

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Federation

Volume 43, Issue 4

January/February 2000

In this Issue...

Code Enforcement to Highlight March Meeting	1
President's Message – Why 2K?	1
Housing Code Victory	4
Zoning Issues	4
Treasurer's Report	6
Calls Received on the RCA Hotline	7
MCAFCE	11
Tired of Telephone Solicitations?	15
News from Cub Scout Pack 1081	16
Neighborhood Helping Hands Wanted	16
News from Troop 1083	18
Long Term Care Insurance	18
Classified	19
Important Phone Numbers	19

Upcoming Events

RCA Executive Meeting
Thursday, February 3, 2000
8:00 p.m.

RCA General Meeting
Thursday, March 2, 2000
8:00 p.m.

The March General Meeting will feature two important speakers from Montgomery County Code Enforcement. This is your chance to find out what's legal and what's not, so please be sure to attend!

Meetings are held at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center at the corner of Ashley Drive and Macon Road on the **first Thursday of every month at 8 p.m.**, except January, July, and August. Usually, we alternate between General and Executive meetings. All are welcome at every one.

Code Enforcement to Highlight March Meeting

by Richard Zierdt

TWO County Code Enforcement Agents are our featured guests at the March 2 General Membership Meeting. As ECHO readers know, code enforcement is an important issue for our neighborhood. It is important to keep order, but is there a price to pay for overdoing it? Also, various agencies enforce county ordinances depending on what, where, and when a violation occurs. Three entities are involved in the overall process: the zoning code enforcement unit, the housing code enforcement unit, and the police (both county and park). This can get confusing.

Mr. Randy Wyrick is Manager of Zoning Enforcement Unit, and Mr. Steve Morris is an enforcement officer for housing codes. Both will give us the full picture of what's involved in this whole code-enforcement area. While we as individual homeowners (and the courts!) may disagree on interpretation of the county code, there should be no disagreement on what it actually says. Messrs. Wyrick and Morris will tell us what is legal and what is not, at least according to what "the book" says.

For example (and this is far from the only one), the RCA hotline regularly receives calls about commercial trucks in residential neighborhoods. What does the law actually say? Are there weight limits? Height and length limits? Parking time limits? What is the definition of "commercial?" Or take "temporary buildings" (otherwise known as sheds). What setback, if any, from the property line must they be? What is the definition of a "permanent" structure?

And so on. This is your opportunity to fully understand current county law regarding arguably your most important single asset: your home. I urge you to attend the RCAMarch 2 meeting, 8 PM, at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center, corner of Ashley Drive and Macon Road (the same place these meetings have been held for the last 40 years).

President's Message – Why 2K?

by Jack Stillwell

Well, the calendar has changed to the year with triple zeros, and hopefully you're not sitting next to a camping stove eating from a can of beans. As I write this, everything went smoothly and the technical experts are patting themselves on the back (but still warning us about 2/29). I'll stay away from the controversy and price/value discussions, just like I'll stay away from chiming in on whether the century turned this year or has to wait until next. Let's count our blessings and hope for continued prosperity.

(continued on page 3)

RCA Executive Committee for 1999-2000

<p>OFFICERS</p> <p>President Jack Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934</p> <p>Vice President (open)</p> <p>Secretary Kevin Kline 4808 Randolph Road 301-230-1486</p> <p>Treasurer Richard Zierdt 4707 Coachway Drive 301-881-0283</p> <p>Directors Wilbur Van der Linden 11711 Ashley Drive 301-770-7235</p> <p>Matthew Shore 11230 Troy Road 310-468-1225</p>	<p>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</p> <p>Echo Editor Eileen White 11225 Ashley Drive 301-984-2579</p> <p>Echo Advertising Mauro Biondo 11508 Monongahela Court 301-770-7590</p> <p>Membership Amy Hsu 4716 Oxbow Road 301-468-6180</p> <p>Environment Jack Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934</p> <p>Cathy Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934</p> <p>Education Elinor Walker 11811 Old Drovers Way 301-468-6335</p> <p>Mobile Watch (acting) Frank Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225</p> <p>COMMUNITY AFFAIRS</p> <p>Scout Leader , Troop 1083 Brian McGahey 11805 Timber Lane 301-770-7882</p> <p>Cub Master , Pack 1081 George Gadbois 4718 Topping Road 301-770-5386</p> <p>Scout Liaison Frank Rossomondo 11611 Ashley Drive 301-770-7450</p> <p>Family & Community Education Judy Fewell 5018 Macon Road 301-770-5540</p>
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<p>COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES</p> <p>Montgomery County Civic Federation: Scott Bailey, George Cantalupo, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore</p> <p>MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA</p> <p>County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA): Councilwoman: Betty Ann Krahnke 240-777-7964 Ms. Krahnke's aides: Joy Nurmi 240-777-7953 Carl Morgan 240-777-7965</p> <p>General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900</p> <p>County Executive (all of RCA): Douglas Duncan 240-777-2500</p> <p>Montgomery County Public Schools: 301-279-3000 School Board Offices: 301-279-3617 School System Information: 301-279-3391 School Board Member for District 3 (representing all of RCA): Ms. Patricia O'Neill 301-320-7600</p> <p>Maryland State Legislative District 17 - South of Randolph Road: Senator: Jennie Forehand 301-858-3134 Delegates: Kumar Barve 301-858-3001 Michael Gordon 301-858-3519 Cheryl Kagan 301-858-3046</p> <p>Maryland Legislative District 18 - North of Randolph Road: Senator: Christopher Van Hollen 301-858-3137 Delegates: Leon Billings 301-858-3028 Sharon Grosfeld 301-858-3028 John Hurson 301-858-3464</p> <p>Montgomery County Delegation Office: All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010</p> <p>U.S.Congressional District 8 (all of RCA): Constance Morella 202-225-5341 email: rep.morella@mail.house.gov</p> <p>U.S. Senate (all of RCA): Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654 Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524</p> <p>Election Precincts: 4-08 South of Randolph Rd. Vote at Rockinghorse Center. 4-26 North of Randolph Rd. Vote at Montrose Baptist Church. Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 301-217-6450</p>



