

# The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 55, Issue 4

January/February 2012

## New for 2012: The RCF Block Party Sponsorship Program

by Matt Tifford

The Randolph Civic Foundation is pleased to announce the new RCF Block Party Sponsorship Program. In case you haven't heard the term before, a Block Party is an event where a resident of the community, with the help and agreement of their neighbors, closes off one or more blocks of a neighborhood street to throw a big outdoor party. These events can range from simple affairs, with light refreshments and kids enjoying the freedom of riding their bikes and scooters up and down the quiet street, all the way to extravagant carnivals, with food, drink, live music -- you name it. Due to their current popularity nationwide, ideas for planning Block Parties are easily available online, with a few sample links available on the Foundation website.

Here is the process for putting together a Block Party:

- Approach your neighbors and agree on a date and time
- Plan the food and entertainment and delegate responsibilities
- Submit a completed Sponsorship Request Form (available on our website) to the Randolph Civic Foundation
- Allow up to one week for Board approval
- Upon approval, apply for a permit through the county (link available on our website)
- Request an event announcement in the Echo (optional)
- Put up flyers or deliver door to door
- After the event, submit receipts for food/non-alcohol drinks/entertainment, along with a copy of the county permit
- The Randolph Civic Foundation will reimburse up to \$150

Email [info@randolphcivicfoundation.org](mailto:info@randolphcivicfoundation.org) for more information.

## Final RCA Membership Drive Push for 2011-2012

by Dan Hoffman

We're wrapping up our 2011-2012 membership drive and we need one final push to hit our target for the year. We currently have about 400 members and by February 29th our goal is to hit 500. As we work to continually improve our neighborhood, your \$10 membership and continued participation are critical to the success of programs like the Neighborhood Watch and publications like the Echo. So please take a moment and fill out the form on page 15 in this Echo if you have not already. Please check your records and make sure you have not already paid or if you are unsure you can email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) to confirm. Also, we apologize that sometimes it takes us more than 30-45 days to deposit your check. Because of the type of account we have at our current bank, we are limited in the number of transactions we can make each month. This will be remedied by the time we do our membership drive next year, but for now we appreciate your patience. You can also renew by visiting [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) and clicking on 'Membership'. Also donate a little extra if you can. Please note that while donations to the RCA are not tax-deductible, they keep The Echo in print, and our other activities funded. Donations to the RCF are tax-deductible. The RCF supports and sponsors activities such as community beautification and local youth groups.

If for some reason you have not renewed yet, we will be conducting a targeted membership drive during the month of February. Please save us the time of calling, emailing or stopping by your house. Send in the form or renew online as soon as possible. Your neighbors thank you!

**Renew Your RCA Membership Now!**  
**The membership form is on page 15.**

## Upcoming Events

### **RCA Executive Board Meeting**

March 1st, 2012 8:00pm-9:30pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

### **RCA General Membership Meeting**

April 5th, 2012 8:00pm-9:30pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

## RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2011-2012

### OFFICERS

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Education Committee  
George Gadbois  
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Yard Sale Signs  
Lorena Moyer  
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301-938-7494

Ways and Means  
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301-770-0119

## President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

Happy New Year RCA-land! Winter in our neighborhood can sometimes feel a bit dreary. Because of all our mature trees and green space, personally I feel we are at our best in spring and fall when everything is either blooming or the leaves are colorful. Although a reasonable layer of snow can also look nice, please do be careful when navigating our neighborhood in icy conditions. With cars parked on both sides of the street the roads can be narrow, and we have an increasing number of children in our neighborhood. Also remember to clear your sidewalks in a reasonable timeframe and help others who may have trouble doing this.

At our February meeting we discussed our priorities for this year. Although this Echo will probably not be delivered to your door until after our February meeting, please know that you can approach the RCA at any time with a concern or request. We are happy to help you and guide you. Sometimes County processes are onerous and confusing. Given that we are an all-volunteer organization, we will ask you to help out as well. At any given time we are working on a dozen different neighborhood issues and appreciate new faces. Check out the March Echo for an update on our work plan for this year.

There are many challenges and opportunities on the horizon for RCA-land in the coming year. Some of these will end up in our work plan, while others are just things to be aware of. Planning for White Flint Two will begin, and this will offer us another opportunity to transform the commercial and industrial property immediately surrounding our community. The Randolph Hills Shopping Center, Loehmann's Plaza, Parklawn Drive, and Randolph Road will be areas of focus during this process. I am confident that in 7-10 years this community will be vastly changed, and for the better. Nuisance property owners and businesses that hurt our community (such as Nationwide Imports and the fortune tellers on Randolph Road) will also likely be gone if we work and plan properly. With in- *(continued on page 8)*

**RCA Telephone Number: (240)668-4722.**

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

**Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.**

The *Echo* is the official publication of the Randolph Civic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. The *Echo* is published 8 times a year and distributed free to all residents of Franklin Park, Hilltop Square, Montrose Park, Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, and Westminster. Deadline for submission of articles varies; the next deadline is noted in each issue. If you would like to send an article in for consideration, please email the article to info@randolphcivic.org.

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)

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## Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Precinct and Polling Location Change:** Precinct 4-15 (Randolph Hills), which votes at the Rocking Horse Center, was divided along Randolph Road in school board redistricting. The area north of Randolph Road will continue to vote at the Rocking Horse Center and will retain designation as Precinct 4-15. The area south of Randolph Road will be designated Precinct 4-26 and will vote at the Veirs Mill Local Park building at the intersection of Garrett Park Road and Beach Drive.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** This year MusicFest will be held the afternoon of Sunday, May 6th. Please hold this date on your calendar and join us for another wonderful event. All funds raised through MusicFest benefit the RCF neighborhood beautification program. Details will be available in the next edition of the Echo.
- **Don't forget to renew your RCA membership!** If you misplaced the form from the last issue, we included it again in this issue on page 15. You can also go to [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) and renew right now! Please renew before February 29th.

