June 4th 2015. 1. Spaghetti Dinner Night and Magician for the Kids. It will start at 6:00pm. b. June 19 OZAH Testimony for Montrose Property - Office of Zoning Administration Hearing. OZAH is scheduled to have the hearing on June 19th, 2015 [editor's note: the hearing has since been postponed until September 21st] and Brian Hooker will testify on behalf of RCA. Brian Hooker hopes to discuss building a community amenity into the development plan such as a publicly accessible green space, like a park, at the end of Macon Road. The RCA will encourage the developers to be engaged with the White Flint 2 Sector Plan and ensure that public infrastructure projects, such as bus rapid transit, are built to support the new construction and RCA-land. The RCA does not want Macon Road and Putnam Road to rejoin.

c. MusicFest Lessons Learned – It was well attended with every seat filled. The new venue worked out well and the food was excellent. Brian recommends forming

a committee for Music Fest next year. Amber recommends moving MusicFest to an earlier date like February or March. May is a busy month and people prefer to do things outside when the weather is nice in May. Amber makes a motion to form a committee in September for Music Fest, have Music Fest in March next year, and start promoting it in the November/ December issue of the ECHO. Brian Hooker seconds the motion. All in favor 7 – Yes. Passes. Matt said that event was over in 2 hours. Amber recommends having the length of Music Fest to be 2.5 hours. The committee will make that decision next year. It will depend on the venue and the time of day. El Patio was very pleased with the event. El Patio says that they can offer a different menu if necessary. They did not charge for the 10 extra plates. Music Fest will remain a RCA sponsored and funded event. unless we get sponsors next year.

d. ECHO Distribution – Residents report that issues of the Echo are not being delivered or not being delivered on time. Residents on Macon and Rocking Horse have not received the May ECHO. The RCA Board recognizes the difficulty of working with a volunteer group, the Boy Scouts, to deliver the Echo. There are 1240 issues of ECHO delivered

eight times year; U.S. postage will be expensive if we do not have the Boy Scouts delivering the ECHO. RCA and the RCF sponsor the Boy Scouts Troop that delivers the ECHO in Randolph Hills and would like to keep that relationship. Brian Hooker is willing to ask manager of the Randolph Hills shopping center for a plastic/metal box for extra issues of the ECHO, to help facilitate hard copy distribution. Brian Hooker makes a motion to distribute ECHO issues in the Randolph Hills shopping center. Mark seconds. All in favor – 7 Yes; Passes. Brian Hooker will also plan to attend the Court of Honors for the Boy Scouts, and present the check to them from the RCA. June 15, 2015 is the next meeting at the Elk Lodge in Rockville, MD at 7:30pm. The RCA will work with the Boy Scouts and form some ideas to make the delivery of the ECHO more efficient.

e. Upcoming Events: Community Day and Fun Run will be on Saturday October 3rd, 2015. The next Community Bazar will be on Saturday October 10th, 2015.

Standard Business and Reports

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – Matt makes a motion to approve the minutes. Mark seconds. Passes.

Committee Chair Reports

Education Committee – Amber: the new principal of Viers Mill Elementary School as of July 1, 2015, is Michael Powell. Additionally, we lost our Title 1 Status due to demographics in the neighborhood changing.

RCA Executive Meeting Adjournment. – Brian makes a motion. Chad seconds. 9:43pm, Passes.



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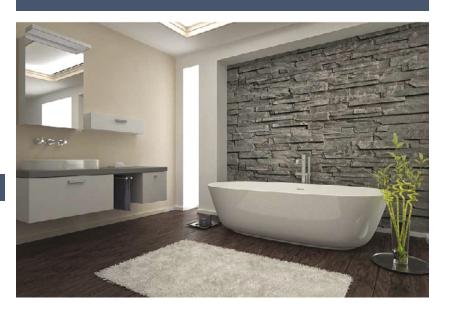
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The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received April 20th, 2015 through May 21st, 2015

General Note: The RCA gets a lot of calls about code viola-



tions (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@randol-phcivic.org or submit an article for publication to the Echo editor.