RCA Telephone Number: 301-881-2722 (881-2RCA).

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

Membership in the RCA is \$5.00 per year.

The Echo is the official publication of the Randolph Civic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. The Echo is published 8 times a year and distributed free to all residents of Franklin Park, Hilltop Square, Montrose Park, Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, and Westminster. Deadline for submission of articles varies; the next deadline is noted in each issue. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Eileen White, 11225 Ashley Drive, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852, 301-984-2579, email eewhite@erols.com.

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..."

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

From a community perspective, last year's ice storm was much more of a calamity than Y2K and could be repeated at almost any time. Elsewhere in the Echo, my wife has an article about trying to set up a mechanism for neighbors that might need help in these and other circumstances. It's a tough thing to tackle considering our busy schedules, but would be a true boon to our neighborhood.

Last issue's request for major complaints did not cause an overloaded hotline, so maybe that means everyone is pretty content, or maybe everyone was too busy with the holidays. In any case the value of the hotline was demonstrated by the results we saw on Topping Road as described later by Richard Zierdt. This was a neighbor keeping an eye on things and taking action. Thank You! And thanks again to Richard for his monitoring the line, making the report and doing the follow-up. Keep those calls coming.

Richard has also led the way in establishing the RCA website. We are seeing this as an opportunity to provide neighborhood information on-demand. The unanswered question is, "How connected is the RCA?" Your officers and directors have found e-mail to be a great way to communicate, it's much more reliable than voicemail. Please feel free to send messages to me at stillwellfam@worldnet.att.net. Just make sure you identify yourself as an RCA'er.

The hot issues in RCA-land seem to be traffic, commercial enterprises, and violations of County code and law. Traffic at the Smith school was a major topic of discussion at our last meeting and one we're addressing with the County. Also discussed was the ongoing question of how much commercial activity is allowed in private homes. We've learned the County is strict about using them as boarding houses, but what about trucks, signs in the yard and storing construction materials? We've lined up two speakers to address these and other questions. As to violations, we publish the phone numbers of county agencies in the Echo every month, and encourage the affected neighbor to make the first call. Frequently, it helps to have the backing of RCA and that's one of its reasons for existing. If you have success without our involvement, please let us know the details on the hotline or at a meeting. It helps us to know what the County is doing in the neighborhood. We are also trying to book a county government speaker to address these issues.

Finally, a request. When you see a speaker listed for an RCA meeting, please try to attend. The County supports these folks coming out on evenings and we should do our best to be there. I'm sure that when these folks see a good sized group of people, they equate it with an

WILLS AND ESTATES • TAXES

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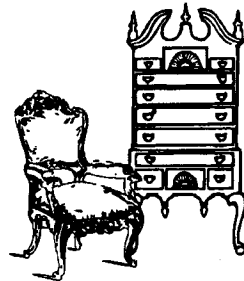
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Sunday 12-5
Holiday Mondays 10-5

active involved association. It's got to be more gratifying for them to help a group that cares. I have to say that I'm continually impressed by the performance of the folks at these County departments. The inspectors and enforcers take a real interest in doing their jobs well. I've had great response from EPA, traffic signs, housing and waste removal. They know our neighborhood and are quick to respond.

By the way, if you did stock up for Y2K, remember there are lot's of organizations willing to take your surplus. Happy New Year!



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Housing Code Victory

by Richard Zierdt

Score 1 victory: a house in the 47xx block of Topping Road is now vacant, condemned, and for sale. Several RCA residents called the RCA hotline, and Steve Morris, housing code inspector, counted 21 beds! The owner runs the "Empire Buffet" on Old Georgetown Road, and all her employees lived at that one house! What a racket! Mr. Morris issued her a \$500 ticket for running a boarding house without a license (not that it could have been done legally in our neighborhood anyhow). This case began because of calls received on the RCA hotline.

Mr. Morris will be our guest at the March 2, 2000 RCA General Membership meeting. He was invited to speak before this case happened, by the way.

