

## The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Federation

Volume 43, Issue 7 May 2000

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## **Upcoming Events**

## **RCA General Meeting**

Thursday, May 4, 2000 8:00 p.m.

## **RCA Executive Meeting**

Thursday, June 1, 2000 8:00 p.m.

The May General Meeting will feature John R. Supinski, who will speak on an issue of timely interest, "Long Term Health Care."

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

## President's Message

by Jack Stillwell

## QUIT RELAXING, MORE THINGS TO DO!

Okay, last issue I was hit with an early case of Spring Fever. Now I'm back to normal. I think my complacency was a direct result of being out of town for the last RCA meeting. Nothing like attending a meeting to remind you how much there is to do. The association Executive Committee does its best to stay on the hot issues during the month, but it's the face-to-face meetings that really allow the issues to come out. The big issue that came out at the April Exec meeting was Education. We've got a group of incensed parents ready to fight the county for better schools. When the RCA gets new recruits with a good cause, we're always ready to back them up and mobilize for a new campaign. And this is a war that's gone on for years. For those of you new to the controversy, the history goes like this:

- parents get incensed at the low quality education their tax dollars buy;
- we mount a campaign of letter writing and hearing appearances;
- the County stonewalls on the issues;
- the parents get discouraged, things die down;
- another group of kids are ready to hit the schools;
- (repeat)

We, the execs, are feeling battle weary. (Disclosure; I'm the coward who surrendered and sent my kids to private school.) But there's good news! We have a postcard from the County saying they're considering changing school district boundaries and we have these new recruits. NOW

(continued on page 3)

## RCA Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 13 at Loehmann's Plaza 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

See you there!

## RCA Executive Committee for 1999-2000

#### **OFFICERS**

## President Jack Stillwell 5106 Magen Pers

5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934

### Vice President

(open)

#### Secretary

Kevin Kline 4808 Randolph Road 301-230-1486

#### Treasurer

Richard Zierdt 4707 Coachway Drive 301-881-0283

#### Director s

Wilbur Van der Linden 11711 Ashley Drive 301-770-7235

Matthew Shore 11230 Troy Road 310-468-1225

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Echo Editor

Eileen White 11225 Ashley Drive 301-984-2579

#### **Echo Advertising**

Mauro Biondo 11508 Monongahela Court

301-770-7590

#### Membership

Amy Hsu 4716 Oxbow Road 301-468-6180

#### Environment

Jack Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934

Cathy Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934

#### Education

Elinor Walker 12111 Galena Road 301-468-6335

### Mobile Watch (acting)

Frank Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225

### **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

#### Scout Leader, Troop 1083

Brian McGahey 11805 Timber Lane 301-770-7882

#### Cub Master, Pack 1081

George Gadbois 4718 Topping Road 301-770-5386

#### **Scout Liaison**

Frank Rossomondo 11611 Ashley Drive 301-770-7450

## Family &

## **Community Education**

Judy Fewell 5018 Macon Road 301-770-5540

#### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Scott Bailey, George Cantalupo, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore

#### MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):
Councilwoman: Betty Ann Krahnke
Ms. Krahnke's aides: Joy Nurmi
Carl Morgan
240-777-7965

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive (all of RCA):

Douglas Duncan 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 State Legislative District 17 -

South of Randolph Road:

Senator: Jennie Forehand 301-858-3134 Delegates: Kumar Barve 301-858-3001 Michael Gordon 301-858-3519

Michael Gordon 301-858-3519 Cheryl Kagan 301-858-3046

Maryland Legislative District 18 -

North of Randolph Road:

 Senator:
 Christopher Van Hollen
 301-858-3137

 Delegates:
 Leon Billings
 301-858-3028

 Sharon Grosfeld
 301-858-3028

 John Hurson
 301-858-3464

Montgomery County Delegation Office: All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010 U.S.Congressional District 8 (all of RCA): Constance Morella 202-225-5341 email: rep.morella@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate (all of RCA):

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654 Paul Sarbanes 202-224-4524

**Election Precincts:** 

4-08 South of Randolph Rd. Vote at Rockinghorse Center. 4-26 North of Randolph Rd. Vote at Montrose Baptist Church.

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 301-217-6450



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$5.00 per year.

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

The Randolph Civic Association was formed in 1955 and incorporated in 1958. As stated in the original Articles of Incorporation, the purposes of the RCA are "to stimulate interest in all community problems and improvements that will better the general welfare of the community [and] to pay strict attention to any attempt to lessen the value of property within its borders..."

