

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 51, Issue 5

March 2008

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President's Message

by Mike Saunders

As I write this message, I'm listening to the radio and it appears that some silly ground hog up in the western Pennsylvania Mountains has declared we are due for another six weeks of winter for the area. OK, I'm game. That means that I might still have six weeks left for skiing and other cold weather pursuits. Might as well make the best of it. Lets see.... the weather man says we are going to have a warm spell for the next couple of days. What was I trying to remember that I would do outside if we got a warm spell for a few days? Oh well, it will come to me soon after the thaw is over.

Last week I noticed that during the evening a lot of ice was forming on my sidewalk after the sun went down. I attributed it to just the snow melting but by Friday, there was no snow left to melt on the hill next to the house and I was still seeing a lot of water running down the sidewalk. That means it was time for a little detective work. I found my neighbor's hose in his back yard had sprung a leak and by now a pretty good leak too. The water was running between our houses, down the hill and right on to my sidewalk. I tried for several days to keep the ice chopped and removed but every evening it would build back up again and provide ample opportunity for the school children to try their luck with a slide down the sidewalk on the way to the bus stop. I was becoming quite worried because we have a lot of people walking on the sidewalks and having a glare of ice on my walk was a potential problem. Anyway, the leak stopped, the walk dried up

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2008, 8:00 p.m

Guest speaker:

Andrew Frank from M-NCPPC



RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2008, 8:00 p.m

New Meeting Location!

RCA Meetings will be held at the
Veirs Mill Rec Center (4425 Garrett Park Rd)
until further notice.

Meetings are held 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 meeting.

Guest Speaker for the March 6 General Meeting:

Andrew Frank from M-NCPPC. Mr. Frank will be talking about the Streambed Restoration project in Waverly-Schuykill Park.

Spring is coming! Make plans now for the RCA Yard Sale!

The Spring RCA Yard Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 10, 2008** at Loehmann's Plaza. Mark your calendars!

See page 16 for details!



RCA Executive Committee for 2007-2008

OFFICERS

President

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Vice President

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

2nd Vice President

Dan Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-938-7494

Secretary

Kevin Kline
4808 Randolph Road
301-230-1486

Treasurer

Dell Pillers/Cline
11403 Ashley Drive
301-984-7783

Directors

Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Frank Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

Matthew Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Echo Editor

Eileen White
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301-984-2579

Echo Advertising

Mauro Biondo
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Membership

John Kehoe
4814 Red Fox Road
301-231-4933

Environment

Matt Tifford
11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(continued)

Education

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Yard Sale Signs

Lorena Segura
4802 Macon Road
301-984-8727

Special Projects

Kim and Cary Williams
4710 Topping Road
301-881-4554

Randolph Civic Webmaster

Karen Helfert
11429 Ashley Drive
301-468-0236

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Scout Leader, Troop 1083

Dave Talbott
12104 Foley Street
Silver Spring, MD 20902
301-933-0048

Cub Master, Pack 1081

Sandra Kimball
13504 Coachlamp Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-603-9078

Scout Liaison

Frank Rossomondo
15133 Vantage Hill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-598-5772

Scout Unit Commissioner

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Brownie Leader, Troop 1028

Leora Hernandez
11814 Dewey Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-933-0460

Girl Scout Leader, Troop 2138

Deanne Marino
11129 Schuylkill Road
301-560-4840

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:
Kevin Kline, Matthew Shore, Eileen White, Richard Zierdt
www.montgomerycivic.org

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):
Councilman: Roger Berliner 240-777-7828
email: Councilmember:berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov
Mr. Berliner's aides: Thanh Tran, Cindy Gibson, Karen Williams, Rebecca Lord

Councilmember: Nancy Floreen 240-777-7959
email: Councilmember:floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov
Ms. Floreen's aides: Merle Steiner, Joyce McCaffrey, Jocelyn Rawat

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive: Ike Leggett 240-777-2500

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

Maryland Legislative District 18 (representing all of RCA):

Senator: Richard Madaleno 301-858-3137

Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181

Al Carr 301-858-3638

Jeffrey Waldstreicher 301-858-3130

Maryland General Assembly Website: <http://mlis.state.md.us>

Montgomery County Delegation Office:

All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8:

Christopher Van Hollen 202-225-5341

email: chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate:

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654

Benjamin Cardin 202-224-4524

Election Precinct:

04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 240-777-8500

751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20851

www.777vote.org

Maryland State Board of Elections: www.elections.state.md.us

Governor Martin O'Malley

Office of the Governor

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-974-3591

governor@gov.state.md.us www.gov.state.md.us



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 \$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. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Eileen White, 11225 Ashley Drive, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852, 301-984-2579, email eewhitedesign@comcast.net.

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

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

and now I have a pile of slow melting ice blocks in the right of way between the sidewalk and street. If the warm weather comes as forecast, that pile should decrease significantly over the next several days.

Each of us needs to look out for our neighbor. This is especially true during the colder months when everybody stays indoors a lot and may not notice something as simple as a split hose spraying water all over the ground. If I didn't discover the leak in my neighbor's garden hose, I suppose I would still be chopping ice on my walk as well as WSSC would reap a windfall when my neighbor's water bill came.

While driving in the neighborhood last week, I noticed a herd of deer transiting the streets and yards of the houses at the end of Hunters Lane. I've seen deer in the neighborhood a lot lately. I was walking my son's dog during her stay with us in December while son Tony and his wife were moving from Norfolk to Northern Virginia. The dog became very excited as I was walking down toward the corner of Mori and Hunters. Then I noticed a herd of deer out in the back yards of some of the homes on Mori. It appears that fences are little or no impediment to these animals as they were easily able to jump a 4 foot fence when the dog started barking. I'm also glad that the dog's collar and leash were in good condition because she wanted to join the deer and pulled pretty hard on leash. I was trying my best to discourage her from going in that direction.