04-28-15 (Tues) at 2:56pm. Not Anonymous. Received via info@randolphcivic.org. Hi, My family recently moved to the neighborhood, and would love to be tapped in. Where can we send a membership form, and is there an email listserve? Thanks!

04-29-15 (Wed) at 7:14pm. Not Anonymous. Hi! I live on Boiling Brook Parkways and I have a question about the creek land in the middle of the two sides of Boiling Brook. I wonder who owns that land. I'm trying to figure out whether there's any possibility of it being developed in the future. Thanks!

05-01-15 (Fri) at 4:42pm. Not Anonymous. Hi! I'm calling about the Loehmann's Plaza community yard sale. I need to know the cost to set up a table and other information. Thanks!

05-02-15 (Sat) at 8:57pm. Anonymous. (Substance of call was summarized because it was longer than 1.5 minutes in length). Caller is sharing thoughts on the recently-installed speed camera on Randolph Road and its proximity to the crosswalk.

05-12-15 (Tues) at 9:12am. Not Anonymous. I recently moved into 11xxx Ashley and we're a current tenant of that address. I've noticed something and haven't reported it because I thought it would stop but it hasn't. Some beer bottles just kind of show up in the evening time — I wake up in the morning and there are 8-9 beer bottles laying on the back lawn. If I could get a call to learn how to report it and more about what the association does, since I'm new to the neighborhood, I'd appreciate it.

05-12-15 (Tues) at 9:50am. Not Anonymous. Received via info@randolphcivic.org. Good morning: I noticed a complaint in a former ECHO newsletter regarding one's concern about the speeding on Schuylkill Road. My mother lives on that street and it is very dangerous backing out of one's driveway. I noticed a dead animal at the corner of Ashley and Schuylkill Road the other day. Thank

you for registering my concern. I have contacted others concerning this issues, but no one seems to have a solution and it is getting worse. Thank you so much.

05-13-15 (Wed) at 3:47pm. Not Anonymous. I live at 12xxx Portree Road. We have a house across the street that's putting in a new driveway they've got a pile of dirt out in the road. They've got dirt all over the road out there. Can you send someone by because I don't think they can pile dirt in the road and leave all this mess out there? Thank you.

White Flint Mall demolition could begin in early June

By Andrew Metcalf, courtesy of Bethesda Now
White Flint Mall owners expect to receive demolition
permits to take down the mall's exterior by early June.
The owners plan to begin the demolition as soon as
they receive the permits, according to Robert Brewer, a
land use attorney representing White Flint Mall's owners
(as told to reporter Andrew Metcalf of Bethesda Now).
Lord & Taylor has fought the issuance of those permits by sending questions to the county agency about
how its store—which shares a wall, parking lots and a
vehicle entrance with the mall—would be affected by
demolition. Lord & Taylor's primary concern is over how
the shared wall will be handled during the demolition

"With respect to the permitting process, White Flint wants to tear down the Mall and leave a gaping hole in Lord & Taylor's building and then incredulously say Lord & Taylor has no right to complain about it," said Michelle Gambino, a shareholder with Greenberg Traurig LLP, which represents Lord & Taylor. Gambino said Lord & Taylor is asking the county to ensure the store's building will be structurally sound and that there's no safety risk to the store's employees or customers during the demolition process.

Scott Morrison, a partner at the Katten Muchin Rosenman law firm in Washington, D.C., who is representing the mall's owners in the federal case, said the mall owners plan to prove "once and for all" that Lord & Taylor will benefit greatly from the redevelopment of the mall site. "There's evidence in the court filings where Lord & Taylor has admitted that if the redevelopment proceeds the gross sales for that store in White Flint will more than double," Morrison said. He added that the mall's owners are not interested in any kind of settlement with the retailer.