#### President's Message

(continued from page 1)

WE NEED YOU! This is an issue vital to everyone in RCA-land. Good schools are the bedrock of good neighborhoods. Even if you don't have kids, you must see the value of good local neighborhood schools. It's good for the kids, it builds relationships with neighbors, and it's even good for property values.

We think we're one of the few neighborhoods where our kids are in two different High School clusters. We are part of North Bethesda and want our kids in Walter Johnson, which is the North Bethesda School district. Wheaton has some of the lowest test scores in the County and is out of the North Bethesda district. Some of our kids are in the WJ district, so let's include them all. This is the official position of the RCA.

With a new superintendent in place, there are some interesting ideas floating around for improving the down-county schools. Will they happen during your child's school career? Or during your lifetime in this neighbor-hood? They've closed our neighborhood schools and virtually sold them to private interests. We don't seem to be getting much respect from the County. We have 1300 homes and this is an election year. Let's make some noise!

Following this article are some details about the plans for our campaign. Please join us in this battle. A neighborhood in Kensington won with the same argument and we have a longer history and, we think, a better case. We're also interested in understanding where kids in the neighborhood are attending school. If you're asked, please don't feel that your privacy is being threatened. Our impression is that many families have found ways out of the Wheaton district through transfers or using private or home schools. We think those kind of statistics could also help our case.

If you want to actively help, leave your name, address, phone and email on the hotline. If you want to discuss, attend the May 4th meeting. But please take a few minutes and help us win this. They are called PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

A warm Thank You to all our neighbors for your support!

Note to Contributors: The Deadline for the June/July/August 2000 issue of The Echo is May 5.

## **RCA April Executive Meeting**

The "school boundary" issue dominated the meeting (see article that follows). Three RCA'ers volunteered to help out the Education Committee. Passed: \$100 donation to the MS Walkathon, Frank Shore Memorial Team. Passed: \$250 to the Cub Scouts.

### Take a Letter!

by Kevin Kline

Do you want the best schools for your kids? Prove it! Write a letter and ask for it. Right now. Go get a paper and pen — I'll wait. RCA-land has a rare opportunity because the County is adjusting the "school boundaries" determining which schools your kids attend. If you don't have kids, do it for your neighbors. Do it because your house will be worth an additional \$10,000 at re-sale. DO IT NOW.

Since school officials will look you unblinkingly in the eye and tell you all County schools are the same, we have to play their game. Tell them we are a real "community," and have had a continuous civic association since 1958. Explain how RCA-land is "one whole neigh-

(continued on page 5)



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#### Take a Letter

(continued from page 3)

borhood" with two community yard sales/flea markets annually. We have a free hotdog/hamburger cookout every year, with a moonbounce and live music. Our "community" has a monthly newsletter, and monthly civic meetings. Then describe to school officials how terribly unfair and traumatic it is that our children attend different schools. Remind them how easy after-school activities would be with only one school: all the kids would participate together, and parents could easily coordinate transportation!

Common sense tells us that all neighborhood kids should go to the same schools, and Walter Johnson and Tilden Middle School are much closer than Wheaton is. Rock Creek Park is a natural divider. Finish by describing how connected RCA-land is to White Flint, North Bethesda, and Rockville. Address this letter to:

Board of Education Patricia O'Neil, President 850 Hungerford Dr Rockville, MD 20852

Board of Education Nancy J. King, Vice-president 850 Hungerford Dr Rockville, MD 20852

Board of Education Superintendent Weast 850 Hungerford Dr Rockville, MD 20852

Background: school boundaries determine which high school "cluster" RCA-land is assigned. High school "clusters" are fed by a specific junior high, which in turn is fed by one or two specific grade schools. Presently RCA children attend two clusters, Wheaton and Walter Johnson (WJ). The school boundary line runs right through RCA-land. If the dividing line were adjusted even a tiny bit we would win! Every school assessment (e.g., SATs) reveals that Wheaton is one of the worst school clusters in the County, and WJ is one of the best. For years the RCA has tried to get all our kids into one cluster: Walter Johnson.

Every morning I get up and look through the Forbes list of the richest people in America. If my name is not on it, I go to work.

Robert Orben



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## **Treasurer's Report**

by Richard Zierdt

As of April 7, 2000, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$5,505.74. How's this for a short report?