One neighbor on Sticklely tells me about her constant battle with the raccoon population and their ability to manipulate any manner of inconvenience she has tried to use to keep them out of her garbage cans. It seems that the critters are smart enough to figure out almost every can top locking mechanism so far developed by the can manufacturers and a few pretty smart add-ons invented by my neighbor. Another different neighbor who gets up early for work each morning noticed a "very pretty" red fox sitting on my door step a couple of weeks ago. Not sure what I have that the fox would want but never the less the animal was enjoying the pre-dawn quiet on my front porch. The gentleman who delivers the newspapers probably sees a lot more than I mention here. I need to ask him sometime about what he sees on his travels every day.

We seem to have a lot more wildlife in the neighborhood than I remember seeing in the past. Each of us needs to be more aware that the noise you hear in the back yard may not be your neighbor's cat or dog but may well be a wild animal with the inherent dangers of dealing with a wild critter if you corner one. Be careful in that situation.

Recently Richard Zierdt and I met with one of the County Traffic Engineers on the problem we have seen written

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President's Message

(continued from page 3)

about in the *Echo* in recent years on traffic cutting through the neighborhood during the morning and evening to avoid the light at Parklawn and Randolph. This has been less of a problem recently since the Montrose Parkway is partially complete and the bridge over Nicholson Lane has reduced traffic capacity of those roads. Look for some traffic light changes over the next several months at the Rocking Horse Road and Randolph Road intersection. This is an effort to decrease the cut-through traffic by making it just as time consuming to wait for the light as it is to go west of Randolph and through the intersection at Randolph and Parklawn.

As I said last month, I encourage each of you to continue writing, calling and emailing your council representatives as well as the Park and Planning office on the subject of our parks and our Rec Center. Roger Berliner is our councilman and at large council members representing us are Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal and Duchy Trachtenberg. Ike Leggett and the other council members are getting input and comments from their districts too. Park and Planning is keeping an official log of comments on the plan. Let's give them some! And let's keep the pressure up! A list of contact phone numbers and email addresses was published in the September/October, November, and December issues of the *Echo*, available on the RCA web site.

Remember, spring is just around the corner (or maybe six weeks away if you believe the rodent). ~ Mike ■

Minutes of the RCA General Meeting

by Richard Zierdt, acting secretary

December 6, 2007

The meeting began at 8:05 PM with RCA president Mike Saunders presiding. The meeting took place at the Veirs Mill Recreation Center because of the closure of Randolph Hills.

Guests: County Council member Roger Berliner of District 1 (all of RCA), and, later, several representatives of the Montgomery County Parks department, including Senior Park Planner Mark Wallis.

Mr. Berliner spoke first. "Government heard the message" – referring to tree issues, traffic, and schools. On larger issues, Mr. Berliner spoke to global warming, and other issues such as mansionization in the county, and quality of life issues.

Many residents in attendance asked about the schools: overcrowding, use of portable classrooms, etc., with no plans for relief. Mr. Berliner said that the County Council works with the Board of Education but doesn't control it. The reopening of Rocking Horse Elementary was mentioned, as were changes in school boundaries. Mr. Berliner would be happy to meet with concerned residents about this.

Traffic issues and development around White Flint were discussed. The RCA area will be impacted. The question is by how much. Inefficient traffic light timing was also discussed. While Mr. Berliner cannot make promises, however, he remains committed to discussing these and other issues with the RCA.

Moving on to our other guests, Mr. Wallis and other representatives from the County Parks department gave a talk about the future of the Randolph Hills Recreation Center. The current building is considered unsafe because of rot and decay in the sill plates – a part of the foundation at the base of the walls. An estimate of the cost of renovation is forthcoming, but will likely exceed the value of the building itself. The options are: renovate the building, demolish the building without replacement, or demolish and replace the building. There was considerable discussion about building usage, why the Randolph Hills building was not adequately maintained, and the role of local community park buildings to neighborhoods. Park representatives took comments and suggestions from the audience and wrote them on easels. The issue of a building at Randolph Hills is far from over. ■

Minutes of the RCA Executive Meeting

by Richard Zierdt, acting secretary

February 7, 2008

RCA president Mike Saunders began the meeting at 8:05 PM. Minutes from the November 1, 2007 ExComm meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Dell Pillers/Cline distributes her report and projects a deficit of \$1738. Some cost-saving suggestions were made including reducing the cost of *Echo* printing, the cost of the RCA hotline, and the cost of hosting the RCA website. Also, Sam's Club probably owes us some membership refunds from 2006-07.

The RCA is still waiting on a cost estimate from the Parks department to repair the damage to the Randolph Hills Recreation Center building. This does not mean the building will be repaired; only what it would cost to do so. Also, new park playground equipment is pending installation.

It would benefit the neighborhood and the RCA if the Welcoming Committee were reinvigorated. Such a committee, working with real-estate agents, would present a welcoming package of information (and a pie or cake!) to new residents. Anything/everything to make new residents feel welcome. Anyone interested in this would please call Richard Zierdt at 301-881-0283.