Neighborhood News Bites

Wilkins Court French bakery reopens as 'La Bohemia' - For those of you have lamented the demise of the great French bakery Saint Michel, up on Wilkins Court, off Parklawn Drive, there is good news. A family of Czech immigrants has re-opened the bakery, in collaboration with its former Saint Michel bakery owner and employees, as "La Bohemia." Many of the same pastries, pies and croissants have returned, as have the fresh-baked baguettes. And the sandwiches, served on half baguette, are among the best take-out



lunch treats in the area (rivaling Vignola's, so you know they're good). Check them out at 5540 Wilkins Court, Rockville, MD 20852, Monday-thru Saturday 7am-5pm. www.labohemiabakery.com

- Larry Bowers to continue as interim MCPS Superintendent On May 17, Andrew Houlihan, the "preferred" candidate for Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), removed himself from consideration for the job. MCPS was forced to scramble for a new candidate in time for the July 1 switchover following the previously announced June 30 retirement of former MCPS Superintendent Joshua Starr. On May 20, the current interim Superintendent Larry Bowers announced his intention to remain in the interim position for the 2015-2016 school year. MCPS intends to continue its nationwide search for a permanent superintendent.
- Montgomery County Bike Summit on June 6 Montgomery County is hosting a second annual Bike Summit on Saturday June 6. It's a great opportunity to learn about the County's Bike Master Plan and offer suggestions on what could make our area even better for bicycling. The event will be held on Saturday June 6, 2015, 10 am to Noon, at the Silver Spring Civic Center, 1 Veterans Pl., Silver Spring, MD 20910. For additional information and details of the event's agenda, go to: http://councilmemberriemer.com/

White Flint 2 Planning to Begin in June by Amy Gnisburg

In June, the Montgomery County Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is scheduled begin work on a new sector plan for the area between the White Flint/Pike District and the City of Rockville. "The White Flint 2 sector plan will update a portion of the 1992 North Bethesda/Garrett Park Master Plan and will build upon the innovative vision outlined in the 2010 White Flint Sector Plan," said Friends of White Flint executive director Amy Ginsburg. The White Flint 2 Sector Plan area covers approximately 290 acres in a horseshoe shape on either side of Rockville Pike (MD 355). The plan area includes office buildings along Executive Boulevard, west of Hoya Street; Montrose Crossing

Shopping Center and Pike Center along Rockville Pike; light-industrial and commercial properties along Parklawn Drive, south of Randolph Road; office uses along Executive Boulevard; and Randolph Hills Shopping Center and other light-industrial uses along Parklawn Drive.

Among the issues the White Flint Sector 2 Plan will address: what level of new development can the transportation network support; how should Rockville Pike (Rte. 355) between the City of Rockville and County be coordinated and designed; what transportation policies should be introduced or amended; should the White Flint Special Tax District encompass White Flint Phase 2; how can uses on both sides of the MARC station and CSX tracks be integrated; what is the role of the proposed MARC station and how should nearby properties outside of White Flint Phase I develop. Visit http://www.whiteflint.org/ for additional information.



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Park Life in and Around Randolph Hills

By Christopher Moran

The weather is finally getting nicer and those of us who have been cooped up with small children all winter cannot wait to get out of the house. But where to go? We are very fortunate in Montgomery County to have an extensive park system- there are 416 total parks in Montgomery County, which are paid for by our tax dollars. Since we are all paying for the parks, we as might as well use them!

Obviously, our very own Randolph Hills Park at the corner of Ashley and Macon is great. My son is only 15 months old, but he loves climbing on the equipment and running on the wide open fields- of course with the occasional soccer ball whizzing by his head.

Our park is also adjacent to the Rock Creek Trail, which is maintained by Montgomery County and is a great continuous north-south path to other parts of the County, including the nature trails around Lake Frank and Lake Needwood to the north, and Bethesda, and Washington DC to the south- a great way to burn off the kids' energy!