RCA Checking Register
3/05/2000 through 4/07/2000

Date	Num	Payee	Memo		Amount	Balance
		Balance 03/05/2000				5,903.03
03/08	602	Brian McGahey	candy canes & Santa		-151.12	5,751.91
03/20		interest	Crestar Bank 0.50 %		2.59	5,754.50
03/20	E-xfr	Bell Atlantic	Feb 22 phone bill		-20.21	5,734.29
03/28	603	Nineva Printing	April ECHO		-895.00	4,839.29
04/07		RCAssociation			309.00	5,148.29
		inc:advertising	Hughes - piano	45.00		
		inc:advertising	Catherine Emma Guie	45.00		
		inc:advertising	G Macc Travel, Inc	150.00		
		membership:	mbrshp, dntion, Sams	69.00		
		BALANCE 04/07/2000				5,148.29

## RCF Checking Register

3/05/2000 through 4/07/2000

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		Balance 03/05/2000			307.27
03/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	357.27
03/31		interest	Crestar Bank 0.70 %	0.18	357.45
		BALANCE 04/07/2000			357.45

Total RCA+RCF cash assets

5,505.74

## Thank you for supporting your community!

## Sidewalk Repair Update

by Richard Zierdt

In talking with Mr. David Stevens, Montgomery County Department of Public Works, regarding sidewalk repair in RCA-land, and testifying before the County Council budget hearings on February 10 regarding our sidewalks, I have finally been given a start date of "spring/summer" 2001 to begin a neighborhood-wide sidewalk replacement program. Mr. Stevens said this will be a \$1 million, 3-year project. The sidewalks would be replaced with concrete.

Crumbling sidewalks have long been a sore point with the RCA, and we have worked with Public Works in not inundating the department with the 50+ individual requests for repairs the RCAreceived two years ago. Rather than perform repairs piecemeal with asphalt, it was thought better to do everything at once in concrete. I did use that list in my testimony before the County Council.

This is an excellent time for neighbors to schedule personal concrete work on their own properties, such as their driveway and apron. While the County is responsible for all sidewalks in RCA, it is the homeowner's responsibility to keep the driveway entrance, called the apron, in good condition. The sidewalk work will be performed by contractors, and neighbors have the option of

working with the contractor to get personal work done as well. It you are interested in a new or reconditioned driveway, or other concrete work such as a patio, next year would be a good time to schedule it as the contractor will already be in the neighborhood. The RCA Execs will notify neighbors as the date to begin repairs nears.

## Commercial Trucks Redux

by Richard Zierdt

Two calls were received on the RCAhotline regarding commercial trucks in our neighborhood. One reported trucks on the parking lot of Randolph Hills Shopping Center (where Katz Supermarket is), and the other reported a large box truck on Rockinghorse Road, and sometimes on Macon Road.

The shopping center is commercial property, privately owned. Whatever parks there parks at the discretion of its owners. Neither the County or the RCA has any say in this. The signs posted that say, in effect, "No Overnight Parking," were put there by the owners, not the County. I personally don't like the sight of (large) trucks parked there, out in the open close to Boiling Brook Parkway/Schuylkill Road, but there is nothing the RCA can do about it. This is not a battle the RCA should fight. We can alert the shopping center if trucks park



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

under the "No Parking" signs, and if the owner responds, fine. If not, then that's all we can do.

I did call the police (301-279-8000) about the truck parked on Rockinghorse/Macon. Officer Alanna Mellott of the Rockville District came to my house and we talked about the situation. We agreed that the Association would contact the shopping center and see if it could accommodate some commercial trucks that are driven by RCA residents. I would ask for some parking spaces inconspicuous to the neighborhood, perhaps to the right of Katz. Another possibility is the medical center at Rockinghorse/Gaynor/and Randolph Roads. It has a large parking lot where, perhaps, a couple of trucks could park overnight. Based on what can be arranged with these parking lots, if anything, we'll go from there.

The RCAwants everyone to make a living doing whatever they want. However, commercial trucks cannot be allowed to diminish the character of a residential area. Stay tuned.



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## Tax Cuts, Sidewalks, or Complete Control

by Richard Zierdt

County Council member Isiah Leggett wants to cut your taxes and has introduced a resolution to lower the county's income tax rate 1 percent (currently, an additional 58% of what you pay in state income taxes to Maryland is collected by the state and passed back to the county). Sounds good. But should the RCAsupport this?

My problem is that the Council has not fixed our sidewalks, let alone our schools, transportation, or a half-dozen other problems in our county. For purposes of the rest of this essay, I will use sidewalks as a measure of County efficiency, since the results of maintaining them are so easy to see, but any local problem will do. As someone with a generally conservative bent, I support tax cuts. The less money government has, the less it has to screw up (or waste, or lose, or payoff). But in this case, we have sidewalks to repair. The only way these sidewalks are going to be fixed is by the County using County (meaning our) money. We're stuck. If taxes are reduced now, I fear our sidewalks will never get repaired.