The RCA (and RCF) received Maryland State Personal Property Tax forms which must be filled out and sent to Annapolis by April 15 every year. (There's nothing "personal" about it, and the RCA/RCF will not owe any taxes, but these forms keep the incorporation status of both organizations intact). Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM. ■

RCA Treasurer's Report *by Dell Pillers/Cline*

As of February 8, 2008, the balance in the RCA checking account was \$5,841.03. Cash account activity is minimal, as is typical in the cold weather months following the dues payment rush. Income for the period totaled \$215.00 and outflows amounted to \$1,409.52. Fund balances are projected to hit critical lows in the coming months as we have several more months of printing bills for the *Echo* before the end of the fiscal year. ■

RCA Checking Register

01/05/2008 through 02/08/2008

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 01/05/08			\$ 7,035.55
01/07/08	1048	Boy Scouts: flower bulb delivery		-130.00	6,905.55
01/09/08	DEP	Advertising income		85.00	6,990.55
01/16/08	EFT	Verizon: Telephone		-25.52	6,965.03
01/19/08	1049	Quick Print: Echo printing		-1,219.00	5,746.03
02/05/08	1050	Sam's Club refund		-35.00	5,711.03
02/06/08	DEP	Donation income		35.00	5,746.03
02/06/08	DEP	Dues income		95.00	5,841.03
		BALANCE 02/08/08			\$ 5,841.03

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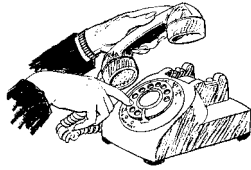


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The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

Calls Received January 12, 2008
to February 17, 2008



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.

If anyone notices that the hotline is not working, please call Richard Zierdt at 301-881-0283, and/or e-mail the RCA at info@randolphcivic.org Thanks!

2008-01-xx (Thu) 10:06 pm Anonymous. Caller walks around the neighborhood and is constantly confronted by cars blocking the sidewalk. This is illegal. The RCA should ask for police help, and have the police come by once a week (and issue tickets) until this problem is solved.

2008-01-xx (Mon) 5:46 pm Anonymous. Caller reports residents being confronted by unknown persons in the neighborhood. Caller was approached recently, as was another young man when he was asked to get in an unknown person's car. Neither one of these incidents were serious, but they might have been. Are there any other instances like this that caller is not aware of? Is crime on the rise in the area? *[No to the first question, and the RCA is asking police authorities for crime reports and statistics for the RCA area.]*

2008-01-xx (Mon) 7:47 pm Anonymous. Caller senses an increase of commercial vehicles in the neighborhood. Are there regulations about this? *[Yes, many. The question is: How well are they enforced?]*

2008-02-06 (Wed) 12:14 pm Anonymous. Caller purchased a trash compactor. Caller is amazed by how much trash is compacted into a tight little package of about 1.5 to 2 feet long, by 10 inches wide, by 2 feet deep, and that's all the trash caller's household creates in three weeks to a month. Electric use is marginal. If many residents did this, the County would not have to collect trash as often. This would save the County thousands of dollars per year. Trash day would only have to be twice a month. Plus, our community would look better because there would be fewer trash cans. *[Hmmm . . . Would the County provide funding for residential trash compactors?]*

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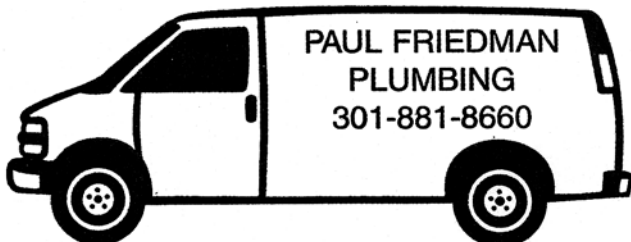
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RCA Hotline

(continued from page 7)

2008-02-07 (Thu) 1:35 pm Anonymous. Calling about the pod (temporary storage bin) in the driveway of 111xx Troy Road. It's been there for at least six months. It makes the community look trashy. Residents are trying to sell their homes. Also, there's an abandoned vehicle on the street. Caller has called Montgomery County about it and left several messages, but nothing has been done. Caller is just wondering how to get this pod out of here. It is an eyesore. [Richard Zierdt here. A pod must be permitted. Call the Department of Permitting Services at 240-777-6300 to apply for one. Complaints can also be made at this number or online at montgomerycountymd.gov. Click on "Departments" on the left side, then pan down and click on "Permitting Services". I am not sure what, if any, time limits there are for pods, but Permitting Services would know. If the answer is "forever," then the RCA might want to work with the County Council to see if a limit could be codified. I'm surprised the County has not responded to the abandoned vehicle. Usually, since it is a police matter (as opposed to housing code enforcement), such vehicles are tagged within 24 hours. Call 301-840-2454 to report abandoned vehicle on the street.]

2008-02-07 (Thu) 2:57 pm Macon Road. On February 6, around 3:30, caller witnessed a woman come and steal caller's local Montgomery County newspaper. She's repeatedly done this. When caller tried to confront her, she took off running. Caller is concerned if this person starts stealing the Washington Post or other paid publications. It's disturbing. Yeah, it's a little petty, but stealing is a crime, and caller really enjoys that little newspaper. [If caller's ECHO gets stolen, call the police! Seriously, the woman may have "issues" of her own and needs help. A call to Montgomery County social services may be in order, 240-777-4710.]

2008-02-08 (Fri) 2:08 pm Caller gave \$30 to the RCA for dues, but caller's name did not appear in the January Echo. This is the second time this has happened. Also, when is the Randolph Farms sign going to be installed? All the others are beautiful, but we're way overdue.

2008-02-10 (Sun) 4:59 pm Anonymous on Oxbow Road. Caller reports two residences that consistently put their trash cans out on Saturday evening for trash pickup on Monday morning. Caller thinks it is inconsiderate to do so since they must be looked at all day Sunday. It's such a simple thing: put the trash out on Sunday evening. Thank you. [County regulations require that trash cans be out between Sunday evening and Monday morning at 7 AM].

2008-02-10 (Sun) 10:34 pm Anonymous on Ertter Drive. When putting out trash, please cover your trash cans so that

trash does not blow over neighbor's yards. If recycling paper, put it in bags – something to keep it from blowing away and onto neighbor's yards.

