

# The ECHO

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association*

Volume 55, Issue 2

October 2011

## **RCA and County Cut Ribbon on New Picnic Facility**

*by Mark Nensel*

While the weather gods decided to pelt the area with unrelenting drizzle, showers, and cold summer's-over dreariness, the RCA community pulled together and held our Community Day Picnic on Saturday October 1, officially inaugurating and opening the brand new picnic shelter at Randolph Hills Park.

With hot dogs, hot chocolate, musical entertain-

ment, a Park Police horse, an environmental appreciation display, and speeches by Montgomery County Council Vice President Roger Berliner and Montgomery County Parks Director Mary Bradford, the ribbon was cut and the new gazebo-style picnic shelter was officially up and running. More pictures of the event are on page 8.

It's a tasteful and appealing structure, featuring meticulously designed and assembled brick and granite materials for its floor and benches. As a picnic shelter, it did exactly that. It allowed our Community Day picnic to be both successful and enjoyable, even in unpleasant weather. May it hold many more such events, in good weather and bad, long into our community's future.



*Years of hard work finally pay off! Many RCA residents and Park staff cut the ribbon on the new picnic shelter including (from left) Council Vice President Roger Berliner, Parks Director Mary Bradford, Parks staff CJ Lilly, RCA Director Matt Tifford, and RCA President Dan Hoffman.*

## **Remember to Renew Your RCA Membership**

*A Gentle Reminder from your Community*

It's that time of year again and your RCA membership is more important than ever before. As we work to continually improve our neighborhood, your \$10 membership and continued participation are critical to the success of programs like the Neighborhood Watch and publications like the Echo.

So please take a moment and fill out the form on page 15 in this Echo. You can also renew by visiting [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) and clicking on 'Membership'. Also donate a little extra if you can. Please note that while donations to the RCA are not tax-deductible, they keep The Echo in print, and our other activities funded. Donations to the RCF are tax-deductible. The RCF supports and sponsors activities such as community beautification and local youth groups.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **RCA Community Bazaar (formerly the Fall Yard Sale)**

October 15th, 2011 8:00am-1:00pm, Loehmann's Plaza

Show up early and claim a good spot! RCA members get a free space; Non-members pay \$10 per space.

### **RCA Executive Board Meeting**

November 3rd, 2011 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

### **RCA General Membership Meeting**

December 1st, 2011 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

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

### OFFICERS

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301-938-7494  
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Ways and Means  
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301-770-0119

## President's Message

by Dan Hoffman, RCA President

As we enter the 2011-2012 RCA year, I'm excited because we are finally starting to see signs of progress in our neighborhood. We just cut the ribbon on our new picnic shelter a couple weeks ago, the Neighborhood Watch is rolling along, and our new neighborhood signs are going to be installed any day now. Granted, a glass half empty perspective might only see the amount of work that remains. But as someone who works regularly with the County and often meets with other neighborhood representatives, many of the challenges that seem to afflict us are in fact common across all neighborhoods, all over the Washington DC region. We only keep them at bay through hard work.

That's why things like our RCA meetings, the Neighborhood Watch, the annual membership drive, and the Echo exist. They are opportunities for you to take ownership of your neighborhood rather than just your house. Please consider volunteering with the RCA. We have plenty to do and rely on our volunteers. Even simply renewing your membership is helpful. If you haven't yet sent yours in, please do it now. You can even renew online by visiting [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) and clicking on Membership.

Speaking of our website, I'm happy to announce a new feature we'll be testing out this RCA year. For the speakers at our general membership meetings we will be recording the presentations and posting them on a dedicated RCA YouTube channel. We will start doing this with our membership meeting in December. We're not streaming anything live, but it is our intent to post the videos online within a few days of the meeting. This costs us nothing and allows you to catch up if you miss a speaker you're interested in. Over the summer we got a donation of two video cameras and we're putting them to use. Now, this is NOT a reason to skip meetings. We still need your ear and your voice.