Mr. Leggett, in his essay in the Journal and Gazette (April 5), says "Our state government, as well as others who want additional governmental resources, are more than willing to let us do so, but in the long term it is to our detriment." Who said anything about "additional governmental resources?" All I want is one of the most basic governmental responsibilities to be performed, namely, the repair and maintenance of our sidewalks.

Mr. Leggett finishes by saying "And we must never forget that we have an obligation to meet our responsibilities to those who pay our bills." I couldn't agree more. So why are our sidewalks an unsafe and unsightly mess?

There is one other solution: Give us our (monetary) freedom. If the County is unwilling or unable to maintain our sidewalks, then reduce our taxes to zero, and let us fix the sidewalks ourselves!

I will propose at the May 4th General Meeting that the RCA oppose the county income tax cut proposal, or, failing that, the County eliminate the tax altogether, and the authority to fix sidewalks be given to local representative associations.



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## Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

March 6, 2000 to April 7, 2000

General Note: The RCA gets a

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

2000-03-06 (Mon) 10:48 am Jean Gries (also Dave Lougherly, co-worker) Montgomery County Traffic & Parking Services. Traffic evaluation on Boiling Brook Parkway. Location of the Randolph Hills sign and the trees along the eastbound lanes of traffic are obstructing sight distance for motorists as they're trying to use the crossover from the westbound to the eastbound. These should be removed and their relocation approved by the Department of Permitting services.

**2000-03-06 (Mon) 5:41 pm** Franklin Park resident. By living on a corner, there are lots of sidewalk to shovel when it snows. In this case, however, there is good

neighbor on Hunter's Lane, who, with the use of his snowblower, helps the caller in keeping the sidewalks clear. Caller wants to thank his neighbor for his help over the years.

**2000-03-07 (Mon) 8:11 pm** Marilyn Couture. Calling in response to article "Children Too Scared to Go to School?" Caller is treasurer of the Wheaton High School PTSA (parent-teacher-student association). Yes, some parents do participate, but unfortunately not enough. Typical attendenance is between 12 and 20. 1300 students at Wheaton.

2000-03-08 (Wed) 9:23 am Anonymous. Can we get a "Do-not-block" sign at the corner of Hunters Lane and Randolph Road? It is almost impossible to get out of Franklin Park in the morning when so many cars are going to HEW (now HHS), and impossible to get in after work. We need the ICC, we need the Montrose Parkway, we need help!

**2000-03-09 (Thu) 5:28 pm** Montrose Park. Wants telephone number to get bulk trash removed. [240-777-6410. see article about this is in April's ECHO, page 9]

**2000-03-10 (Fri) 3:09 pm** Anonymous. Please move some of the cars at the bottom of Grayling Lane. You

(continued on page 12)

### MICHAEL McALEER'S "CLEAN CUT LAWNS"

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### **RCA Hotline**

(continued from page 11)

cannot see driving up or down the street. These cars never move. Kids are playing and riding their bikes. Don't wait until something happens. Move some of them, please.

**2000-03-13 (Mon) 12:16 pm** Westminster. What can the Association do about land across from caller's house (trash, leaves blowing onto property from nearby yard)?

**2000-03-17 (Fri) 6:38 pm** What's the date of the next yard sale. Also, what about sidewalks? Will the County come around periodically, or do we need to request it specifically?

**2000-03-20 (Mon) 4:21 pm** Randolph Hills. Where can membership dues be mailed? [RCA, P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, 20852, or to the RCA treasurer, 4707 Coachway Drive]

**2000-03-27 (Mon) 2:31 pm** Randolph Hills. Two trucks are parked illegally at night in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center. Police cannot ticket them, since it is on private property, however, the shopping center manage-



**WSSD 603** 



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ment could be called. Please provide shopping center's management's number. [See article on page 8.]

2000-03-30 (Thu) 9:49 am Mr. Fees (sp?) Montgomery County Code Enforcement, 240-777-3733. Case about two cars parked without tags on Ashley Drive. One car has a cover on it, so it's really not a code violation, and the other car is now gone. Case has been closed. Will call back if any other discrepancies are found.

2000-04-01 (Sat) 12:45 pm Responding to call received last month about trash at the end of Macon Road, where the Safeway is. Caller is the elementary principal at Montrose Christian School. The school, through its fourth and fifth grade classes, will take on this problem as a community project, to clean up the area. School is teaching the children about community responsibility, and this would be an excellent way to learn this lesson, and to say to Randolph Hills we realize we are a part of the community, and will show our support this way. A note of thanks to the students would be appreciated. [Sounds like a good deal. Thanks, Montrose.]