2008-02-10 (Sun) 10:44 pm Anonymous. Caller does not want a Randolph Civic Foundation. Caller feels such an organization will rule us in the RCA community. Caller feels the formation of this organization was done in a under-handed, behind-the-scenes fashion when residents had no idea that such an act was about to take place. Sounds like the way Adolf Hilter took over Germany – one step at a time. Caller feels a similar Foundation in Montgomery Village made caller feel like caller was constantly being told how to live caller's life. Caller is adamantly against the Foundation. This is caller's second message. Do not edit this message. Caller's first message was edited to an extreme degree. Messages are meant to be recorded as they are spoken, not be twisted and turned around to suit the editor's or the president's ideas. Print this message verbatim, or other actions will take place . . .and may end up in legal litigation. [Richard Zierdt here. Caller goes on, but the essence of caller's message is intact. Messages must be edited for space reasons, grammar, clarity, and privacy. However, the RCA is thinking of using voice-to-text software where perhaps a more verbatim transcription can be printed. I transcribe and edit the hotline, and convey fairly well the intent of each

message even when I don't agree with it, as is the case here. If anyone wants to take over this task, fine with me. BTW, the Foundation's name has been shown on the ECHO's front-page banner since April, 2001.]

2008-02-12 (Tue) 10:00 am Not anonymous. Caller paid for but never received a Sam's Club card. [If you haven't received your Sam's Club information, please call Richard Zierdt at 301-881-0283.]

2008-02-15 (Fri) 10:28 pm Anonymous. Can the RCA do anything about the guard rail along Garrett Park Road between Beach Drive and Schuylkill Road? It has been rusty for many, many years and could it be painted or galvanized or something? It makes the neighborhood look really bad as you enter the neighborhood. It's not something nice and appealing to the neighborhood. Thank you very much. ■

Comments on topics concerning the neighborhood?

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RCA Hotline – 24 hours

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Listen. It's disgusting how some plumbers treat you when you have a problem. When you call you end up talking to an answering machine...or worse, "voice mail".

And when you do talk to a live person they don't want to give you a real appointment. They say "We'll be there between 10 and 4". Even at that, a lot of them don't show up at all.

But that's not all. When you are lucky enough to get a plumber to show up he can talk rude, smell like a goat, leave your house in a mess, charge you "an arm and a leg"...and as a final insult, act like he's doing you a favor. I believe...

Enough is Enough

I'm fed up with the bad image some plumbers are giving the rest of us.

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President's Pen

by George Gadbois

In a few short weeks, we will be welcoming Spring again. Gone will be the cold, snow and ice that challenge us in the winter months. Those spring bulbs should start blooming! Along with all the home-related spring cleaning we all tend to do, we don't want to forget spring cleaning of our parks and outdoors. RCF-land Stream Cleanup, spearheaded by our Scout groups, is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 29 from 9 to noon. It is proposed a week ahead of the area-wide Potomac Watershed Cleanup due to site leader schedule conflicts. Please check the list serve and the RCA website for date confirmation as we approach the end of the month.

A recent television conference was aired on CNN with Retired Colonel Randall Larsen USAF and current Director of the Institute of Homeland Security. He has a book out titled "Our Own Worst Enemy" that provides recommendations to not only government and corporations, but the common citizen, on homeland security and disaster preparation. I am not necessarily endorsing his book as I have not read it yet, but what I came away with was his pragmatic approach toward planning. And not necessarily plans for a terrorist attack, but rather planning for some of the infrequent, but closer-to-home emergencies, such as loss of power, flooding, an appliance failure, etc. We need to do better about planning for ourselves ahead of time and not relying on local or federal government to bail us out instantly when there is a minor (or sometimes major) disaster.

On that note, we would do well to store a case or two of bottled water and some canned food in a dedicated spot. Blankets, extra clothes and a small amount of cash should be part of the emergency stash. A flashlight with spare batteries and a battery-powered radio and/or TV could prove beneficial as well. A propane or kerosene (rated for indoor use) heater, a wet vac and generator are optional, but use-

ful to have on hand too. Share your emergency plans with your family and neighbors and encourage them to do the same. The whole idea is to be prepared, not a fear monger, for a potential accident or emergency situation. More details on emergency preparedness can be found at www.ready.gov. Let's not be our own worst enemy when it come to preparation.

On an educational note, Wheaton High School was recently selected as a MetLife-NASSP Breakthrough School. This honor has been awarded to only nine other schools nationally. The Breakthrough School program showcases middle and high schools that are high achieving or are dramatically improving student achievement, and serve large numbers of economically challenged students. For receiving this honor, Wheaton was presented a \$5,000 grant and has been featured in an issue of *Principal Leadership*, NASSP's monthly magazine. Wheaton continues to provide access to rigorous coursework for all students. Student achievement has increased dramatically through the use of differentiated instruction and other initiatives like their 9th Grade Academy, designed to help all incoming freshmen adjust to rigorous high school instruction, and four content-specific academies providing advanced-level curricula in smaller learning communities. This year, over 60% of Wheaton students are participating in Advanced Placement (AP) and/or Honors classes, with more than 25% percent enrolled in AP classes. This is a great achievement in our school with such a highly diverse population. Please congratulate Principal Kevin Lowndes, the students, staff, and parents of Wheaton High School for their remarkable achievements and this well-deserved honor. (Wheaton information obtained from Dr. Weast's January 18, 2008 letter to the Board of Education.)

Be sure to check out the recent activities of our scout groups elsewhere in this *Echo*. Please join us at an upcoming meeting. ■

RCF Executive Committee for 2007-2008

OFFICERS

President

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Secretary

Kevin Kline
4808 Randolph Road
301-230-1486

Directors

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Dan Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-938-7494

The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community.