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

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

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

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

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

**Web site: [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org)**

# Neighborhood News in Brief

- **Five new Neighborhood Watch signs have been installed in the neighborhood.** These signs, in addition to the three existing signs, cover all major vehicular and pedestrian entrances into the neighborhood. If you haven't signed up to help out with the neighborhood watch program please email Mara Greengrass at [mara.greengrass@verizon.net](mailto:mara.greengrass@verizon.net).
- **The Garrett Park Nursery School is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year!** If your child will be 2-, 3- or 4-years old by September 1, 2012, please check out this wonderful co-op program. Nearing it's 60th year, GPNS will begin the next school year in it's beautifully renovated new building! Learn more at our website, [www.garrettparknurseryschool.org](http://www.garrettparknurseryschool.org) or by emailing [membershipGPNS@yahoo.com](mailto:membershipGPNS@yahoo.com).
- **Don't forget to renew your RCA membership!** If you misplaced the form from the last issue, we included it again in this issue on page 15. You can also go to [www.randolphcivic.org](http://www.randolphcivic.org) and renew right now!

**Do you have a quick bite of news you'd like to share with the neighborhood? Please feel free to submit a few sentences to [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) by the deadlines posted on page 15 of this issue.**

**Thank you!**



## Important Websites

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



## Important Phone Numbers

Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	240-773-6070
Park Police: Emergency	301-949-3010

*(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuykill Parks)*

Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	240-773-6411
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6260
Consumer Affairs and Protection	240-777-3636
Crisis Center Hotline (24 hours)	240-777-4000
Department of Natural Resources	877-463-6497

*(wildlife nuisance problems)*

Disability Services	240-777-3000
Fire Marshall (Non-Emergency)	240-777-2457
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3785

*(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)*

Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Locations, Accounts, Etc.	240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus (wmata.com)	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society (Non-Emer)	240-773-5960
Montgomery County Humane Society (Emer)	240-773-5900
Motor Vehicle Admin (mva.maryland.gov)	800-950-1682
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Report Power Outages	877-737-2662
PEPCO: Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Pollution Complaint (Dumping, Noise, Burning)	240-777-7700
Post Office: Rollins Ave, Rockville	301-231-5973
Montgomery County Public Schools K-12	301-309-6277
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept)	240-777-1245
RCA Hotline	240-668-4722
Recreation Classes	240-777-6870
Recycling Info	240-777-6410
Senior Programs (55+)	240-777-4925
Street Light Out	240-777-6000
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623

*(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)*

Tree Maintenance	240-777-6000
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-4001
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-7700

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



## "Heavenly Harvest" Fall Festival October 21-23, 2011

FRI 4-7pm | SAT 9am-4pm | SUN 10:30am-2pm

Outdoor Harvest Market, Pumpkins, Bake Sale,  
Flu Shots, High Quality Gifts, Craft Boutique,  
Brews Brothers Cafe, Children's Crafts,  
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### NET PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

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United Methodist Committee on Relief USA (Disaster Relief)  
Chikumbuso (Widows & Orphans, Zambia)

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[www.faithworkshere.com/harvest.html](http://www.faithworkshere.com/harvest.html)

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## October General Membership Meeting Minutes

by *Christiana Drapkin*

The RCA General Membership meeting of October 6, 2011 was held at the Charles E. Smith Day School. Attending headcount was 16. Guests for the evening included Fred Lees, MCDOT, Chief of Traffic Engineering Studies Section, Kyle Liang, MCDOT Area Engineer, and Mar McNeill, of the Day School. The purpose of the meeting with the MCDOT representatives was to discuss traffic monitoring within the County, particularly in the RCA-land area.

Dan Hoffman called the meeting to order; he made an appeal to members, encouraging joining the RCA community listserve. Dan spoke about observations he has made while navigating the morning rush hour as it passes thru the new bump-out by the Day School. He reported average wait times during a 10 to 20 minute window of 6-7 minutes between 7 and 8 a.m. He observed more waiting occurred during the mornings when there was construction on Randolph. Outside the peak window, drivers experienced a 3-4 minute wait time. Completely off peak times, drivers experience very little wait.

We talked with Mr. McNeill about the School's policies with parents: where to drop off, how to drop off, how to keep kids safe, how to not impede traffic.