Also, some residents may feel this treatment was heavy-handed. The people who were living there didn't cause any problems (although one call on the hotline said there were public problems), and that they're just trying to make a living. I am not unsympathetic to the housing needs of low-income people. But that doesn't mean a neighborhood should be destroyed in the process. This concentration was WAY over the legal limit of five unrelated persons in a single home. If the affected renters had simply spread out over four homes instead of one, there wouldn't be a problem. My test and question to any situation in any neighborhood is: Would you want to live or purchase next door to this house? If the answer is "no," then there's a housing problem.

Zoning Issues

by Kevin Kline

The RCA had the County remove four illegal permanent signs on 4" x 4" posts at the intersection of Boiling Brook and Rocking Horse. Upon RCA investigation, the signs stating "BJE" were meant to provide directions to the industrial park behind Randolph Center.

The RCA began a calling campaign on illegally parked cars on the County right-of-way on Randolph Road. The purpose of the right-of-way is to provide a clear field of vision when pulling out of a driveway or side street. The Police removed several illegally parked cars, and the last remaining few will be targeted next. All homeowners should know where their property line is, and that parking on county property is illegal, tears up the grass, and looks really tacky.

Speaking of tacky, the portable canvas "carports" popping up may be in violation of the building code. Homeowners must have a building permit to erect any structure on their property. The RCA does not attempt to get the code enforced unless your neighbors complain.

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RCA Meetings

RCA meetings are held the **first Thursday of every month** (except January, July and August) at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center at 8:00 p.m. Usually we alternate between General and Executive meetings. If you are unsure about meeting times and dates, please call the RCA Hotline (301-881-2722) for verification. All are welcome at every meeting.

Treasurer's Report

by Richard Zierdt

As of January 10, 2000, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$7,746.53. Check 594 was for the Mac-compatible printer for Eileen's new Mac system (which she paid for herself). The printer will permit even better print resolution in the ECHO, and support photographs, of which we will see much more in future ECHOs. We are quite lucky to have Eileen as a volunteer (You don't know how lucky!). The current RCA+RCF balance (7K+) is because of paid members, extra donations, and our advertisers. Have you paid your dues yet?

RCA Checking Register					
11/07/1999 through 01/10/2000					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
BALANCE 10/06/1999					7,028.45
11/07	594	MacMall	Mac printer for ECHO	-1,027.78	6,000.67
11/16	E-xfr	Bell Atlantic	Oct 22 phone bill	-20.21	5,980.46
11/19		interest	Crestar Bank 0.64 %	2.63	5,983.09
11/22	595	Postmaster	post office box 2202	-64.00	5,919.09
11/26		RCA		1,380.00	7,299.09
		inc:advertising	Cynthia Moses	720.00	
		inc:advertising	Creative Hearing	180.00	
		inc:advertising	Consignment Furniture	240.00	
		inc:advertising	Preferred Automotive	240.00	
11/26		RCA	mbrshp dues, donations	1,091.00	8,390.09
11/27	596	Nineva Printing	December ECHO	-835.00	7,555.09
12/17	E-xfr	Bell Atlantic	Nov 22 phone bill	-20.31	7,534.78
12/20		interest	Crestar Bank 0.75 %	4.74	7,539.52
BALANCE 01/10/2000					7,539.52

RCF Checking Register					
10/10/1999 through 01/10/2000					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
Balance 11/10/1999					106.84
11/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	156.84
11/30		interest	Crestar Bank 0.69 %	0.07	156.91
12/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	206.91
12/31		interest	Crestar Bank 0.70 %	0.10	207.01
BALANCE 01/10/2000					207.01

Total RCA+RCF cash assets					7,746.53
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Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

November 5, 1999 to
January 10, 2000

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 in the ECHO almost every month. You don't have to leave your name or phone number. The RCA is here to help everyone keep our neighborhood as orderly as possible, so please use these numbers. Please call the RCA as well. We appreciate knowing and learning about our community.

1999-11-10 (Wed) 6:26 pm Very concerned about house at 47xx Topping Road. There are about 10 to 15 men living in it. Wish the RCA could do something about it. This is getting to be ridiculous.

1999-11-11 (Thu) 11:47 am Chris Anderson with John Hancock 301-320-2400 ext 135. Wants to meet with Association at a (general) meeting.

1999-11-12 (Fri) 2:17 pm Anonymous. Calling in response to a couple of calls that people made about an abandoned car in Randolph Hills. The County did come out and check it. The car does run and has updated tags on it. Car is waiting for daughter to become old enough to drive it. Caller appreciates neighbor's concern.