2000-04-01 (Sat) 6:06 pm Westminster. Should residents be required to have trash cans for their garbage for trash pickup? Neighbors are leaving trash out in bags and the crows are picking open the bags, causing a mess, which caller must clean up. Also, could a trash can be placed at the Metrobus stop. Have asked the Civic Association about this numerous times. Caller has called Metro several times about moving the stop. The Westminster RCA sign needs a coat of paint. If the Association provides the paint, caller will brush it on.

Don't forget to check out Randolph Civic Association's **WEB SITE** at http://www.randolphcivic.org

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**2000-04-02 (Sun) 7:27 pm** Anonymous. Caller is responding about the rabbit smell as reported in the last ECHO. What can be done about it? You can't be outside when the wind blows. Caller would like some information about what can be done about this smell.

**2000-04-03 (Mon) 5:53 pm** Sidewalk repairs. What happened to the effort to fix the sidewalks? Haven't heard anything for a while.

**2000-04-04 (Tue) 10:04 am** Responding to the calls about Viers Mill Elementary in the ECHO. Caller's children went to VME with very good results and is sorry to hear that children are running around in the halls all day and having fights. Regarding the 50% subsidized lunch program and the two out of three second-grade classrooms that have English as a second language, this is not a detriment to the school. Caller praises and compliments the school in meeting the needs of the community in this two issues.

**2000-04-05 (Wed) 12:36 pm** When is the Association going to publish a new version of the community map? There is a foot path that cuts across the new school

(continued on page 14)



## RCALand Real Estate Report

Cindy Moses

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The first step coward whales the homebuying war is to Be Prepared. Do you need to pail your current home first? It is impossible to buy in this market when your contract is contingent upon the sale of your home. If necessary, give yourself a home-finding continuous or a rest-back in order to keep yourself from being "homeless."

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the offers of other layers you must appear to be the strongest candidate if you are to be the successful bidder.

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#### **RCA Hotline**

(continued from page 13)

(Smith School in the former Randolph Junior High building) from Boiling Brook to Macon Road. Please show this on the map. This would be helpful for those that do not own a car.

**2000-04-05 (Wed) 2:24 pm** Health and Crisis International. Wants donated vehicles.

**2000-04-05 (Wed) 4:31 pm** Randolph Hills. Would it be possible for the Boy Scouts to shovel snow during the next cold season? Seniors would sure appreciate it. A contribution could be made as well.

**2000-04-06 (Thu) 6:37 pm** Anonymous. There is a large commercial 40'box truck, over 1 1/2 ton truck being parked on Macon Road. Police have been called many times with no results. *[see article on page 8.]* 

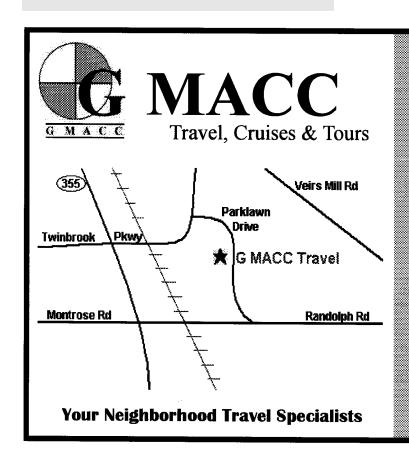
Age is not important unless you're a cheese.

Helen Hayes



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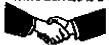
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## Neighborhood Notes

#### State Money for RCA-Land

RCA-land is benefiting from the County's efforts to get more State money for local projects. Garrett Park, over the railroad tracks from RCA-land, is getting \$500,000 to renovate their little town building, the Penn Building. Strathmore Hall in "North Bethesda" is getting \$1 million for preliminary work for the new Performing Arts Center. You should know other neighborhood associations are very concerned about the Rockville Pike traffic this will generate. The Hebrew Home on Montrose Rd. will get \$650,000 for a new geriatric care facility.

#### RCA Zoning Violations

The RCAthanks on your behalf those RCA'ers who have taken it upon themselves to report housing code violations. The RCA assisted by providing a basic understanding of residential zoning law, and providing County contacts. The RCAExecutive Committee stresses this is an individual effort. RCAinvolvement is limited only because not everyone agrees with upholding the letter of the law, and we do not want to spend valuable RCA meeting time discussing individual complaints, especially from violators.