Vice President

Chad Salganik
4818 Mori Drive
202-359-6158

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Karen Helfert

11429 Ashley Drive
301-468-0236

Matt Shore

11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

RCF Web site:
www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org
Phone: 301-881-2722

RCF NEWS

Randolph Civic Foundation Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

by Richard Zierdt, acting secretary

February 7, 2008

RCF president George Gadbois called the meeting to order at 10 PM.

RCF treasurer Richard Zierdt reports the RCF closed out its old bank account and opened a new one (to meet the requirement of its pending 501(c)(3) status). The RCF has a custodial amount of \$71.43 in assets. Donations to the RCF remain in the RCA's account for now.

Like the RCA, the RCF must file its Maryland State Personal Property Tax form by April 15.

It was moved that the RCF, which legally sponsors Boy Scout Troop 1083 and Girl Scout Troop 2138, should sponsor Boy Scout Venturing Crew 1083, with a \$200 annual donation. Seconded. A "Crew", although a Boy Scout of America grouping, consists of girls and boys aged 14 to 21. This sponsorship, while \$200 per year, helps youngsters in our community and strengthens the charitable mission of the RCF. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM. ■

RCA/RCF Meetings

RCA/RCF meetings are held the **first Thursday of every month** (except January, July and August) at 8:00 p.m.. Meetings will be held at the **Veirs Mill Rec Center, 4425 Garrett Park Road (intersection of Garrett Park Road and Beach Drive)** until further notice. 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. The current meeting schedule is:

March 6, 2008 General Membership Meeting

April 3, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting

May 1, 2008 General Membership Meeting

June 5, 2008 General Membership Meeting

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News from Pack 1081

by Mike Mulcahy



Cub Scout Pack 1081 winter activities are in full swing! The annual Klondike Derby at Little Bennett, with activities for our Webelo Scouts and a Boy Scout Troop 1083 dinner invitation, was held on Saturday, January 19th. The Klondike Derby is a winter outdoor event for our Webelo Scouts involving “arctic-themed” competitions that test scout skills along with teamwork. With snow on the ground, the boys competed at the event and had a great time. At the Derby, the Webelo Scouts crossed a “river” on coffee cans, participated in other challenging events, and also observed some of the Boy Scout competitions. The Scouts were then invited to Boy Scout Troop 1083’s campsite for a chili and pasta dinner and warm campfire. Participating Webelo Scouts were Webelos I’s **Matthew Kimball** and **Mateo Streed** and Webelos II’s **Aidan Gibbons**, **Adam Levensgard**, **Noah Reidinger**, **Brandon Wagner** and **Chris Mulcahy**. Way to go, Webelos!

As sounds of screeching tires, hard braking and sirens were heard throughout the room, the scouts “revved-up” again for this year’s Pinewood Derby on Saturday, January 26th at Viers Mill ES. Race winners for Tigers: **Galen Gibbons** 1st, **JoJo Polk** 2nd, **Nathaniel Harley** 3rd; Wolves: **Mark Kimball** 1st, **Wolfie Woolard** 2nd, **Zachery Huynh** 3rd; Bears: **Devon Parker** 1st, **Sebastian Jardine** 2nd; Webelos I: **Cameron Lett** 1st, **Matthew Kimball** 2nd, **Mateo Streed** 3rd; Webelos II: **Chris Mulcahy** 1st, **Noah Reidinger** 2nd, **Aidan Gibbons** 3rd. There were winners in many other categories from “most unusual” to “most interesting driver.” Congratulations to all the winners and all that participated in this year’s Derby races! Many thanks to our judges as well as the pit crew of



Webelo Scouts cross a “river” on coffee cans at the Klondike Derby.

our dedicated Pack parents and leaders. The District Pinewood Derby finals will be held in mid-March. Our top winners for speed were **Mark Kimball**, **Chris Mulcahy**, and **Noah Reidinger**. **Jordan Pitt**’s car won the best “Show” car. Congratulations to all the winners! Our Pack will be represented in the District races by **Galen Gibbons**, **Mark Kimball**, **Devon Parker**, **Cameron Lett**, **Chris Mulcahy** and **Jordan Pitt**. Good luck in the District competition, guys!

Since our last *Echo* column, the following scouts have worked hard to earn the advancement awards: Tigers: Sports and Academic Belt Loops in Music for **Josiah Polk**, **Galen Gibbons**, **Adrian Streed**, **Damien Raber**, **Thomas Adler**, **Danny Hernandez** and **Nathaniel Harley**; Wolves: Sports and Academic Belt Loops in Astronomy for **Mark Kimball** and **Pedro Cerriteno**, in Computers for **Mark Kimball** and **Pedro Cerriteno** and in Music for **Pedro Cerriteno**, **Wolfie Woolard** and **Zachery Huynh**; Bears: Sports and Academic Belt Loops in Music for **Devon Parker** and **Sebastian Jardine**; Webelos I: Sports and Academic Belt Loops in Music for

Mateo Streed and **Cameron Lett**, Webelos Activity Pins for **Matthew Kimball** in Handyman, Naturalist, Scholar and Outdoorsman (that is one busy boy!) and the Whittling Chip Badge for **Mateo Streed**, **Cameron Lett**, **Jonathan Romero** and **Matthew Kimball**; and Webelos II: Sports and Academic Belt Loops in

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- * Perinatal Fitness Instructor
- * Gliding, Resist-a-Ball
- * Tomiki Aikido, 2nd degree Black belt
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Music for **Noah Reidinger** and **Brandon Wagner**, Webelos Activity Pins for Showman to **Adam Levangard** and **Aidan Gibbons**, for Family Member to **Adam Levangard** and **Aidan Gibbons**, for Traveler to **Preston Polk** and a Compass Point to **Aidan Gibbons**. Let's hear it for all our hard working and award-earning Scouts!!