1999-11-13 (Sat) 9:05 am Anonymous. Question regarding the (potential) widening of Randolph Road (through RCA). This seems unwise unless the bridge across Rock Creek were widened as well. It would become a bottleneck. Are there any plans to widen that bridge? *[None that we know of currently.]*

1999-11-18 (Thu) 10:34 am Wilwyn Way. Caller talked with Frank Shore who suggested this phone call. A loud-speaker goes off in the middle of the night. Sometimes announcing a phone call; sometimes giving directions to the night crew, etc. What can be done about this? *[Call police for nighttime violations, county environmental protection agency for daytime violations.]*

1999-11-19 (Fri) 12:08 pm Anonymous. 47xx Topping Road. According to police, there are about 20 beds in the house. What are county regulations? There was an altercation with police about 2 weeks ago where one resident pulled a gun on another resident. What can be done? *[The RCA called County zoning on November 22 and opened an "overcrowding" complaint. Residents: keep the hotline informed.]*

1999-11-22 (Mon) 12:38 pm Anonymous. Two problems. (1) 113xx Schuylkill Road has two dogs that bark day and night. Caller has called animal control and gotten no satisfactory answer. Caller is asking RCA for help. (2) unlicensed automobile parked on grass next to house mentioned in (1). It's been there for almost three months. Caller would appreciate RCA's help.

1999-11-27 (Sat) Hotline editor on vacation until Dec 21. Calls through December 20 will have piled up.

(continued on page 8)

ASESORIA

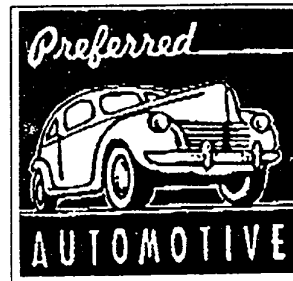
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RCA Hotline

(continued from page 7)

1999-11-28 (Sun) 6:30 pm Anonymous. There's a lot of trash at the end of Macon Road, behind Montrose Baptist Church and Safeway. It's unsightly; doesn't look good. Maybe we could all get together and clean it up.

1999-11-30 (Tue) 6:23 pm Franklin Park. Set of car keys found on Mori Drive after leaf pick-up the day after Thanksgiving; seems like two car keys and a house key on a leather key ring. Call 301-984-2153 to claim.

1999-12-03 (Fri) 6:04 pm Wilwyn Way. Agrees with RCA president: cars should not block driveway. It's ridiculous that residents have to push their strollers into the street when they try to take a walk.

1999-12-04 (Sat) 5:03 pm Anonymous, Schuylkill Road. Two suggestions: Don't block the sidewalk, and dog owners should not allow their pets to run free.

1999-12-04 (Sat) 5:19 pm Schuylkill Road. Response to RCA president's invitation to make suggestions: Number 1 Issue by far: Get all of RCA into the Walter Johnson school cluster; (2) get all of RCA into the same Maryland state legislative district; (3) enforce snow-

shovelling ordinances; (4) keep the sidewalks clear of parked cars. Caller appreciates the hard work that the Executive Committee does. [You're welcome! - ed.]

1999-12-04 (Sat) 6:12 pm Randolph Hills. Very interested in getting Schools boundaries changed. Caller has two grandchildren living in RCA and one is afraid to go to Parkland Middle school. Caller will help by informing other parents. [What we need is a big show of parental muscle here. The RCA should invite the new superintendent and our local school board representative to an RCA meeting. But if few parents show up, the cause is lost.]

1999-12-04 (Sat) 8:59 pm Anonymous. Macon Road. Agrees with RCA president regarding Airborne Express trucks violating the stop signs and turning left onto Nicholson Lane from the right-turn only lane. These trucks have been a menace for too long. Also, does anyone have information regarding the helicopter that was circling the neighborhood a couple of nights ago? There were several police cars around as well. [If anyone has information, give the RCA a call.]

1999-12-05 (Sun) 11:22 pm Anonymous. Appreciates the phone numbers listed in the ECHO. Caller would appreciate if the RCA hotline number were listed, and Washington Gas (like PEPCO's).

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1999-12-06 (Mon) 10:53 am Anonymous. Grayling Lane. Seconds RCAPresident's message regarding Airborne Express drivers. RCA may want to write Airborne our concerns.

1999-12-08 (Wed) 1:18 pm Anonymous. Macon Road resident for 16 years. Shame that large commercial trucks are (still) parked on Rockinghorse Road. They're an eyesore. Caller looked for more information about this issue in the December ECHO, but didn't find any. *[Inspectors from the Montgomery County housing and zoning departments have been invited to the March 2, 2000 RCA General Membership meeting, where we'll at least get all the facts. Please attend this meeting to raise any/all housing/parking/overcrowding issues.]*

1999-12-09 (Thu) 3:39 pm Resident called the county and reported the sign down at Randolph and Rockinghorse stating "No Thru Trucks Over 3/4 Ton." County said the sign would be replaced. When asked, the County said it could *not* erect a sign that stated "No Airborne Express Trucks." *[Thanks caller. Doesn't hurt to try]*

1999-12-11 (Sat) 9:16 am Wilwyn Way. There is noise late at night, 2 am, etc. Anyone else reported this?

1999-12-13 (Mon) 2:46 pm Anonymous. Hunters Lane in Franklin Park. Two comments. (1) Could trash trucks pull over when collecting trash (if possible), rather than block traffic? (2) What about (the) helicopter with search light that sometimes hovers for over an hour? Any information about this?