**Do you have a quick bite of news you'd like to share with the neighborhood? Please feel free to submit a few sentences to [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) by the deadlines posted on page 11 of this issue. Thank you!**

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## RCA-Land Welcome Wagon Rides Again

by Alison Dewey

"Hello! Welcome to the neighborhood!" is what you might have heard from the RCA Welcome Wagon if you were new to the neighborhood in the past two years. We are a small group of friendly faces that have eagerly greeted nearly 80 new residents with home baked treats, information about the RCA and its surrounding area, and best of all, welcoming faces. Moving into a new neighborhood can be hectic, lonely, and honestly a lot of hard work, so a few of us got together with the goal of helping ease that transition. Extending a handshake, a smile, and some encouragement to be part of the neighborhood civic association can mean a lot to a new resident. Typically we are met with a look of surprise and great appreciation and leave after a few minutes of pleasantries. Often we depart the doorstep with the home baked goods already devoured, especially when we catch our new neighbors in the midst of a new homeowner's project such as painting, renovating, landscaping, or something similar.

The group gets together every 3-4 months on a weekend afternoon and covers an average of a dozen houses in a two hour timeframe. The list of new neighbors is gathered with help from Denise Szczur, a local real estate agent specializing in RCA-land sales. Traveling from one house to the next is typically done on foot and is a great way to experience the neighborhood. To many of the group's members, the neighborhood has gotten a lot smaller since becoming a part of the Welcome Wagon. Walking gives us a great sense of the layout and the different terrain of RCA land. From Waverly-Schuylkill Park, the new community garden, Rock Creek Trail, to Randolph Hills Park and more, there is much to explore while visiting new residents and there is much information to share with them.

Each new resident is given a one-page leaflet filled with interesting information and tidbits, such as the neighborhood wine club, garden club, and dog club; the variety of transportation choices (Metro, MARC, bus, bike trails); nearby shopping options; the nearest post office; plus tips on how to get involved with the RCA.

The Welcome Wagon is a fun and simple way of staying in touch with our neighborhood and regaining some of the face-to-face conversation that often gets replaced by today's technology. We are hoping our efforts result in a friendlier and more active neighborhood. So if you are a new neighbor or if you have been here for years, welcome to the neighborhood! We hope to see you at the next RCA meeting to continue the conversation.

Want to be a part of the Welcome Wagon? Contact Alison Dewey, [sabaly@hotmail.com](mailto:sabaly@hotmail.com). We'd love to have you.



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# December General Membership Meeting Minutes

by *Christiana Drapkin*

1. Call to order: 8:05 p.m.
2. Guest Presentation: Lerner Enterprises Present Plan for the White Flint Mall Property

These are the highlights followed by some Q&A:

  - \* White Flint mall property is just over 45 acres or about 10% of the overall sector.
  - \* Plan will consist of a grid of streets with new roads
  - \* The mall as it is currently known will be torn down. Only several existing structures will remain.
  - \* Buildings along the Pike will be as tall as 200 feet, but buildings closer to the residential will not exceed 50 feet.
  - \* All phases of the Lerner plan consist of about 2400 new housing units and 5.2m sq feet
  - \* There will be a central piazza of 2.1 acres and Lerner is donating an additional 2.5 acres for a public park
  - \* The plan will be built out in 4 phases

When will Nebel Extended connect straight through from south to north? Not until Combined Properties who own White Flint Plaza redevelop.

When will this happen? County processes will take about two years but after that it will depend on the market development.

Will all of the retail be shut down during construction? Unknown. They will work with existing tenants.

What about dust and particulate matter during construction? They will take all precautions.
3. Guest Presentation: Community Gardens Update:

Ursula SabiaSukinik, the Community Garden Coordinator of Montgomery County Department of Parks, Horticultural, Forestry, and Environmental Education Division gave an overview of our Rocking Horse Community Garden. The garden, located on Macon Road, next to the Rocking Horse former grade school, was established a year ago, on property leased from the Department of Education. This past growing season proved successful, and many gardeners have renewed their plots. Half of the garden plots are available now for seasonal rental for neighbors and residents county-wide. Applications will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis. The plots are either 200 or 400 sq ft in size. For more information go to [www.MontgomeryParks.org](http://www.MontgomeryParks.org) or call the new community garden coordinator at (240) 876-7598.
4. Old Business:
  - a) George Gadbois, of our Education Committee, gave a Wheaton HS modernization update, reporting that the project might be back on track, after the big show of support by community members, parents, teachers and students at the previous month's "Listen &

Learn" meeting with the new superintendent. The Garrett Park school modernization is nearing completion, and the work at Walter Johnson HS is almost done.

b) Matt Tifford reported on Quiet Zone.

We formed a Quiet Zone committee of Randolph Hills residents, reaching out to Garrett Park residents, as well as our county representatives and rail executives. Our objective is to reduce the blasting of the train horns at the crossings, and to examine possible crossing upgrade measures. We are planning to get a stakeholder meeting together in January, and need more active participants.