The first speaker was Fred Lees. He indicated that he is available for contact,

How did MCDOT arrive at the bump-out? MCDOT has a "Safe Routes to Schools" program county-wide, monitoring public & private schools, to make it safer to kids to get to school. At the Smith school, during drop-off times, there's a lot of conflict going on.

He described the Smith School situation as a "Double-threat", meaning multiple lanes of traffic, one car is stopping, while the other lane is blocked from view. Three persons have been struck on Boiling Brook Parkway heading toward Parklawn. Boiling Brook Parkway was not designed for two traffic lanes, but for one lane, plus one parking lane. MCDOT constructed a physical barrier at the bus stop, more than a hatched area, to secure the bus stop. At the same time, utility work in the roadway was happening.

Coming the other direction, MCDOT looked at the traffic volume, coming down from Parklawn into Boiling Brook. "If we can keep them in a single lane, it slows drivers down" Lees said. MCDOT created a single left-turn lane to turn to the school. Additionally, there are queuing problems from Boiling Brook onto Parklawn. MCDOT has been looking at the traffic flow, changing the timing of the entering traffic. One suggestion they are considering is revising the lane use, and allow both lanes to make the left turn on Nicholson. It will require changes in traffic signal phases. This could be accomplished in six months to a year.

Long term bigger project solution for this intersection might be: install a small median, two lanes coming in, two lanes going out. Another solution may involve eliminating the median to change the configuration of the intersection.

Lees mentioned that he had brought large maps and sticky notes. We were invited to examine the maps and then use sticky notes to make our own suggestions.

There were two car accidents in the initial two weeks. One resident who lives near the bumpout was in an accident. There is lack of clarity, a lot of confusion.

Karen Helfert brought up the bigger problem: the Rocking Horse - Boiling Brook intersection. Volume doesn't seem to warrant a traffic light there. Will White Flint II's anticipated development give us a chance to design a good traffic light intersection?

What about speed humps? According to MCDOT, we can't have them on Boiling Brook, our options are limited to horizontal displacement. Can we make this intersection better, short of "blowing up and rebuilding" it?

During pick-up and drop-off times, parents only slow down for the stop sign, not obeying the stop sign. This is a problem. A weekly newsletter goes out to the Day School's parents: school's rules and regulations about stopping, dropping off. PO Michael Prather is the school's community officer. The school is discussing hiring a crossing guard (hiring a police officer is too expensive).

Motion passed: RCA will write a letter to Day School Principal Michael Kay. We will convey that the civic association feels it's a very good idea to have a staff person assigned to the street, to make sure that crossing and traffic behavior be monitored and supervised.

About busing students in: lower school is just as congested. Buses are very expensive. The school would have to purchase additional vehicles. The school, however, did increase ridership of students, to lessen the car impact on the area, lessened bus fees.

DOT has a bicycle coordinator, Gayle Tait-Nouri, to improve bicycle safety. In this county and community, promoting bicycling, walking, public transportation use "is an uphill battle."

To bring the conversation back to bump-outs, Nick conveyed that he is supportive of the bump-outs, they seem to improve the safety of the intersections. The temporary bump-outs could be made more permanent: the "left turn only" coming from Nicholson onto Boiling Brook. The other temporary bump-out, coming from Rocking Horse, creates a lot of backup, should not be made permanent.

The traffic signal analysis will be made within the next couple of weeks, and we should have new information for the next RCA meeting in December.

Randolph & Rocking Horse light, signal timing was to be changed, following an RCA request a couple of years ago. To reduce the green phase for the left turn. To discourage the through-

*(continued on page 10)*

# Randolph Hills Community Garden 2011 Wrap-up

by Jim McKenney

Thanks to Christiana Drapkin's article in the Echo back in May I became aware of the newly-established community garden plots on the grounds of the old Rocking Horse School. If you have ever wanted a vegetable garden but felt that your yard was too shady or simply didn't have room for vegetables, you'll want to know more about these community garden plots. The site is surrounded by deer fencing, water and wood chips are available on the site and, sometimes, leaf compost is available as well.

You provide the sweat equity. The site was tilled before the plots were offered, but the soil still requires a lot of work. The plots are to be managed using "organic" methods and materials. That means no inorganic granular fertilizers such as 10-10-10, no Miracle Grow. And it means no petrochemical bug killers. To learn more about this program, go to the Montgomery Parks permits page here: [http://www.montgomeryparks.org/permits/find/community\\_gardens\\_program.shtm](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/permits/find/community_gardens_program.shtm).