1999-12-15 (Tue) 1:17 pm Anonymous. For Sale, cross country skis and boots. 301-230-0911.

1999-12-14 (Wed) 8:57 am Classified ad: For Sale: Wood stove, \$300 OBO. Call 301-231-6329.

1999-12-20 (Mon) 8:32 am Anonymous. Untagged vehicle, old AMC station wagon. Housing construction trash, etc. on Rockinghorse Road. Caller will call housing number listed in ECHO.

1999-12-27 (Mon) 11:03 am Anonymous. Are the Scouts still collecting aluminum cans? Let us know through the ECHO if they want them, and if so, where.

2000-01-01 (Sat) 0:00 am *HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE HOTLINE!!*

ELLIOTT C. FLICK, D.D.S.

4618 Randolph Road
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Se habla español



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RCA Hotline - 24 hours

Call 301-881-2722

The RCA invites you to call the RCA Hotline at any time and leave your comments on topics concerning the neighborhood. The Executive Committee is notified of each message left on the answering machine. Be assured your calls are heard and that we appreciate your input.



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HAPPY NEW YEAR RCALand!

1999 Real Estate Sales Statistics for RCALand

Number of closed sales: 63

Average Sale Price: \$169,358

Average List Price: \$174,324

Average Home Sold For 97.15% of List Price

Highest Sale Price: \$204,000

Lowest Sale Price: \$125,000

Information derived from MRIS, deemed reliable, but not guaranteed

For a detailed listing of all neighborhood home sales in 1999, call The Moses Home Team at 301-881-1700. We'll include your FREE book The Secrets of How to Sell Your Home Quickly for the Most Money.

As we start off the new year and enter a new century, I would like to thank the fifty families who entrusted their home sales and purchases to us in 1999. It was our pleasure and privilege to serve you. Heartfelt thanks also to all of our clients, friends and neighbors who referred their friends and family to us. Our business is built on the goodwill and trust we've earned over 16 years. We are grateful for your continued support. And we always will be Your Real Estate Consultants for Life!

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MCAFCE

by Mary Lee

Happy Year 2000!

On February 7th at 7:30 p.m., we will be meeting at the home of Shelby Hurt with Shelby serving us also. We will be making the "Loveknot" favors for Meals on Wheels.

Many thanks to Margaret for having our Christmas Party which we all enjoyed very much. Also, Sue, you did a great job again preparing our fun games. The little gingerbread pins you made for us are just adorable (you know how to make us proud that we belong to Randolph Hills Homemakers!).

Our New Year resolution is to try and get more members to join us. If you like meeting others and sharing arts and crafts and doing neighborhood deeds, please come and join us.

At our craft meeting in December at Judy's, Eleanor and Judy made the cute angels for Meals on Wheels while the other ladies were busy making "Chris-Moose." Thanks to both of you for all your help.

A reminder — please bring Birthday monies (one penny for each year of member's age or \$1.00 if you don't want to tell your age).



Thanks goes to Anneke and Margaret for making the Christmas cookies that we served at the December RCA General Meeting. I made the Easy Chocolate Drops again. A big "thank you" also to the ladies that made the cookies for Santa and his helpers (Boy Scouts) when Santa toured the neighborhood on the Fire Truck.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Nell Dempewolf's husband, Eugene, who passed away January 3rd. Our love and sympathy go out to her and their daughters, Diane and Sandra.

If you would like to join us, please call Judy Fewell at (301) 770-5540. The MCAFCE programs are open to all without regard to race, sex, handicap or religion.



For the recipes this month (on the next page), we decided to list our Holiday Cookies which we exchanged at our party, courtesy of Anneke, Sue, Margaret and Mary Lee. Enjoy!

Happy
Valentine's
Day



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Coconut Macaroons

- 1 14 oz. can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk (NOT evaporated milk)
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons almond extract
- 2 7-ounce packages flaked coconut (5 1/3 cups)

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line baking sheets with foil; grease and flour foil. Set aside.

In large bowl, combine Eagle Brand, vanilla and almond extract. Stir in coconut. Drop by rounded teaspoons onto prepared sheets; with spoon, slightly flatten each mound.

Bake 15 to 17 minutes or until golden. Remove from baking sheets; cool on wire rack. Store loosely covered at room temperature.


Make about 4 dozen.

Chocolate Chip Squares (make in microwave oven)

- 1 stick margarine
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 6 ounce package chocolate chips

Cream margarine and vanilla; add brown sugar gradually until fluffy. Add egg and beat thoroughly. Blend flour, baking powder and salt; stir into creamed mixture. Stir in half of chocolate chips. Turn into an ungreased 9" square baking dish. Top with remaining chocolate chips. Cook uncovered in microwave oven 7 to 8 minutes at medium-high, until edges begin to pull away from sides of dish; rotate dish one-quarter turn once. Cool. Cut into squares.

Makes 25 squares.



No Bake Chocolate Cookies


- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 4 tablespoons cocoa
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 stick margarine

Boil above ingredients hard for one minute.