5. New business:

RCF successfully sponsored an Eagle Scout project, which resulted in the installation of our new signs in five locations. RCF paid for all the signs with your donations. The Scouts did the installation. It was a great job, and we send a big thank you to all the scouts and volunteers involved. A new Eagle Scout project will be installation of park benches for pedestrians in the area. We welcome suggestions for suitable locations for placement of the benches. The Scouts held another council-wide food drive which yielded 77,000 pounds of food collected, an increase of 10,000 pounds. We've been holding food drives for over 20 years. Thank you all for your generosity! The Boy Scouts held their annual Christmas tree sale on Saturdays and Sundays, on the corner of Beach & Knowles.

We held our third year of Neighborhood Caroling on Monday evenings in December, organized by Christiana Drapkin. We welcomed the volunteers, families, friends who joined in the joyful noise.

6. Standards Business and Reports

a) Treasurer's report tabled. We are in good standing. Influx of membership contributions are close to target, around 400 memberships. We want to hit at least 500 household memberships. Please renew and support our neighborhood efforts with your contributions and extra donations.

Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote.

b) Committee Chair Reports:

Environmental Report: You may have noticed when walking through the neighborhood, that many concrete blocks on the sidewalks were heaving up. Instead of digging up and replacing the entire slab, the County is paying to shave off the edges that were jutting up, thereby reducing a tripping hazard. This improvement method came at considerable cost savings.

Public Safety Committee: Good news: The car-jacker at Wheaton Westfield has been apprehended by police. Don't forget our Neighborhood Watch! Please contact our membership volunteer, Mara Greengrass, to join and sign up for various functions with our Neighborhood Watch.

RCA meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

## Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster

The Troop 1083 family would like to extend 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,



*Starting to take shape*

and to greet old friends who stop by just to say hello. We truly appreciate the support we receive from the community!

And we're not bashful about giving some of that support right back. As an example, back on December 10th, Jason Beam led band of intrepid volunteers in completing his ambitious and well-planned Eagle Scout service project. Jason and his work crew assembled and installed a handsome footbridge across a stream on a scenic hiker/equestrian trail in Little Bennett Regional Park. It was a clear but cold day and it took a pretty good hike (with some respectable altitude changes) just to get to the worksite. Heavy rains before the project gave the ground a pudding-like consistency. The bridge is sturdy enough to support horses and riders, so it's quite substantial—it took effective leadership and a lot of effort from a large work crew to put to together and get it in place. Check out the pictures!

If you were in the neighborhood on December 18th, chances are pretty good you heard the

sirens of St. Nick's fire truck. (Every year on the Sunday before Christmas, Santa gives the North Pole toy shop elves the day off, so he can visit his friends in RCA-land one last time before his big night). If you heard Santa's sirens, I bet you saw him too! Santa's other elves, the scouts of Troop 1083 and the Webelos Scouts of Packs 1081 and 493, were on hand to give out candy canes to all the good boys and girls in the neighborhood.

That same evening, after Santa flew back to the North Pole, the Troop enjoyed its annual post-fire truck ride Holiday Party. In Troop 1083 tradition, the potluck meal was spectacular. As the Troop grows, the party gets bigger and bigger every year!

In January the scouts will be putting their winter weather preparation and scout skills to work at the Klondike Derby campout at Little Bennett State Park, and in February they will enjoy the annual skiing/snowboarding trip to Ski Liberty in Pennsylvania.

Just a reminder, the Troop is now accepting mulch orders for (free!) delivery in mid-March. There's an order form in this issue of the ECHO. Don't let it slip your mind – order today!

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).



*Jason Beam on his finished bridge*

## Open Enrollment for Community Garden Plots starts February 1st

by Christiana Drapkin

If you'd like to join your neighbors gardening on your own plot at the Rocking Horse Community Garden, enrollment is now open, and applications are taken on a first-come-first-serve basis. There are other community gardens county-wide; the next closest one is Parklawn Garden, behind Franklin Park, accessible from Veirs Mill Road.

Here is what to do: The website [www.Parks-CommunityGardens.org](http://www.Parks-CommunityGardens.org) is where you will find the application, instructions for applying, and the conditions of use for the Community Garden plots. First, you will need to obtain a ParkPass before you can apply for and rent a garden plot from Montgomery County Parks. ParkPass information is located at the Parks Community Garden site, and you can do that now. They will begin accepting new applications on February 1, 2012.

Please note that ParkPass processes all applications as they are received. Ursula SabiaSukinik is no longer with the Community Gardens program. Her successor, Pat Lynch, started the job in January, and her email is [patricia.lynch@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:patricia.lynch@montgomeryparks.org). Her phone number is 240-876-7598.

Apply now to secure your plot in one of our local community gardens!

## Update on Quiet Zone Initiative

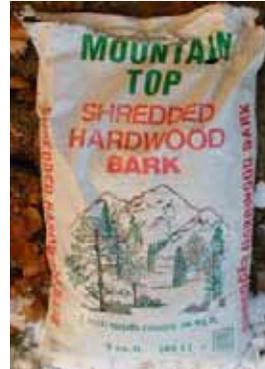
by Jenn Zussman

On January 5, 2012, several key stakeholders gathered to reopen the discussion regarding the implementation of a "quiet zone" located at the Garrett Park train station. The "quiet zone" would eliminate the need for trains to sound their horn while approaching the crossing at the pedestrian walkway. We request that CSX sufficiently improve their safety devices to warn pedestrians and others that a train is approaching, without resorting to horn blowing. The meeting included Dan Hoffman, president of the RCA, Ken Hartman, Regional Director of Montgomery County and Jack Mandel, a Garrett Park representative.