Plots are rented on an annual basis; current renters have the option of renting the same plot in successive years. There are some restrictions on what can be grown (for instance, nothing invasive, or nothing over six feet high), but otherwise the field is wide open for both annual and perennial crops of vegetables and ornamentals (flowers). I see several patches of strawberries at the Rocking Horse site, and I'll bet it won't be long before there are plantings of rhubarb, asparagus and even brambles (if contained).

The rental fee depends on the size of the area rented. At Rocking Horse this year, the basic plot size is 20x20 feet, and this rents for \$50. Is it worth it? On the basis of my experience, I would say that one would have to work hard and put in a lot of time to make it pay. Keep in mind that it is not all fun and bragging about the size of your zucchini. The site is swarming with insect pests, and unless you are familiar with organic

methods of control (I'm a newbie at it), don't be surprised if by mid-summer you're convinced that you're running a salad bar for the bugs. The soil is lean and well compacted: expect to incorporate plenty of organic matter and to dig or till it deeply. Expect watering and weeding to take up a lot of your time, at least until your crops are well established. And there will be plenty of disappointments: crops which do not bear, seedlings which dry up, corn flattened by the wind and rain, entire rows of previously thriving plants drowned in the heavy rain, plants about to enter their prime and then cut down by insects: we saw those and more this year.

Yet with the price of grocery store tomatoes hovering between \$3 and \$4 per pound, fifteen pounds of home grown tomatoes (maybe 30 half-pound tomatoes) would pay for the plot. And can you really put a price on that moment when you present your guests with a platter of sliced tomatoes sprinkled with parsley, arugula and basil - and offhandedly mention that the tomatoes and herbs are from your community garden plot?

There are other benefits just as real but harder to quantify: for instance, if you are already a gardener, it's apt to be worth it just for the pleasure of being with like-minded people. People who grow vegetables are likely to be people who know how to prepare them for the table: there has been a lot of informal recipe swapping at Rocking Horse this summer.

I hope to be back next year, if only to benefit from what I learned this year. It's a wonderful opportunity, but you'll have to work to make it worthwhile.



*A view from inside the Community Garden*



## News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Tania Bingcang

Hello October from Girl Scouts Troop 1028! Everybody was filled with excitement as the first meeting took place last September 19. Old and new faces gathered while the parent troop leaders welcomed the scouts and their parents for the initial meeting. Parents received detailed information and forms to fill-up for upcoming trips and events. The girls also did some coloring and were assigned troop responsibilities such as being flag bearers during welcome and closing ceremonies, or a clean up officer, or an assistant during snack time. They created fancy bracelets made of beads; each bead color represented a part of the Girl Scout Law.

As the year's activities and events were discussed, our scouts couldn't contain their excitement. To begin with, October is a very promising month for the girls. It includes a Horse Farm trip to Days End Horse Farm in Lisbon, MD on October 15 and a day trip to Camp Brighton Woods on October 23. The Horse Farm Trip is for the Horse Lovers Badge program where our girls will not only learn how to properly ride a horse but learn basic horse anatomy and equipment used in preparation for a ride. They will be quizzed as they learn about grooming, tacking a horse and many more. Camp Brighton Woods will be equally fun as our girls enjoy the outdoors again for another camping day. Activities will include playing games, hiking, roasting marshmallows on bonfires, and much more. In next month's issue, you shall hear from Girl Scouts' Troop 1028 again; we will tell all about our own experiences from these exciting events.

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## RCA Cuts the Ribbon on a Beautiful New Picnic Shelter

At our fall Community Day event even poor weather wasn't enough to detract from the impressive job the Parks department did on our new picnic facility in Randolph Hills Local Park. Below are pictures from Community Day.