Stir in:

- 1/2 cup peanut butter or one bag coconut
- 2 3/4 cups quick oats
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Drop from spoon on waxed paper. Let stand until dry, about 2 hours.



Thanksgiving in February

133 area restaurants will donate 10% of their proceeds on Tuesday, February 8, to hunger relief. The campaign's goal is to raise awareness and \$35,000 for hunger relief programs throughout Montgomery County. The money raised will allow Bethesda Cares, CASA of Maryland, Damascus Help, Gaithersburg Help, Hand to Hand, Manna Food Center, Olney HELP, Rockville FISH, the Salvation Army, Shepherd's Table and WUMCO Help to provide meals to the hungry in our communities.

***We can do our part by
going out to eat!***

For a list of participating restaurants, call Katherine Lowe at (301) 762-8682 ext. 109 or email her at klowe@communityministrymc.org.

**No Bake
Orange Peanut Butter Drops**

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup orange juice concentrate
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 1/2 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1/2 cup raisins

Over medium heat, bring first three ingredients to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, stir in peanut butter until blended. Add oats and raisins; stir to blend. Drop by teaspoonsfuls onto waxed paper. Refrigerate until firm.

Makes 2 1/2 dozen.

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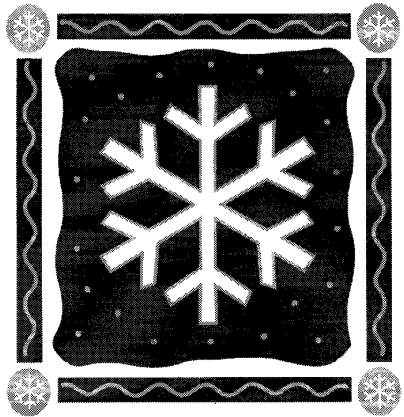


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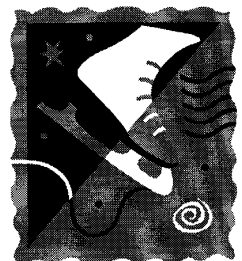
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Kumon U.S.A.	(301) 231-6977
Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
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Rite Aid	(301) 881-1910
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Sterling Cellular	(301) 468-0444
Urban Accents	(301) 881-4451



Tired of Telephone Solicitations?

by Richard Zierdt

(Note: the following was copied from my church's newsletter, and it seems like a good suggestion. I then made further inquiries. - rz)

Most of us shun direct marketing by telephone and by mail. There's a marketing service in New York that purports to help reduce general solicitations made to your home: Direct Marketing Association, Farmingdale, NY, telephone 212-768-7277 (I could not find an 800 number — I wonder why).

Anyway, this organization offers to reduce general phone solicitations, and general mail solicitations, but you must send separate notes for each type. My sense, after listening to their phone message, is that postcards will do. Another sense of mine is that this is good for five years, and by implication, another post card(s) would be required to continue the reduction, although the message didn't say so explicitly (again, I wonder why).

So, to reduce *mail* solicitations, at least for five years, send a note requesting that your name *not* be used for telemarketing purposes, with your name, home address, and signature to:

Direct Marketing Association
Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

To reduce *telephone* solicitations, again for at least for five years, send a note requesting that your telephone *not* be used for telemarketing purposes, with your name, home address, phone number with area code, and signature to:

Direct Marketing Association
Telephone Preference Service
P.O. Box 9014
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

Note the only difference is in the sub-title and P.O. box number. DMA says it takes 90 days to process requests. Really fast group, that DMA!



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Peter Crawford

The year 2000 promises to be a very active year. Please give me a call if you are planning to move.

News from Cub Scout Pack 1081

by Doneby Smith



The holiday season has been a busy time for Pack 1081. Our big events included ice skating at the newly renovated Cabin John rink, caroling at the Randolph Hills Nursing Center, and a trip to Mt. Vernon with participation in a wreath-laying ceremony marking the anniversary of George Washington's death. We were also represented at Scout Day at a University of Maryland football game. Our Tiger scouts had a good time at *Imagine That!* in Rockville. Despite the absence of our Cubmaster Mr. Gadbois, who was stuck in airports and waiting for cabs, our Pack meeting on December 16th went smoothly under the direction of Mrs. Gadbois who stepped right in. Santa stopped by and gave out candy canes and Pinewood Derby car kits to eager Scouts.

The following Webelos II scouts earned their Engineering activity pin: **James Crowder, Brian Diaz, John Hale, Howard Johnson, Hafez Taghavi, Scott Talbott** and **Roger Tellez**. Also earning this pin were **Mark Bushong, Russell Cando, Edward Huggins,** and **Andy Wood** from Webelos I. This is a hard pin to earn as it requires 4th and 5th graders to gain some fundamental understanding of different areas of engineering such as civil, mechanical and electrical engineering. Our Wolf and Bear scouts continued working hard toward their respective rank badge. The Tiger Cubs also stayed busy earning Tiger Paw achievements. One such paw was earned by taking a field trip recently to the Wheaton-Glenmont police station.