Neighbors in Franklin Park also enjoy Winding Creek Local Park to the north of Randolph Road, another asset to our community. Adjacent to Winding Creek is the Matthew Henson Trail – a nice walking path – once you successfully brave the Viers Mill crossing - that heads east towards Aspen Hill.

If you're willing to get in the car, there are several other area parks that offer new adventures for the family. Cabin John Regional Park is located at 7400 Tuckerman Lane in Bethesda - about a ten minute drive from our neighborhood. There is an ice skating rink, a dog park, a miniature train (2 miles of track!), several playgrounds, a campground, and a nature center. Cabin John is a place

where you can never run out of things to do, and is a great place to spend the day.

Wheaton Regional Park is one of the County's largest parks and is well known as the home of the beautiful Brookside Gardens and Nature Center. In addition, it has a miniature train, a carousel, an exciting playground, a dog park, fields, and 11 miles of trails.

Falls Road Park is a short drive west down Randolph (Montrose), and is the home of Hadley's Playground. This playground is quite unique in that it is fully accessible for children of all ages and abilities. We recommend visiting this facility on a cloudy day, or early in the morning, as there is very little shade. If your little ones like to collect mulch, an added benefit to this playground is the rubberized play surface!

One thing is for sure: we are lucky to have so many public parks within such a short distance for no cost- there's no reason not to go out and enjoy them!

Pike & Rose Update: Pallas Apartments to Open in June

By Aaron Kraut, courtesy of Bethesda Now

The Pallas, a 19-story apartment building dominating the skyline at Pike and Rose, is about to open for renters. Move-ins at the 19-floor, 319-unit building will start in the middle of June. The top floors, which contain the larger penthouse units, will be finished by November or December. Monthly rents start in the \$2,000 range and go up to almost \$8,000 for the largest penthouse units. There are 74 different layouts, with the average unit coming in around 900 square feet. There will be about 20 penthouse units. Amenities inside the building include a fitness center, exercise studio and solarium, and a garden on a sixth-floor terrace space. There will also be a

few individual garden plots available to residents on the terrace. Overlooking the terrace will be the pool and the sky lounge. complete with a kitchen and bar. Residents can park in an underground garage accessed on Old Georgetown Road.



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Randolph Civic Foundation News

Troop 1083 News By Ben Pitkin

During April, the Troop welcomed its newest members, as the "graduating classes" of Webelos II Scouts from Packs 1081 and 943 were the center of attention for the exciting Bridging Ceremony. Current Scouts assisted in the ceremonies, and welcomed their seven new fellow Scouts as they crossed over from Cub Scouting and into the Troop 1083 family. On the weekend of April 24-26, the newly bridged Scouts joined their older colleagues for a campout at Maryland's Elk Neck State Park, toward the northern corner of the Chesapeake Bay.

The next camping opportunity followed three short weeks later, on the weekend of May 15-17, in West Virginia. In odd-numbered years, the Troop's May campout features a whitewater rafting trip on the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. It all starts tamely enough, with a leisurely put-in a few miles upstream from the Harper's Ferry National Historical Park. The rafters paddle down the lazy river for a while, then stop on a shady spot of the riverbank for a fried-chicken lunch. Then the trip resumes, with some class 3 (and, in years with heavy spring runoff, class 4) rapids to navigate. In the calmer stretches between the rapids, raft-to-raft splash wars have been known to break out. There's good reason this is always one of the most popular trips of the (odd-numbered) year!

On May 9th, current and former Scouts, friends, and family gathered at the Elks Lodge in Rockville to honor and celebrate Esteban Hernández for reaching the Eagle Scout rank. Esteban's Court of Honor was delayed for months by extenuating circumstances, but it's never too late to give an Eagle Scout the recognition he deserves. Esteban may have introduced a new Court of Honor tradition by featuring an ice cream social after the ceremony. Well, why not?