**Thank you to everyone who attended and made this a very fun afternoon. To reserve the picnic facility for your own event, contact the Parks department at (301)495-2525.**



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# Loehmann's Plaza

5200 – 5290 Randolph Road, Rockville MD



Boston Market	(301) 984-0990
El Patio	(301) 231-9225
Chuck E. Cheese	(301) 468-2491
Congressional Bank	(301) 984-6000
Dollar Tree	(301) 231-6097
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## News from Girl Scout Troop 1079 (Cadettes)

By Leora Hernandez

This troop is for girls in grades 6th-8th. At the Cadette troop level the girls will have opportunities to grow leadership skills, earn SSL hours, and have fun!

Our troop is meeting Monday evenings at Viers Mill Elementary School from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. If you are interested in joining us please contact me.

During our first meeting the girls made some decisions about what they would like to do in the upcoming months.

In September, we practiced building a fire and made pie iron pizzas. They were yummy! Amanda H. and Fernanda M. helped out at the Pack 1081 Physical Fitness Day by timing the cub scouts or running information back the ribbon writers.

In October the troop will go to the Montgomery Agricultural Farm Festival to enjoy fall activities such as scarecrow making, pumpkin decorating and hay rides.

The troop is primarily girl run so they will be planning their upcoming outings or service projects once we begin meeting

again. We hope to have more girls join our troop so that we can accomplish even more.

Picture is from our end of the year bowling party in June.

Girls in 6th-8th grade interested in joining us? Contact Leora Hernandez at 240-418-2984 or leorah2o@yahoo.com for more information.



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### October Minutes

(continued from page 4)

traffic from Randolph Road on Rocking Horse through the neighborhood.

DOT does "push-out" information on some projects but not on others. Extending corner clearances are not projects, where they inform the public ahead of time. Most of what DOT does, occurs more in the background without community alerts.

The Randolph Hills Park bump-out at the playground on Ashley Drive, was a great improvement. We applaud the good design that made this intersection safer.

Other intersections:

Where Boiling Brook goes into Schuylkill, hot right turn. This needs to be changed.

Rocking Horse & Macon crosswalk (leading to Rocking Horse Center and the community garden, major pedestrian thoroughfare). The yellow panel was run down too many times. A bumpout, similar to the one on Ashley and Macon to create a safer pedestrian crossing and calm thru traffic on Rocking Horse.

Randolph Road & Hunter is a dangerous intersection. DOT is studying an island, without obstructing the residents' driveways.

Committee Reports:

Membership drive committee: memberships are rolling

in, please renew if you haven't done so yet.

Public Safety: new "Neighborhood Watch" signs have been installed by DOT. Thank you.

Residential Permit parking program: DOT has an application process. This area is not an established residential permit parking area. We'd have to go to a public hearing. A hearing examiner will hear our arguments and will evaluate on a block-by-block basis. If you have people coming to your house, you can get a residential pass; you can get a temporary permit for service vehicles; Joe Pospisel of DOT will help us through the process. There are a few locations in the neighborhood where this might be desirable.

Public Safety: Things are quiet, thank goodness. Patrols are in progress. We always need more people, to make the patrols effective & viable.

Environmental: Interested in gardening? We're putting in new signs, and planting around them. Please contact Matt Tifford and help out. Our new "Randolph Hills" signs have arrived, they're in a crate, and we're waiting for the Boy Scouts, to install them with their eagle badge project.

Treasurer: Yard sale was on budget. Membership dues started coming in.

9:25 p.m. meeting is adjourned.

After that, we all grouped around the table with the large traffic maps. We discussed our suggestions for the various intersections and traffic improvements, applying sticky notes and writing our specific suggestions down.

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## News from Cub Scout Pack 1081

*By Leora Hernandez*

Pack 1081 is accepting boys from first grade to fifth grade into their pack. The boys enjoy learning all kinds of life skills and experience a wide variety of activities such as camping, trips to museums, bowling, and skiing.

On September 22nd we had our first pack meeting of the year. The Webelos I and II who attended resident camp at Tuckahoe received Belt Loops and Pins they earned while there.

Webelos I (4th graders) earned the following: Franklin A., Mitchell C. and Jarod H. all earned the Fishing Belt Loop, Nutrition Belt Loop, Astronomy Belt Loop, Swimming Belt Loop, BB Shooting Belt Loop and Pin, and Archery Belt Loop and Pin. They also each earned the Aquanaut, Naturalist, Sportsman, and Outdoorsman Activity Pins.