January's focus is our Pinewood Derby. After weeks of preparation, including 2 workshop sessions in our Cubmaster's garage and trial runs the evening before, the big day arrived on Saturday, January 22. Dozens of cars of all colors raced down our speed ramp, while computers kept score and judges inspected each car for originality, finish, and style.

We look forward to celebrating the birthday of Boy Scouts in February by holding our annual Blue and Gold Banquet for our Cub Scouts and their families. It's always a fun event with good food and a good time to be had by all. More on this in our next article.

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow you gotta put up with the rain.

~Dolly Parton

Neighborhood Helping Hands Wanted

Greetings neighbors and Happy New Year! I am writing to you with New Year's resolutions still fresh in mind, hoping that you will possibly add one more to your own list and join me in creating something truly worthwhile.

My plan is to develop a core of "**helping hands**," neighbors willing to donate a bit of time to help fellow neighbors with the clearing or removal of snow on stoops, walkways and sidewalks, or placing de-icer down when needed, or to help rake leaves when leaf pickup is imminent. I know that throughout our neighborhood there are folks who can't do these things on their own — senior citizens, some living alone, and those whose husbands travel frequently. I have found from past experience that during snowstorms, shut-ins working side by side with neighbors, helping each other free our snowbound cars from winter's grip, has always produced heartwarming results. We've gotten to know each other just a little better, strengthening bonds that tie people to their community.

My proposal is this: to develop two lists, one with names, phone numbers, and addresses of those who could use the assistance, and the other with volunteer names and phone numbers. I called the local middle and high schools that our neighborhood children attend to see if the students could receive their volunteer community hours by becoming involved. Parkland said no, it didn't fit their guidelines (I couldn't believe it). I'm still waiting on a call from the other schools. I also placed a call to the volunteer coordinator for Montgomery County Public Schools to see if a special exception would be possible. I will update in the next Echo.

Please call me and leave a message (name and phone number), stating on which list you would like to be placed. I will contact you as soon as possible. Let's work together in creating a "helping hands" network within our community. I know it's a worthwhile venture.

Cathy Stillwell
301-231-4934
Thank you!

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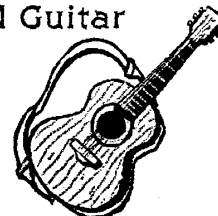
On Wednesdays and Fridays, from 5:00 to 10:00pm, we proudly present a feast of gourmet delicacies such as Soups & Salad Bar, Roast of Lamb, Spanakopita, Dolmades, Mousaka, Stuffed Cabbage, Chicken Florentine, Vegetables, Meat Balls, Rice Pudding. Everything tendered priced for you at just \$ 9.95.

SURPRISE!

On Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, the artistry of "Fily Alfaro" on the classical Guitar

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News from Troop 1083

by Brian McGahey

Troop 1083 was busy in December! Our Christmas Tree sale was a huge success! Thanks to everyone in RCA-land who bought one. Thanks to Dave Murphy for chairing the event. And thanks to our supplier Bill Bartlett and the Masonic Temple for the use of their property for the tree sale. Many troop parents supported the sale. We thank everyone who came out. We look forward to selling you a tree next year.

The other big event was Santa Claus delivering Candy Canes. The following Scouts and adults participated: **Alex Casual, Joseph Ridesatthedoor, Joseph Correia, Chris Soares, Charlie Mulcahey, Jake Bolt, Steve Santos, Andrew Tao, Nachi Roper, Gustavo Hernandez, Tim Tao, Matt Tao, Freeman Tao, and Nathan Jackson** (a Troop 1083 alumni). **Lynn Russell** of the Kensington V.F.D drove the fire truck, the Randolph Homemakers supplied wonderful cookies, and **John Deem** of Armands Pizza supplied wonderful pizza. Thanks to all. **Brian McGahey** made a special appearance in the red suit.

Out next big event is the Klondike Derby January 28-30. Camping, competition, and adventure in the snow, or whatever falls from the sky. On a more serious note, recently, one of our scouts, **Timothy Tao**, had a terrible accident, which resulted in a severed artery in his arm. Two other scouts, **Matt Tao** (his brother) and **Joey Terrones**, were with him and were able to administer life-saving first aid. Timothy was Medevaced to Union Memorial hospital in Baltimore. His arm was repaired at the hospital and he is recovering at home. Matt and Joey were not alone, but they were the only people who knew what to do and acted. These were skills learned in the

Boy Scouts, and using them to save a life is why we teach them. Excellent work, Matt and Joey.

If you are 11 years old or finished with fifth grade you can be a Boy Scout. We meet every Monday when school is in session at Viers Mill Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Or call Mr. McGahey at 301-770-7882. Join the adventure!

Long Term Care Insurance

by John R. Supinski, RHU

What is Long Term Care? Long Term Care is the daily care required by individuals who, due to chronic illness or disability, need care for an extended period. It is the only coverage designed to pay for professional custodial care should you become disabled and unable to perform your activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, and continence, the result of an accident or illness, including Alzheimers Disease.