Mr. Hartman reviewed where this conversation was left when it was tabled about a year ago. Collectively, the group decided the first step is to get CSX involved to find out exactly what safety modifications are needed for the crossing in order to eliminate the need for the horn. We are in the process of scheduling our discussion with the CSX contact, and once we do, the group will determine how to involve the County and State in this project.

If you are interested in assisting with this effort, please contact Jenn Zussman at [jennzussman@yahoo.com](mailto:jennzussman@yahoo.com).

## Troop 1083 2012 Spring Mulch Sale



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*contact Dave Talbott @ 301-933-0048*

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## RCA President's Message

(continued from page 2)

creased access to transit, better linkages to the heart of White Flint, and attractive retail and residential on our borders you will see home values increase.

White Flint Two is also our next opportunity to take another look at Rocking Horse. I cannot imagine the experience my family is having at Viers Mill Elementary School (VMES) to be any better. The principal is amazing and the teachers we've had so far are top notch. They've virtually closed the achievement gap at VMES and are slated to get an addition in a couple of years that will address overcrowding. Plus class sizes are dramatically smaller than at other neighboring elementary schools (18 kids in a class as opposed to 28). So whereas VMES can safely be considered one of the best elementary schools in the County, I know a community elementary school at Rocking Horse would be an asset for the neighborhood. We will again investigate this opportunity during White Flint Two planning.

So this is an exciting time to live in RCA-land and a good time to get involved. You'll see in this issue that we're looking for nominations to serve on the RCA Board, but we also always need volunteers too. Beautification efforts, advocating for the neighborhood, putting together the Echo and organizing events all take time. Whatever your skill, language, or interest, we can definitely find a place for you in our effort to continually improve our neighborhood.

## 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:  
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5200 – 5290 Randolph Road, Rockville MD

Boston Market	(301) 984-0990
El Patio	(301) 231-9225
Chuck E. Cheese	(301) 468-2491
Congressional Bank	(301) 984-6000
Dollar Tree	(301) 231-6097
Lifestyle Spa	(301) 468-9770
Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
Royal Martial Arts	(301) 770-1007
Safeway	(301) 770-3665
Sherwin Williams	(301) 984-7124
Subway	(301) 881-4672
West Marine	(301) 230-0945



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## County Laws for Residential Neighborhoods Reminder

By Mark Nensel

In a prominent posting on the Montgomery County website, espousing "Being Good Neighbors: Maintaining the Residential Character of County Neighborhoods", new County Laws regulating certain aspects of residential homes went into effect last year.

Here's a quick refresher course for the Randolph Hills community – a reminder of we should and should not be doing in RCA-Land.

**Home-Based Businesses:** County residents can operate businesses out of their homes, subject to certain restrictions. Three types of home-based businesses are allowed: no-impact (no county registration is required), registered (requires a permit from the Department of Permitting Services), and medical practitioners (requires county registration). According to the website, "the person who performs the occupation must live in the house. On-site employees are limited to one in a 24-hour period. The number of visits to a no-impact business is limited to five customers/clients a week. A registered business is allowed no more than five customers/clients a day or 20 a week. On-site parking for home occupations is limited to two spaces. Lawn maintenance companies operating as home occupations are allowed only one single-axle trailer or truck at a time.

**Parking for Heavy Commercial and Recreational Vehicles:** Heavy commercial vehicles and recreational vehicles are prohibited from parking on residential streets, except temporary parking for loading and unloading. Heavy commercial vehicles are defined as follows: a gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds; a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than one ton; more than 21 feet long (including any object loaded onto the vehicle); or are more

than eight feet high (including racks, but not antennas). These vehicles are prohibited from parking off-street in residential neighborhoods. Recreational vehicles include motor homes and trailers, including those used to transport other leisure equipment. One recreational vehicle per household can be parked off-street on available surfaced area in residential neighborhoods.

**Parking Off-Street:** Vehicles parked in front yards must be on surfaced areas. There is an off-street parking limit of one light commercial vehicle. Inoperable or unregistered vehicles are not allowed anywhere on the property."

**Paving Front Yards:** For R-40 and R-60 residential zones (under which much of Randolph Hills' homes fall, i.e. a minimum lot area of 6,000 square feet for each dwelling), the limit is 35% of their front yard or 320 feet, whichever is greater. On major thoroughfares, the limit is 50%, or 320 square feet. Only one vehicle is allowed for every 160 square feet of paved surface.

Enforcement of these laws is primarily instigated by complaint. Home occupations, the paving of front yards and off-street parking issues are regulated by the Department of Permitting Services. Unregistered and inoperable vehicle issues fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs. On-street parking complaints should be directed to the Police Department. According to the website, "typically, for Permitting Services and Housing & Community Affairs, an inspector investigates the complaint and issues a Notice of Violation if he or she finds just cause. If the violation is not corrected and/or dismissed within 30 days, a citation may be issued accompanied by a \$500 fine. On-street parking violators can be ticketed by the Police."

For further information, and a link to the enabling legislation, visit: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mc-gtmpl.asp?url=/content/pio/goodneighbors/index.asp>



# Call 311 To Get It Done!

**311 is Montgomery County's phone number for non-emergency government information and services.** For emergency calls, residents should continue to call 911.

A new website is available 24/7 at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311).

### Phone Numbers for MC311

In Montgomery County, call 311 ■ Outside of Montgomery County, call 240-777-0311  
The TTY number is 240-773-3556

**Reminder: Call 911 for emergencies**

### Website:

**[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311)**

# Venture Crew 1083 Update

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

Over the holidays, the Venture Crew enjoyed participating in activities that one might accurately refer to as...holiday-themed.