At press time the Pack is looking forward to a trip to the Building Museum in Washington, DC on Saturday, February 16th, a Ski trip to Liberty Mountain on Sunday, February 16th and our annual Blue & Gold Banquet on Thursday, February 21st. If you are interested in learning more about the Cub Scout program for your 1st – 5th grade son, please stop by Viers Mill ES any Monday evening at 6:30 P.M. It's never too late to join! Please visit our website location for more Pack 1081 news and pictures:
<http://www.pack1081.org>. ■



Pinewood Derby Scout and Sibling Winners pose with their fast cars!

News from Venturing Crew 1083

by Dave Talbott

In January, Crew 1083 and their leaders traveled to Little Bennett Regional Park for the Rock Creek District Klondike Derby. Competitions were held in areas such as Compass Reading, Fire Building, Knots, Lashings, First Aid, and Wilderness Survival. Crew 1083 members participating in the competition were **Jenn Wood, Andy Wood, Matthew Binsted, Kristi Gessford, Emily Grundy, Scott Talbott, Olivia Kibbe, Edwin Fuentes, Dianne Strobel** and **Adair Irish**. Four leaders participated: **Ken Wood, Lauren Burrows, Carl Burrows** and **Jeff Irish**. The crew received an award for Outstanding Participation, and finished the competition in the top 10 over 70 patrols competing at the Klondike. In addition, Crew 1083 was the top Crew from the Rock Creek District. What a fantastic job for our first real event since forming in November 2007.

To celebrate Ground Hog Day, on February 2nd, the Crew held a meeting and movie night at the Kibbe family residence where they enjoyed "Without a Paddle". In addition to the movie, the Crew also held a business meeting which focused on the election of Officers and planning activities for the upcoming months. The election results are: President – **Jenn Wood**, Vice President – **Andy Wood**, Secretary – **Kristi Gessford**, Treasurer - **Olivia Kibbe**, and Event Coordinator – **Emily Grundy**. Congratulations to the new officers. The Crew is planning a hike the first weekend of March and they are also planning a weeklong backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail this summer. Several members of the Crew attended Troop 1083's Court of Honor on February 3, 2008, and provided a report-out at the Troop's Parent Meeting of the status and accomplishments of the Crew.

If you are a youth between 14 and 21, you can join Crew 1083. We meet every other Monday night at 6:30 at Veirs Mill ES, or call President Jenn Wood at 301-946-4634. Check out the Crew's web page at www.troop1083.org/crew. ■

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[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
 randolphca/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/)

Troop 1083 News

by Nona Mapes

Wow!! January just flew by but not before Troop 1083 had an opportunity to save themselves from the path of a flood of toxic waste infested waters, rescue their injured Patrol leader from the ice on a desolate lake prematurely thawed by global warming, and to be formally adopted as members of a den of *Thalarctos maritimus* (Latin for Polar Bears) for braving life outdoors in the same types of frigid temperatures the bears themselves enjoy in their native habitat. In other words, it was 18-20 January and time for the Klondike Derby. Two special event Patrols, the Wildcats and the Dragons, meet Scouts from other local troops at Little Bennett Regional Park for two days and two very cold nights of camping and gaming. Attending were **Jason Beam, Matthew Best, Bryan Bravo, Anthony Gadbois, Brad Gadbois, Brad Gessford, Brady Grundy, Gabriel Hernandez, Johnny Hildebrand, Scott Johnson, Sawyer Kibbe, Scott Levangard, Mike Mapes, Joseph Owen, Patrick Owen, David Santos and Eric Uglem**. The scouts slept out in tents and cooked outside too. The temperatures were in the teens and 20's, well below freezing and well within the requirements for all the scouts to earn their symbol of polar bear brotherhood, the polar bear patch. The Derby events included a sled race with sleds the patrols made themselves, various tests of Scout craft, first aid and life saving skills and knowledge and teambuilding exercises. They had 8 minutes to save their sleds from the imaginary toxic flood by figuring out how to lash them up in a tree without damaging the tree. They had to remember, or look up in their handbooks, ways to carry injured people to safety

Newly designated Polar Bears.



and then demonstrate them while they were being timed. I'm not sure what the skill was for the group in a circle that had to keep that great big green ball in the air but it looked like everyone was having a lot of fun, what with all the planned events and the spontaneous snowball tossing and boot skiing going on.

On the 27th of January the Troop's boy leaders worked on some more serious training when they held a Junior Leadership training course. **Mr. Gadbois** hosted the training at his office at the Siemens company. The Class was both attended and partially taught by boys including **Jason Beam, Kyle Blakely, Anthony Gadbois, Gregory Gadbois, Johnny Hildebrand, Scott Johnson, Scott Levangard, Mike Mapes, Joseph Owen, John Pitkin, and Eric Uglem**. The only other event the Scouts could fit in for this newsletter was the troop's Winter Court of Honor. It was held on the 2nd of February at the Masonic Lodge on Knowles Ave in Kensington. A parents meeting where we discussed fund raising and opportunities for the scouts to go to summer camp preceded the Court. Then we ate a wonderful potluck meal before we got down to the awards. Merit Badges were given out to **Brady Grundy** for Aviation, **Jason Beam, Gregory Gadbois, Patrick Owen, David Santos and Eric Uglem** for Citizenship in the Nation, **Bryan Bravo** for Communications, **Kyle Blakely** for Emergency Preparedness, **Jason Beam and David Santos** for Family Life, **Edward Huggins** for Personal Fitness, **Mark Bushong** for Personal Management, **Mathew Best, Bryan Bravo, Maxwell DeMulder, Steve Hernandez, Scott Johnson, Scott Levangard, Joseph Owen and Andres Valencia** for Photography and **Maxwell DeMulder, Brad Gessford, Brady Grundy and Sawyer Kibbe** for Woodcarving. The best part of the night was the Rank Advancements. **Michael Berger and Andres Valencia** joined the Troop as Scouts. **Brady Grundy** advanced to Tenderfoot. **Brad Gessford and Matthew Luong** both advanced to 1st Class. **Patrick Owen and Eric Uglem** made Star and **David Santos** made Life Scout.