Why should anyone buy Long Term Care coverage? Consider the trends....care facility stays are increasing because of the advancements in medical care and medicine. The mature population is growing; all of us are living longer and the next generation will be even bigger as the baby boomers become older. Changes in the family structure are leading to more facility care stays; traditional care givers (family) are no longer available for a number of reasons: the family no longer lives in close proximity, there are fewer children to provide care, parents are having children at later stages in their lives giving them the dual role of caring for their own children and having to find care for their parents; and we live in an age of the two income family which leaves potential caregivers working.

Buying a Long Term Care policy to fit your circumstances will allow you to conserve your assets, keep you from depending on family or relatives and will give you the independence you want and the control you need to make your own decisions when care is needed. Health is not a question of "if" but "when." All of us are likely going to be unhealthy. The question becomes will you need care for a day or for years? The longer we live, the greater the risk for a care facility.

A Long Term Care policy is confusing and offers many options to choose from. Make sure you have a proper understanding of the policies and options available to you before you buy.

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The Echo publishes classified ads free for community members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes every effort to ensure the quality of goods or services offered.

TAX PREP. Don't put it off! Expert in-your-home service by retired Federal Government attorney. Call former 30-year RCA member Joseph A. Mullin, (301) 460-5803.

MOVING — MUST SELL furniture, toys, tools, book-cases, etc. Very reasonable. Call (301) 881-3586 after February 15th.

THIS END UP SOFA CUSHIONS. Good condition. Free. Call (301) 984-2579.

FOR SALE. Cross country skis and boots. (301) 230-0911.

FOR SALE Wood stove, \$300 OBO. Call (301) 231-6329.

Did You Get Your Echo?

In the event you do not receive your copy of The Echo, please call the RCA hotline (301-881-2722) and one will be delivered to you.

The next Echo will be the March 2000 issue. Look for it in early March.

**Support your Community .
Join the RCA!
Still only five dollars!**

**Note to Contributors:
The Deadline for the March 2000 issue of The Echo is February 4.**



Important Phone Numbers



Police: Non-Emergency	301-279-8000
<i>(Police Reporting Areas (PRA): Franklin, Montrose Park: #306; Westminster, Randolph Farms: #308; Randolph Hills 1st & 2nd sections #308; Randolph Hills 3rd section: #309)</i>	
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	301-279-1591
Police: Emergency	911
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3600
Animal Control	240-279-1823
Building Permits	240-777-6200
Consumer Affairs	240-777-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	301-315-4000
Department of Natural Resources	800-442-0708
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Resources	240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	240-777-0744
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3600
<i>(use this number for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)</i>	
Libraries: Hours, etc.	240-777-0002
Telephone Reference	240-777-0001
Metrotransit and Metrobus schedules & info.	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	301-279-1823
Emergencies only	301-279-1694
Volunteer Info	301-279-1026
Licensing Dept.	301-279-1249
Motor Vehicle Administration	301-948-3177
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance	240-777-7700
<i>(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)</i>	
Parking Violations	240-777-8960
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out	202-833-7500
Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)	240-777-3986
RCAHotline	301-881-2722
Recycling Info	240-777-6400
Recreation Information	240-777-6804
School Information	301-279-3391
Senior Citizens	301-468-4443
Street Light Out	240-777-2190
Transportation	240-777-2200
<i>(to report traffic signals out, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)	240-777-7433
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Tree Maintenance	240-777-2190
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-8000
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-6400



Randolph Hills, Franklin Park And Montrose Park Market Update!



Randolph Hills/Farms	1996	1997	1998	1999
Average List Price	\$158,990	\$159,154	\$161,139	\$169,756
Average Sale Price	\$155,224	\$154,371	\$156,260	\$167,950
Lowest Sale Price (RH)	\$134,000	\$116,750	\$127,500	\$102,000
Highest Sale Price (RH)	\$185,500	\$187,000	\$188,000	\$200,000
Average # Days on Market	81	97	83	47
Sales per Year	35	32	41	47



Franklin Park	1996	1997	1998	1999
Average List Price	\$173,750	\$168,800	\$180,499	\$189,727
Average Sale Price	\$169,925	\$163,845	\$176,654	\$186,764
Lowest Sale Price	\$156,000	\$147,000	\$161,500	\$169,000
Highest Sale Price	\$195,000	\$198,500	\$210,000	\$204,000
Average # Days on Market	45	98	44	21
Sales per Year	4	11	13	11



Montrose Park	1996	1997	1998	1999
Average List Price	\$172,000	\$159,467	\$197,944	\$189,300
Average Sale Price	\$162,500	\$154,333	\$197,944	\$183,333
Lowest Sale Price	\$155,000	\$145,000	\$197,944	\$171,000
Highest Sale Price	\$170,000	\$162,000	\$197,944	\$199,000
Average # Days on Market	160	196	14	27
Sales per Year	2	3	1	3



Nobody Knows the Neighborhood like Denise!

"1999 was a great year... and 2000 should be just as good. If I can assist you in selling your home or finding a new one, please give me a call... I'd be delighted to help"

Denise
Szczur
301-452-5544

Email: denise.szczur@longandfooster.com