As in previous years, the Crew participated in the fire truck ride with Santa. Crew members are seasoned veterans of this annual holiday tradition. As senior elves, Crew members took the morning shift (along with some older Boy Scouts) for delivering candy canes to local residents.

As if that wasn't enough, one fine post-solstice evening in December, the Crew gathered and went Christmas caroling. Just like a Currier and Ives print or a Norman Rockwell painting, only this was the real thing – a 3-D, flesh-and-blood serenade for the neighborhood with songs of holiday cheer. Now that's old-school!

Also in December, the Crew designed and built a brand new customized chariot/sled for use in the Klondike Derby. If you've forgotten, the Klondike is a midwinter campout. The crew competes in outdoors, camping, and first-aid skills against other crews and scout troops. Odds-makers say Crew 1083 is the favorite to bring home the trophy as the National Capital Area Council's top performer, as they did in 2010.

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 21. Crew meetings are Monday nights 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.

## Call for RCA Board Nominations

*A Message from the RCA*

It's that time of year again, and we could use some more volunteers to help us run this great organization. This is the official call for nominations as required by our by-laws. All Board positions are up for election except for Treasurer and the two Director positions held by Matt Tifford and Brian Hooker. Please let us know if you are interested. Nominations must be received by any Board member before the RCA meeting on March 1st or can be sent to [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org). The slate of candidates will be approved by the Board at the March meeting and the membership vote will occur at the April meeting.

### Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2011-2012 Issue year are:

- March 2012..... February 17th
- April 2012..... March 2th
- May 2012..... April 13th
- June/July/Aug 2012..... May 11th



### Important Websites

Randolph Civic Association	<a href="http://randolphcivic.org">http://randolphcivic.org</a>
Montgomery County	<a href="http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov">www.montgomerycountymd.gov</a>
Montgomery County Parks	<a href="http://www.montgomeryparks.org">www.montgomeryparks.org</a>
Montgomery County Schools	<a href="http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org">www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org</a>
Washington Metro Area Transit Authority	<a href="http://www.wmata.com">www.wmata.com</a>



### Important Phone Numbers

Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	240-773-6070
Park Police: Emergency	301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuykill Parks)</i>	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	240-773-6411
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6260
Consumer Affairs and Protection	240-777-3636
Crisis Center Hotline (24 hours)	240-777-4000
Department of Natural Resources	877-463-6497
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Services	240-777-3000
Fire Marshall (Non-Emergency)	240-777-2457
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3785
<i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Locations, Accounts, Etc.	240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus (wmata.com)	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society (Non-Emer)	240-773-5960
Montgomery County Humane Society (Emer)	240-773-5900
Motor Vehicle Admin (mva.maryland.gov)	800-950-1682
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Report Power Outages	877-737-2662
PEPCO: Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Pollution Complaint (Dumping, Noise, Burning)	240-777-7700
Post Office: Rollins Ave, Rockville	301-231-5973
Montgomery County Public Schools K-12	301-309-6277
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept)	240-777-1245
RCA Hotline	240-668-4722
Recreation Classes	240-777-6870
Recycling Info	240-777-6410
Senior Programs (55+)	240-777-4925
Street Light Out	240-777-6000
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Tree Maintenance	240-777-6000
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-4001
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-7700

*If any of these websites or phone numbers are incorrect, please email [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) or call the RCA Hotline at 240-668-4722.*

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## The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received November 8th,  
2011 through January 22nd, 2012



*General Note: The RCA gets a lot of calls about code violations (untagged cars, tall grass, etc). Please note that phone numbers for agencies that handle such matters are published on the website. You don't have to leave your name or phone number. The RCA is here to help everyone keep our neighborhood as orderly as possible, so please use these numbers. Please call the RCA as well. We appreciate knowing and learning about our community.*

11-13-11 (Sun) at 10:35am. Not Anonymous. Caller lives on Schuylkill Road and put out a bag of groceries yesterday, the 12th, for the Boy Scouts to pick up. Caller put them out at about 8:45am and, noon passed, and no one ever came by. Caller wondered if they changed the date or missed caller's house.

11-21-11 (Mon) at 7:49am. Anonymous. Caller was going to work this morning and was on a 2-way residential street in Franklin Park. A gentleman driving on the other side of the street didn't give Caller enough room to pass because was driving in the center of the road. Other driver pushed Caller up against the gutter where there are leaves and, in the leaves, was a cornerstone of brick from, perhaps, a flower garden. So, in the gutter were 6 to 8 pieces of brick stuck together but the Caller couldn't see them because they were stuck in the leaves. Caller ran over the bricks and destroyed caller's front left tire, wheel, strut, front end alignment and hubcap necessitating Caller being late for work and having an estimated \$1500 worth of damage to car. The other driver waved as if to say, Good Morning, Chum. The other driver didn't stop or render aid and had to have seen Caller's car jump up in the air. The other driver was in violation of several traffic ordinances and Caller is in violation of having caller's sensibilities abused. Caller would have moved over if caller was him, there was plenty of room to move out. The other driver could have moved over 3-4 feet easy and Caller could have avoided the gutter. Once you do this to a car, it's never the same again. This car has never been wrecked and it makes Caller mad.

11-21-11 (Mon) at 10:41am. Anonymous. Caller would like to compliment the people who did the signs for Randolph Hills, etcetera. The only one that caller is disappointed in is the one in Franklin Park. It is not, as far as caller can see, as nice of a sign as the ones that were just recently put up. And, also it's different which makes us look like we're not even part of the commu-

nity. The other signs are very good. Caller is just very disappointed, and has been disappointed since the one in Franklin Park was put up.