#### Vote on a Name on the RCA Hotline!

The US Postal Service is beginning construction on a processing facility at the intersection of Montrose Rd & Jefferson Street. The USPS plans on naming it "Pike Station." The RCA takes exception with that name, and has started a civic association drive to change it. "The Pike" has a long history as a private toll road that started in Bethesda, and ran progressively further out, eventually to Rockville. Our Pike is one possible origin of the phrase "...comes down the Pike." "The Pike" has always referred to the entire length of the historical road, but never one local area. RCA-land and the building site area have been referred to as "White Flint" since colonial times, and more recently Rockville. What's your choice for naming this building? Give us a call on the RCA Hotline!

#### **Garrett Park Road Update**

Mr. Pete Beettinger, facilities manager of the Parks Department in our area, told Frank Shore that Garrett Park Road and bridge will be repaired by the end of this summer, 2000. This road and bridge connects the RCA at Schuylkill Road to Beach Drive/Rock Creek Park. The RCA thanks Mr. Beettinger and his crew headed by

Jimmy Cowling for their efforts. This stretch of parkway sure needs it!

Also, the RCAthanks Mr. Beettinger and staff for the tree trimming and maintenance (graffiti, tennis courts) at the Randolph Hills Recreation Center. The low branches of the trees were havens for nighttime activities we don't even want to describe! Now that they're gone, visibility is much improved.

## **Holiday Trash Collection Schedule**

There are no changes to regular trash pickup until the week of Memorial Day, Monday, May 29. That week, all trash collection for RCA will slide one day and be performed on Tuesday of that week only.

## Gardening Tips

Labor lovingly on your lawn and garden every weekend. Set mower height for summer cutting, 3 to 4 inches depending on grass type. Many RCA'ers cut their grass TOO SHORT.A taller cut will slow weed growth. Apply chelated iron to green up lawn. Crabgrass starts growing in June. Water lawn in the morning so grass surface is dry at night, preventing blight. Apply Milorganite for a great lawn in July & August. Bagworms are exiting their pouches, so this is your last chance to pick them off by

hand. Leaf-cutter insects are eating your roses! Spider mites, scale, and aphids are eating all your plants! Spray an Horticultural Oil every 2 weeks to control. Setup Japanese Beetle traps. Stake your peonies.

Get busy!



### WATERY EYES?? SNEEZING?? WHEEZING??

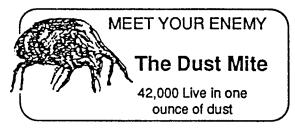
## IF YOU SUFFER FROM ALLERGIES IN THE WINTER IT COULD BE RELATED TO YOUR DIRTY FORCED AIR HEATING DUCT SYSTEM

Here's Why:

Most people don't realize that the space consumed by the ducts in the home is equivalent to an extra room that's never been cleaned.

Medical research has found that the dirt, dust, pollen, bacteria, molds and dust mites in duct systems can cause allergies to flare.

Consider that the average person spend's 90% of their time indoors. Filthy air ducts blow bacteria, fungi, mold, pollen and other disease causing spores into your living environment...morning, noon and night.



Benefits to you:

Professional Air Duct Cleaning reduces allergy and respiratory suffering, reduces costly heating/cooling cost and improves the overall air distribution in your home and also reduces household cleaning and dusting labor.

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- 1. Trained technicians connect a hose from a specially designed vacuum system to your duct work. Each outlet is sealed off and a vacuum is created within the duct system.
- 2. The technician determines if the dirt and mold in the duct work is caked on.
- 3. High pressure compressed air is injected into each vent, this air blast pushes the dirt and duct down into the main duct run.
- 4. After the vents are blown down we take a small tool call the aire sweep and insert it in the main duct runs. The aire sweep moves down the duct run each time air pressure is applied. This action sweeps grime, dirt and dust back to the vacuum hose hookup and into the portable vacuum system.
- 5. We then air wash the fan blower compartment, plenum, air handling side of the furnace and the a/c coil with air pressure and vacuum.

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### **MCAFCE**

by Mary Lee

On May 1st at 7:30 p.m., we will be meeting at the home of Eleanor Cregger with Eldred helping as hostess. Again, we will be making favors for Meals on Wheels.



Thanks to Judy for having our meeting in March. Your chip-beef dip placed in the middle of the French bread was very good along with other things, and Ethel, your Watergate cake was delicious also. We received a real nice "thank you" from Meals on Wheels for the St. Patrick's Day favors. Maybe it made their day, huh?