There is one more advancement scheduled in February as we celebrate **Hafez Taghavi's** advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout with an Eagle Court of Honor to be held on the 16th. Just for fun, and to help out the Scout Crew, we are all going to meet at the 1592 A, Rockville Pike, Rockville, Fuddrucker's for dinner on the 11th of February. Part of the cost of the meals purchased by scouts and their families that day will be donated to

the 1083 Crew. Also, the Troop has its annual ski trip scheduled at Ski Liberty for Sunday the 17th.

Finally, we expect to be delivering all that mulch you ordered just about the time this paper will be delivered. The mulch deliveries will start on Friday March 7th and continue on through Sunday the 9th or until it is all delivered, whichever comes first. Thanks again for all your support. Happy gardening!! ■



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News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Leora Hernandez

After winter break the girls came back ready to dive into more badge earning opportunities. The Brownies are working on earning Try-its for making music, fun with friends, and play around the world. The Juniors have worked alongside the Brownies and are working on Music, Jewelry, and healthier you badges. Some of the activities include a trip to Accent Beads for a tour and shopping, making friendship bracelets, making a shoe box guitar, playing their new guitars along with our leader Rosi, playing hawk and hen, and sheep and hyena.

Three of our Junior scouts earned their Dancing badge at the Rendezvous Dance Studio by learning the Salsa, Waltz, and Line Dance to the new Miley Cyrus song, and east coast swing. The Brownies are planning on going in April to earn their Dancing Try-it.

We continue to sell cookies at this time but cannot say when and where we will be having our booth sales. If you are interested in purchasing girl scout cookies you can contact me (Leora Hernandez) at 301-933-0460. We will start delivering cookie orders February 22, 2008. If your New Year's resolution included losing weight but you would still like to help our troop, we are taking cookie order donations for our military troops overseas. The cookies will be sent to soldiers related to the girl scouts in our troop. Last year we sent more than two cases of cookies to soldiers overseas. Cookies will be on sale through the end of March.

Girls in K – 5th grade interested in Girl Scouts? We meet every other Thursday at the Veirs Mill Recreation Center at 4425 Garrett Park Road from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Contact Leora Hernandez at 301-933-0460 (evenings) or Rosi Muehlstedt (hablo Español) 240-603-1847 for more information. ■

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ECHO ADVERTISING EDITOR NEEDED

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

After many years as your *Echo* Advertising Editor, I would like someone to assume this position by the 2008-2009 season. My thought is that we would work together during the 2007-2008 season as a way of easing the transition.

The role of Advertising Editor is very interesting and I'm sure whoever volunteers will find it most satisfying. My phone number is 301-770-7590.

Mauro Biondo



RCA Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 10th
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Loehmann's Plaza

Cost is \$5.00 for RCA members,
\$10.00 for non-members.

No registration required, just show up. No rain date. Bring your own table(s) if necessary. Great opportunity to get rid of that trash in the basement and attic.



**LATE
BREAKING
NEWS!**

The warehouses on Wyaconda were the scene of a fire on Saturday evening, February 16, just before the *Echo* went to press. Many firetrucks and emergency vehicles were on the scene, as well as an ABC news truck. No further information was available at press time, but I don't believe anyone was injured in the blaze.



Keep in touch with your neighbors!
Join the RCA Yahoo Group at
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>