12-3-11 (Sat) at 2:24pm. Not Anonymous. Received via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Dear Welcome Wagon, Thanks so much for such warm welcoming to my new neighborhood, the cookies and the information! I hope to see all of you on the next meeting to thank you personally and learn more about the area and the community.

12-3-11 (Sat) at 4:19pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is from Galena Road and sent a check to the RCA on September 19th that has never cleared. If it's just slow, that's OK. But, if you never got it, Caller would appreciate a call. Thank you! *[RCA Note: Because of the type of account we have with our bank, we are limited in the number of transactions we can have each month. So we end up having to spread out our deposits during the membership drive. This will be changed prior to the membership drive next year.]*

12-5-11 (Mon) at 6:42pm. Not Anonymous. Caller sent a check in on September 18th for membership and it's now December and the check has not been cashed. Please call with an update.

12-9-11 (Fri) at 1:48pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is from Galena Road and, once again, Galena Road didn't get the Echo. Caller doesn't know what they have against us but we would be delighted to receive it! Thank you very much. *[RCA Note: We will follow up with the Boy Scouts on this matter.]*

12-11-11 (Sun) at 9:15am. Anonymous. Caller lives on Schuylkill Road and, some years back, the street-light was out right in front of caller's house. It took 17 calls to PEPCO and one month to get it repaired. Last week, the same light went out. Caller called PEPCO and reminded them of the 17 call repair job and they were out the very next day at 11:30pm repairing that light.

12-17-11 (Sat) at 9:13am. Not Anonymous. Caller lives at 115xx Ashley Drive and, unfortunately, woke up this morning to find that someone had stolen all of caller's electronic, lighted Christmas decorations out of the front yard. Caller wanted to report it and tell everyone to be on the lookout for people stealing decorations out of yards. It's not very festive of them. Thanks and Merry Christmas!

12-17-11 (Sat) at 9:20am. Same Caller. Caller just called to report their stolen decorations. Caller just walked to a next door neighbor's who also had lit animal decorations and someone vandalized his decora-

tions and seemed to try to steal one. Someone must have come through the neighborhood last night and was either stealing or destroying people's yard decorations so Caller wanted to report that, as well.

12-22-11 (Thurs) at 11:20pm. Not Anonymous. Received via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Has anyone ever noticed that the street signs at Schuylkill and Wyaconda have Schuylkill misspelled? The "l" following the "y" was left out and is spelled Schuykill instead of Schuylkill. I know it has been like that forever. Worth getting fixed? [RCA Note: For fixes like this the best number to call is 311. At that number you can submit a request to the County for these types of small fixes.]

12-28-11 (Wed) at 9:35pm. Not Anonymous. Received via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Good Evening, Over the Christmas Holiday, a 50-pound chain-saw carved bear was stolen from the front of our house (which is fenced.) I am curious if other residents have had issues with theft of these sorts of things from their houses? Does anyone track petty theft like this? Thank you.

1-1-12 (Sun) 9:46am. Not Anonymous. Caller just wanted to mention a jerk of a neighbor in Randolph Hills that decided to fire shots and set off fireworks for half an hour to celebrate the New Year. Not only was it inconsiderate and obnoxious; it was illegal. And, caller guesses he didn't have enough fun at that time so he decided to do it again at 4:30am. Caller thinks this is an awful way to start off the New Year with your neighbors.

1-15-12 (Sun) at 12:42am. Not Anonymous. Received via Info@RandolphCivic.org. I have been notified that my dying County strip tree and stump will be removed. I am wondering if anyone has any experience as to which tree choices have done best and worst in RCA land. I like the idea of a flowering tree and am leaning toward a Redbud or Serviceberry. I also considered the Yellowwood. I am open to any options that work well in The Hills, flowering or otherwise.

## **FALL CAR CARE SPECIAL!**

**10% off any Purchase**

(please present this ad)

### **Automotive Parts Plus**

4960 Wyaconda Rd Rockville, MD 20852

**301-424-2010**

Hours: 8:00AM- 6:00PM, M-F

8:00AM- 2:00PM Sat

Hablamos Español

## **R C F NEWS**

### **President's Message**

by Matt Tifford

The Randolph Civic Foundation is pleased to announce our Annual Meeting and Spaghetti Dinner to be held Thursday, May 3rd from 6:30-8:30 at the Viers Mill Rec Center. This yearly event is a family favorite, and free! In addition to great food and live musical entertainment, this event is a great opportunity to find out how you can help make our community an exciting and fulfilling place to live. You'll notice that I prefer here to use the term community, rather than neighborhood. To me, a neighborhood is just a collection of homes. Our area is full of such places, where people come and go, rarely interacting with the people next door. But a community is much more than that, the result of the combined effort of it's residents. The elements that transform a neighborhood into a community, often clubs, social events and beautification efforts, come from a common desire and motivation to make these things happen. Communities don't just happen by themselves. However, initiating a community activity can seem like a daunting undertaking, particularly if one has never been involved with one before. We at the Randolph Civic Foundation want you to know that we are here to help! Educational outreach is one of the pillars of the Randolph Civic Foundation's charter. The primary way we have fulfilled this part of our purpose to date has been through sponsorship of school activities and Scouting groups. As you will read elsewhere in this issue, we are now adding Block Party sponsorship to that list. However, there are many other activities that we can help with, don't be afraid to ask. If you have ideas for a club or an event, or if you have a class you would like to teach right here in the neighborhood, let us know. We may be able to help you get your idea off the ground. Hope to see you at the meeting!