Many thanks goes to Anneke for having us in April. She worked so hard trying to cut out all those cute Bunnies and we were quite busy gluing them onto the napkin rings for Meals on Wheels. Your Lemon Chiffon Pie was just delicious — now we know why your sons rate it Number One on your dessert list. She is also sharing the recipe with us.

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

#### The section of the se

Hope you enjoy the recipes! Thanks to Penny Biondo who sent us the Orange Coconut Muffins recipe. Happy Spring!

## Frozen Berry Fluff



2 cans (21 oz. each) raspberry or strawberry pie filling

1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk

1 can (8 oz.) crushed pineapple, undrained

1 12 oz. container Cool Whip, thawed

Fresh berries and mint (optional) for garnish

In a bowl, combine first three ingredients. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread in ungreased  $13 \times 9 \times 2$  pan. Cover and freeze for 8 hours or overnight. Remove from freezer 10-15 minutes before serving. Cut into squares.

Yield: 12-15 servings

## Lemon Chiffon Pie (from Anneke Kroos)

#### Step One:

4 beaten egg yolks

1/2 c. sugar

1/2 c. lemon juice

1/2 t. salt

1 envelope unflavored gelatin

1/4 c. cold water

#### Step Two:

1/2 c. sugar

4 beaten egg whites

1 9" baked pie shell or lady fingers

whipped cream

Combine egg yolks, 1/2 c. sugar, salt and lemon juice. Cook in double boiler until thick, stirring constantly. Add gelatin softened in cold water. Stir until dissolved. Cool until partially set. Beat remaining 1/2 c. sugar into egg whites and fold into cooled mixture. Pour into pie shell. Chill until firm. Serve topped with whipped cream or strawberries, if desired. Bon appetit!

## **Orange Coconut Muffins**

#### Muffins

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/4 cup sugar

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup orange juice

1/4 cup Land 0 Lakes margarine, melted

1 egg

1 (11-oz.) can mandarin orange segments, drained

#### **Topping**

1/3 cup flaked coconut

1/4 cup sugar

1 tablespoon Land 0 Lakes margarine, softened

1/2 teaspoon grated orange peel

Heat oven to 375.In large bowl,combine flour, 1/4 cup sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt.In medium bowl combine orange juice,melted margarine and egg.Add to flour mixture just until moistened.Gently stir in drained orange segments. Spoon into greased or paper-lined muffin pans filling each 2/3 full.

In small bowl stir together coconut, 1/4 cup sugar, margarine and orange peel.Sprinkle evenly on top of each muffin.Bake for 18 to 23 minutes or until lightly browned.Let stand 5 minutes; remove from pans.Makes 12 muffins.

Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.

Erma Bombeck

Comments on topics concerning the neighborhood?

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RCA Hotline – 24 hours



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## News from Cub Scout Pack 1081

by Doneby Smith



The badges and pins and paws keep coming at Cub Scout Pack 1081. **Tony Caffi, Detrick Hoes,** 

Matt Fieller, Michael Rud y, Patrick Souder, Robbie Smith, and Blake Wyatt earned their Tiger Paw # 12 "Make Your Own." In ranks, Wesley Melvin advanced to Wolf and Casey Lannigan and Moses Har t advanced to Bear. The religious award, "Light of Christ," was earned by **Anthony Gadbois.** Among our Webelos 1, Mark Bushong, Russell Cando, and Edward Huggins earned Handyman. Frederick Aguglub, Mark Bushong, Russell Cando, Edward Huggins, Javier Silva, and Andy Wood earned Showman. Mark Bushong, Russell Cando, Edward Huggins, and Andy Wood earned Communicator. These Webelos 2 Scouts earned the Scholar pin: Scott Talbott, Hafez Taghavi, Howard Johnson, Roger Tellez, Brian Diaz, James Cr owder. Scott Talbott, Howard Johnson, Hafez Taghavi, and Roger Tellez earned the Traveler pin. Howard Johnson, Hafez Taghavi, Roger Tellez, and Brian Diaz earned the Readyman pin and Hafez Taghavi earned the Music pin. Busy guys!

Our Parent-Son Bake-off was great fun with many winners in the categories of Cake, Pies, Cookies and Miscellaneous. Our Pack fundraising efforts got a boost with generous bids from parents and friends when all the the entries were auctioned after the competition. Yum! We enjoyed our annual Spring Pow-Wow and the graduation of our Webelos 2 Scouts from Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts at our Pack meeting on April 27.