June will bring the annual beach campout at Assateague Island State Park, with its trip to the go-cart track, a day at the beach, and a night on the Ocean City boardwalk. It all happens on the first weekend after the school year ends. How's that for a way to kick off summer vacation! Then, on Monday June 22, the Scouts will partake of some fine Tex-Mex dining at the Villa Maya restaurant to help raise funds for the Venture Crew (please see the ad in this Echo for details). In late July, many of the Scouts will attend weeklong summer camp at Camp Rodney on the upper Chesapeake Bay.

Each year since 2007, at least one Scout from Troop 1083 has served as a staff member at the National Capital Area Council's summer camp in Goshen, Virginia. Troop 1083's staffers have always stood out as model counselors. They love the outdoors and they're sincerely dedicated to making the young campers' experience a memorable one for all the right reasons. In 2015, the Troop will continue that tradition, as Corey Byrne will return for his second year on staff. Matthew Best, now in

his 5th year at Goshen, will serve as Trek Director for the Lenhok'sin High Adventure camp.

If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday nights 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.

RCF Board of Directors for 2014-2015

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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

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Randolph Civic Foundation News

Venture Crew 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

Did you attend the RCA Spring Bazaar at Loehmann's Plaza on May 2? Venture Crew 1083 now sponsors that semiannual event, and provides the food and beverage sales for hungry and thirsty bazaar-goers. Perhaps you saw the Crew there, and made a purchase to support their efforts. The Crew thanks you! The proceeds support the Crew's High Adventure component, and as the dozens of young men and women who've been able to trek the New Mexico wilderness in recent years will attest, it is truly the trip of a lifetime. Every bit you do to help (and that includes enjoying a burger and a soda) is most appreciated.

The next RCA Bazaar will be on Saturday October 10. Remember to check back the September Echo, or the RCA Yahoo group, for more information on the event.

Do you like Mexican food? Really good Mexican food? If so, the Crew would like to invite you visit their friends at the Villa Maya restaurant at 5532 Norbeck Road (at the corner with Bauer Drive, in the Safeway shopping center) on Monday, June 22, any time from 5 pm to 9 pm. If you tell your server you're there for the Venture Crew fundraiser, then the owners will donate 15% of your total check to the Crew (20% if you pay by cash)! If you've ever dined at Villa Maya, you already know the food and beverages are well worth the trip; but the funding boost you'll give to the Crew on June 22 really puts the cherry on top. So mark your calendar, and when you go, remember to tell your server you're there to help the Venture Crew!

The 2015 Philmont Crew went on a brief shakedown hike on May 17th, a 10-miler at Sugarloaf in Poolesville. One more 10-miler will follow: a climb to Cat Rock at Catoctin State Park near Thurmont. This Crew is fully prepared. Between now and their June 28th departure for New Mexico, about all that remains to be done are equipment checks and preparing the backpacks for air travel.

Already beginning preparations for their trip in 2017, the next Philmont Crew is planning for their own first big test: a weeklong tune-up this summer at the Lenhok'sin High Adventure Trail on the Goshen Scout reservation in the Blue Ridge Mountains of central Virginia. Be sure to check back in the September Echo for a full report on how both crews did!

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 20. Because its members are a little older, Crew activities are more self-directed, and typically more advanced, than those of Boy Scout and Girl Scout units. Crew meetings are Monday nights 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.

Waverly-Schuylkill Railroad Tracks Crossing Corrected?

By Matthew Tifford

The pedestrian/bicycle crossing at Waverly-Schuylkill park is a busy one, but has always been poorly signed and lacking in modern crossing safety equipment- with said equipment consisting solely of an old bell mounted on a wood post that would ring to alert pedestrians of an approaching train.

While the bell was extremely loud and grating, it was essential to safety at the crossing. The short sightlines for northbound trains approaching from Kensington coupled with the lack of any other safety measures make this a dangerous spot. Unfortunately, the warning bell at the railroad tracks would often malfunction, either ceasing to function completely, or clanging non-stop for hours on end until a CSX employee could come to fix it.