### **RCF Executive Committee for 2011-2012**

#### **OFFICERS**

**President**  
Matt Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

**Vice President**  
Lindsay Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-775-9807

**Secretary**  
Bob Walker  
11813 Ashley Drive  
amorworks1@aol.com

#### **Treasurer**

Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957

#### **Directors**

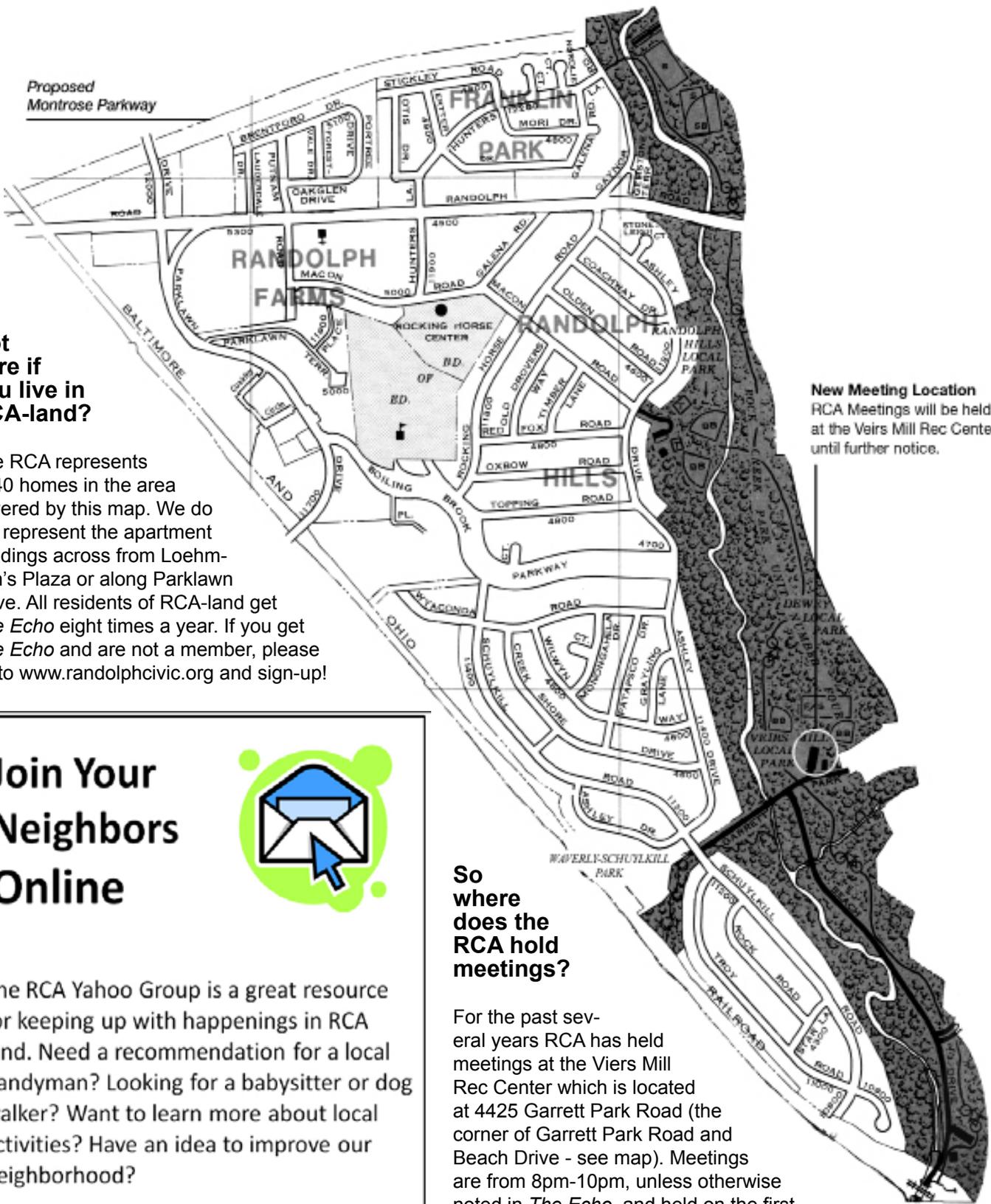
Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

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



**Not sure if you live in RCA-land?**

The RCA represents 1340 homes in the area covered by this map. We do not represent the apartment buildings across from Loehmann's Plaza or along Parklawn Drive. All residents of RCA-land get *The Echo* eight times a year. If you get *The Echo* and are not a member, please go to [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) and sign-up!

**New Meeting Location**  
RCA Meetings will be held at the Viers Mill Rec Center until further notice.

## 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/>

**So where does the RCA hold meetings?**

For the past several years RCA has held meetings at the Viers Mill Rec Center which is located at 4425 Garrett Park Road (the corner of Garrett Park Road and Beach Drive - see map). Meetings are from 8pm-10pm, unless otherwise noted in *The Echo*, and held on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings are not held during the summer and are optional in January. The next general membership meeting is December 1st and we will be discussing neighborhood priorities for the coming year.

# 2011-2012 RCA Membership

Please return this form to:  
The Randolph Civic Association, P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD 20852

As a resident of a home within the boundaries of the Randolph Civic Association (RCA), we request that you renew your membership. Your membership dues allow us to publish the Echo, beautify, protect and advocate for our community. Please fill out the following form by printing clearly:

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

All email addresses and all name/contact information are kept entirely private.  
RCA does not rent, lease, sell or divulge any email addresses, names, or phone numbers.