With the arrival of Spring, it is time to be outside. Our conservation project this year was a clean-up of a local stream on April 29th, and we tested our legs on the aptly-named Billy Goat Trail May 7th. The candy bar sale continues, so if you have a hankering for a Reese's Cup or a Hershey bar, ask one of our Scouts. You get a lot of chocolate for a dollar, and you help our Pack meet our expenses. Thank you and Happy Spring!

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

## 2nd Annual Riding and Remembering Mark Shore

The Mark Shore Memorial Bike Team was formed in 1999 to raise money to fight the debilitating disease of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in memory of Mark Shore (36), a Randolph Hills native, who died from complications related to MS in November 1998. The team rode in the 1999 17th Annual Snow Valley MS 150 Bike Tour and set a "Mark for Mark" raising \$26,000! Thank you to all who helped the team.

Shore was best known for serving as a two-term commissioner on Montgomery County's Commission on People with Disabilities and his activism for disability rights. He was also instrumental in the implementation of many transportation-accessibility issues in Montgomery County, such as curb cuts in sidewalks. His dedication to improving the lives of others with disabilities will not be forgotten.

In a quest to find a cure for this debilitating disease, the Mark Shore Memorial Bike Team has set out to "break the record for Mark." Shore's parents, Senator Frank and Josephine Shore, his brothers, sister and friends have embarked on this aggressive fundraising campaign and are counting on the support of Mark's local community.

Help the team by pledging your support or joining Mark's team of riders. New riders are welcome to participate. Call the Mark Shore Memorial Hotline today at (301) 770-1815 to leave your pledge or send your tax-deductible contribution by May 30, 2000 to Frank Shore, 11230 Troy Rd., Rockville, MD 20852. Make checks payable to National Multiple Sclerosis Society and indicate on the check that it is for the "Mark Shore Bike Team."

**Please support the Mark Shore Memorial Bike Team** in any way that you can. The Shore family thanks you for your donation to fight MS and a tribute to Mark Shore, a young man who did so much for the disabled community during his short life.



## What a Storm!

It was brief, but it was fierce. The winds that swept through our neighborhood on April 9th took down half of this tree on Ashley Drive, squashing a fence in the process. And then, snow in April! Let's hope Spring is now with us to stay.



## CLASSIFIEDS

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

**MOVING SALE.** Must sell: end tables, sofa, toys, games, electric fan, 9x12 wool area rug, luggage, ladder, metal bookcases, lawnmower, tools, swivel chair, wall hangings, etc. Very, very reasonable prices. Montrose Park, (301) 881-3586. Come and browse!

**HELP WANTED.** Assistant Manager for Mailing and Shipping store in Rockville. Computer experience. Good communications skills. Full time and part time position available with flexible days and hours. We will train. Fax resume (301) 816-0491.

## Did You Get Your Echo?

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

> The next Echo will be the June/July/August 2000 issue. Look for it in early June.

## RCA Meetings

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

## Important Phone Numbers



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Police: Emergency911
Abandoned Cars (on private property)240-777-3600
Animal Control
Building Permits
Consumer Affairs
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)
Department of Natural Resources800-442-0708 (wildlife nuisance problems)
Disability Resources
Fire Non-Emergency
Housing Code Violations
Libraries: Hours, etc
Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info 202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society       .301-279-1823         Emergencies only       .301-279-1694         Volunteer Info       .301-279-1026         Licensing Dept       .301-279-1249
Motor Vehicle Administration301-948-3177
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance240-777-7700 (noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)
Parking Violations
Parks: Information & Permits301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Outtoll free 1-877-737-2662 Emergency/Life Threatening202-872-3432
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RCA Hotline
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Recreation Information
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Street Light Out
Transportation
Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)240-777-7433
Trash Collection
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## April Showers of Home Sales in Randolph Hills, Franklin Park and Montrose Park!

### HOME SALES SETTLED SINCE JANUARY

Address	<b>List Price</b>	<b>Sold Price</b>	Subsidy	Days
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11311 Ashley	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$3,000	4
11213 Ashley	\$172,500	\$169,000	\$3,000	114
11825 Rocking Hor	se \$174,950	\$175,000	\$8,750	25
4306 Star	\$154,000	\$150,000	\$2,255	4

HOMES FOR SALE		Days	
Address	List Price	On Market	
12012 Galena	\$174,900	9	Listed by Denise
12216 Hunters	\$197,000	90	
4711 Red Fox	\$174,900	2	Listed by Denise
11200 Rock	\$169,900	50	
4712 Topping	\$181,500	107	

13 HOMES UNDER CONTRACT...Average # Days on Market = 11

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