This past May, CSX workers replaced the entire installation with a more modern device similar to what is found at most crossings. The old wood post has been replaced with a tall steel pole with a crossing sign and a bell mounted at the top. Residents should be aware that the new bell is much quieter than the old one, a potential danger for those with impaired hearing or wearing headphones.

Our current understanding from CSX is that more upgrades may be on the way.



New Crossing Signal at Garrett Park

Bike Lane proposals for Nebel Street unveiled

By Alison Dewey

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation held a meeting on the evening of Monday, May 18 to discuss the proposed Nebel Street Bicycle Facilities from Randolph Road to Marinelli Road. For those that need more of a visual, this is the stretch of road between Gold's Gym/G Street Fabrics/Tyson's Buffet/Offenbacher's, past Harris Teeter, ending at St. Coletta of Greater Washington on Marinelli Rd. Marinelli Rd connects to the White Flint Metro station. The discussed stretch of Nebel Street spans about 0.5 mile and is located just west of the CSX line. The County plans to add a bike facility (bike lane, cycle track, etc.) on this half mile of road to connect users with the separated bike/ped path on the north side of Montrose Parkway (Randolph Rd).

The County provided four options for bike accommodations along Nebel St.:

Option 1: One-way buffered bike lanes

- Retains approximately 40 parking spaces on the east side
- Removes approximately 20 parking spaces on west side
- Bike lanes on both sides of the street
- Striped buffer creates comfort for all users
- Narrowed travel lanes can slow traffic speeds
- Randolph Road intersection functions similar to current design
- No vertical separation may result in encroachment or parking by motor vehicles
- Bicyclists must transition from path to bike lanes requiring 2 crossings

Option 2: One-way separated bike lanes

- Similar to Option 1 but would swap location of parking with bike lane on east side
- Add vertical flexible delineator in buffer
- Bike land on both sides of the street
- Striped buffer creates comfort
- Narrowed travel lanes can slow traffic speeds
- Randolph Road intersection functions similar to today
- Vertical posts prevent motorists encroachments
- Retains approximately 40 spaces on the east side
- Opportunity to shorten pedestrian crossing
- Removes approximately 20 parking spaces on west side
- Bicyclists must transition from path to bike lane requiring 2 crossings
- Added maintenance with posts

Option 3: Two-Way Separated Bike Lanes, Parking

West Side

- Bike lanes on east side of the street
- Only one crossing required at Randolph Road to access path
- Striped buffer creates comfort
- Simulates trail experience
- Vertical posts prevent motorists encroachment
- Opportunity to shorten pedestrian crossings
- Retains approximately 20 parking spaces on west side
- Removes approximately 40 parking spaces on east side
- Added maintenance with posts
- No parking adjacent to cycle track reduces buffer comfort
- No bike lane on west side of the street

Option 4: Two-Way Separated Bike Lanes, Parking East Side

- Bike lanes on east side of the street
- Only one crossing required at Randolph Rd to access path
- Parking buffer increases comfort
- Simulates trail experience
- Vertical posts prevent motorists encroachments
- Opportunity to shorten pedestrian crossings
- Retains approximately 40 parking spaces on east side
- Removes approximately 20 parking spaces on west side
- Added maintenance with posts
- · No bike lane on west side of street

The preferred concept of the County is Option 2. There was lively discussion regarding the four options during the 90 minute meeting and it seemed that of the approximately 25 people there, Options 3 and 4 were favored. The project is slated for Spring of 2016.

Comments and questions can be emailed to Bruce Johnston: Bruce.johnston@montgomerycountymd.gov orPatricia Shepherd: patricia.shepherd@ montgomerycountymd.gov



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Parents of young children...Are you interested in meeting other parents in the neighborhood? If so, please consider joining the "RCA Parents" Facebook page. Contact Nikki Forry for additional details or questions at nikki.forry@gmail.com.

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