Description	Amount
2011-2012 RCA Membership Dues	10.00
Additional RCA Donation <small>(Supports publication of the Echo, advocacy, community events, and other civic improvements)</small>	
Additional Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF) Donation <small>(Supports activities such as youth groups, neighborhood beautification, and education - This amount is tax-deductible)</small>	
RCF Sign and Entrance Beautification Fund <small>(A targeted donation for improvements to our neighborhood entrances - This amount is tax-deductible)</small>	
<b>Total:</b>	

Please note: Make checks payable to the Randolph Civic Association.

Would you be interested in helping as a volunteer?  
 Yes, please contact me by email  
 Yes, please contact me by phone

¿Quisiera tener mas noticias en español?  
 ¡Sí!

**You Can Also Renew or Join Online!**  
**Save yourself a stamp and save RCA volunteers some time. Renew or Join online!**  
**Just go to**  
**[www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)**  
**right now and click on "Membership" to renew or join.**

## CLASSIFIEDS

The Echo publishes classified ads free for RCA members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes no claims or guarantees regarding the quality of goods or services sold.

**WATERCOLOR CLASSES.** Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, informal classes for adults. All levels welcome, including complete beginners. Held in teacher's Victorian home. Martha Seigel, MFA, the American University, 27 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

**BEST BUDDIES PETSITTING SERVICE:** Going out of town? Need your dog to be walked daily? Have a cat that needs to be boarded? Well we are a home away from home providing the best loving care for your pet depending on your needs. We board cats and dogs and we do not crate them. We have a fenced-in quarter acre lot right here in Randolph Hills! Dogs get two 30 minute walks daily and all animals get breakfast and dinner; we provide the food! Between walks, there is

plenty of playtime. Prices reasonable and our schedule is setup to meet your needs. Pickup and drop-off service is provided if needed. Any medications can and will be administered. We are bonded and insured. Call Danny Beigel at: 240.654.0694 or go to [www.bestbuddiespetservice.com](http://www.bestbuddiespetservice.com) email us at [bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com](mailto:bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com)

**CRAFTSMAN 10-INCH TABLE SAW;** 3450 rpm speed, 110 or 230v capacitor motor, 360-degree arm rotation; original owner (RCA member since about 1960); minimal usage by owner; saw develops 2 hp; auto friction lock; elect-magnetic brake; operating/maintenance manual included; 180-degree yoke swivel; 10-inch blade; 26 x 36" hardboard table; key lock; overload protector; no belts or gears; anti-kickback device; sawdust discharge; permanently-lubricated bearings; eleven (11) basic setups (crosscuts, routing, etc); Sears current retail price (NOT including oper. manual or steel table) \$799; PRICE: \$199 including table (cash); CONTACT JIM to inspect in RCA area: [jimbo511@verizon.net](mailto:jimbo511@verizon.net)



## Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park 2011 Market Review!



<u>Randolph Hills</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Average List Price	\$443,736	\$433,882	\$353,967	\$313,250	\$329,885	\$315,515
Average Sale Price	\$441,028	\$424,703	\$339,295	\$306,915	\$326,282	\$308,744
Lowest Sale Price	\$368,000	\$315,000	\$220,000	\$219,900	\$225,018	\$175,000
Highest Sale Price	\$505,000	\$519,000	\$437,000	\$370,000	\$400,000	\$440,000
Average # Days on Mkt	64	89	95	61	41	61
Sales per Year	58	29	25	30	33	29

<u>Franklin Park</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Average List Price	\$458,686	\$452,684	\$374,500	\$358,700	\$369,417	\$341,500
Average Sale Price	\$454,000	\$448,129	\$366,000	\$358,725	\$360,833	\$327,257
Lowest Sale Price	\$425,000	\$430,000	\$333,000	\$335,000	\$345,000	\$290,000
Highest Sale Price	\$522,000	\$465,000	\$399,000	\$400,000	\$370,000	\$379,900
Average # Days on Mkt	80	105	102	25	35	64
Sales per Year	7	7	2	4	3	7

<u>Montrose Park</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Average List Price	\$499,000	\$486,600	\$404,475	\$365,667	-	-
Average Sale Price	\$489,000	\$460,000	\$370,000	\$362,333	-	-
Lowest Sale Price	\$489,000	\$430,000	\$350,000	\$302,000	-	-
Highest Sale Price	\$489,000	\$479,000	\$415,000	\$395,000	-	-
Average # Days on Mkt	16	103	29	10	-	-
Sales per Year	2	3	4	3	0	0

<u>Randolph Farms</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Average List Price	\$520,580	\$550,000	\$435,267	\$266,633	\$329,000	-
Average Sale Price	\$527,160	\$535,000	\$423,967	\$271,633	\$328,667	-
Lowest Sale Price	\$405,000	\$535,000	\$395,000	\$245,000	\$247,000	-
Highest Sale Price	\$695,900	\$535,000	\$469,000	\$319,900	\$370,000	-
Average # Days on Mkt	47	104	171	110	21	-
Sales per Year	5	1	3	3	3	0



**Denise  
SZCZUR**

**301-452-5544**



*Happy New Year!*



*Long and Foster Realtors  
6000 Executive Boulevard, North Bethesda, Md 20852  
(O) 301-468-0606 (C) 301-452-5544*

*email: Denise.Szczur@Inf.com*



*"Professional Service with a Personal Touch"*