Have you seen the
RCA's Web site at
www.randolphcivic.org

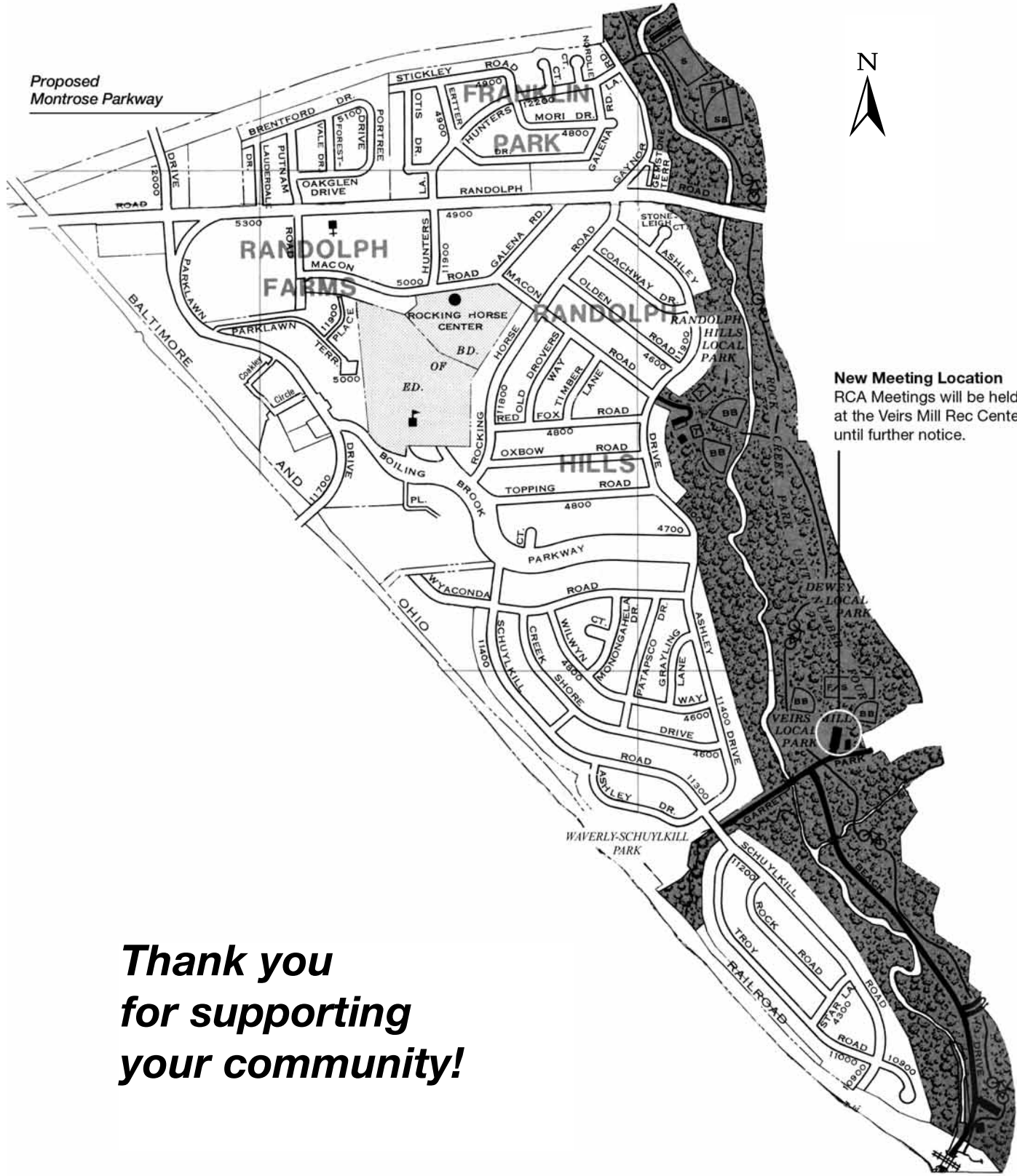
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New Meeting Location
RCA Meetings will be held
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CLASSIFIEDS

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.

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, 26 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

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Measurements 70 3/8"W x 47" L, paid \$500, sell for \$95.00
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1-White mini blind. 46 1/8"W x 20"L. \$15
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Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the Issue year are:

April 2008 March 8
May 2008 April 5
Jun/Jul/Aug 2008 May 3



Fall Leaves and Winter Snow: Here's Your Help

Here's a list of boys and girls willing to perform leaf raking, grass mowing, snow shoveling, general yard work, etc. Negotiate cost and payment with each boy or girl.

Moses (Bubba) Hart 301-230-2740

Jennifer Moy 240-672-4921

Anthony Gadbois 301-770-5386

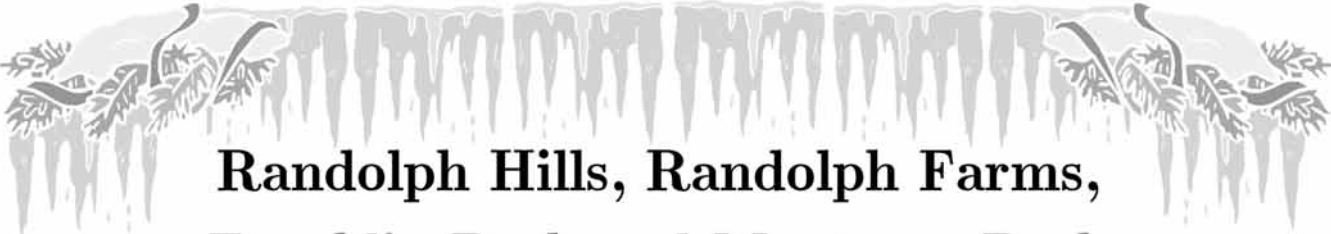
Gregory Gadbois 301-770-5386



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	301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)</i>	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	301-840-2454
Animal Control	240-773-5960
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>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Hours, etc.	240-777-0002
Telephone Reference	240-777-0001
Metroraail and Metrobus schedules & info.	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	240-773-5960
Emergencies only	240-773-5900
Licensing Dept.	240-773-5946
Motor Vehicle Administration	1-800-950-1682
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance	240-777-7700
<i>(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)</i>	
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out	toll free 1-877-737-2662
Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Post Office, Rollins Ave., Rockville	301-231-5973
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)	240-777-3986
RCA Hotline	301-881-2722
Recycling Info (www.mcrecycles.org)	240-777-6400
Recreation Information	240-777-6804
School Information	301-279-3391
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)	240-777-4999
Street Light Out	240-777-2190
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623
<i>(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)</i>	
Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)	240-777-7433
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
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Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-8000
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-6400



Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park Market Update...

Neighborhood Home Sales Settled Since December 1, 2007

Address	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	Subsidy	Date Settled
4613 Wilwyn Way	\$357,000	\$338,000	159	\$13,400	07-Dec-07
4905 Stickley Road	\$499,990	\$460,000	372	\$0	14-Dec-07
11108 Schuylkill Rd	\$432,000	\$432,000	127	\$13,000	18-Dec-07
4826 Ertter Drive	\$399,999	\$399,000	170	\$300	10-Jan-08
12009 Rocking Horse	\$379,900	\$360,000	192	\$10,000	25-Jan-08



GOOD NEWS... Interest rates are again near their lowest in 30 years, and activity is picking up at my open houses each weekend. With fixed rate mortgages available for about 5.5 percent, more first-time buyers are entering the market. If you are looking for a new home, this may be the best time to buy in decades! If you are considering selling, recent activity points toward a busy Spring market right around the corner.

Call Denise for a complimentary market analysis today.

Denise
Szczur

301-452-5544



"Professional Service with a Personal Touch!"

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