Webelos II (5th graders) earned the following: Adrian S., Thomas A., Galen G., Nathaniel H., and Daniel H. each earned the Hiking Belt Loop and pin, Nutrition Belt Loop, Astronomy Belt Loop and the Readyman Pin. Adrian S. also earned the Swimming Belt Loop and Pin, Fishing Belt Loop, and Naturalist Activity Pin.

The boys and their families participated in the Pack's first Rain Gutter Regatta -- a friendly competition of blowing Styrofoam boats through a rain gutter filled with water.

Service Pins were presented to Cub Scouts for years in Pack 1081: 1 year – Paul C., Conrad H., Andrew M., Tristen P., Shawn S., Cameron S., William M.; 2 years – Vincent M., Steven M., Sergio H., Matthew A., James T., Mitchell C., Liam O., and Franklin A.; 3 years – Jarod H. and Danny H; 4 years – Thomas A., Adrian S., Nathaniel H., Galen G., and Daniel H.

Adults' service pins: Sheila C. – 3yrs., Erik S. – 6yrs., Mike T. – 1yr, Timothy M. 1yr, and Don G. – 7yrs. The Pack truly is thankful for those who have helped the pack grow!

On September 25th, the pack held its annual Physical Fitness Day at Wheaton High School. The Dens competed in Soft ball throw, Curl Ups, Push Ups, 50 Yard Dash, and Standing Long Jump. They also completed other activities for the Presidential Fitness Awards. We were very fortunate the weather was great and everyone had a fun time. In October the Pack will have a family camping trip to Washington Monument State Park.

We are also selling popcorn to help fund all our great activities and the cost of patches or other awards the boys earn. Please help support our pack by buying some yummy popcorn!

The Pack meets Mondays at Viers Mill Elementary School during the school year starting at 6:30 pm. Boys in grades 1st - 5th are welcome to join. You can contact our Pack Master at don\_gibbons@verizon.net.

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## Troop 1083 News

*By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster*

The first three troop meetings of the new scouting year took place in September, after a busy summer of camping, high adventure, and community service activities. The Troop also held its first outing of the year, a campout at Cabin John campground. Days of steady rain prior to the campout turned the campground into a mud bog. By itself, muddy ground doesn't stop the Scouts from having a good time camping. However, the Troop's fall Court of Honor was scheduled to take place on Saturday evening at the campsite. The Court of Honor involves moms and dads and siblings and guests in attendance, and an abundant potluck dinner, and the ceremonial presentation of all the awards and badges the Scouts have earned in the past 3 months.

The Troop has hosted Courts of Honor outdoors, at campgrounds during downpours, more than once before. But on this occasion, with the Troop's membership having grown much larger in the past few years, an executive decision was made to move the Court of Honor to the Rockville Elks Lodge instead. So on September 24, 131 merit badges, 26 special achievements, 14 rank advancements, and the new Troop youth leadership officeholders were presented under a roof and surrounded by walls. The potluck dinner was fantastic. And dry. Moving the ceremony indoors wasn't such a bad idea.

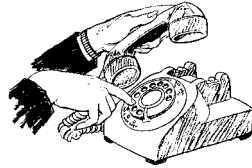
In October, the Troop's activities will include camping near Frederick and touring the Monocacy Battlefield National Park. If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday night at 7:30 at Viers Mill Elementary School. You can call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048, or check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org).

Correction: last month's report included some inaccurate details regarding the Eagle Scout service project led by Troop 1083 Scout Mathew Luong. Matthew's project actually consisted of affixing reflective tape to over 100 fire hydrants throughout RCA-land to make them more readily visible to first responders.

## The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received August 18th, 2011  
through September 26th, 2011



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

09-06-11 (Tues) at 4:29pm. Anonymous. Caller is a resident of the Randolph Hills neighborhood. Caller lives very close to the park at Boiling Brook and Ashley and is calling about 47xx Boiling Brook Parkway. Caller attends the meetings and, if the civic association wants to set a tone and presence in the neighborhood, it needs to be more involved in housing and code violations and the reporting and tracking of them. 47xx Boiling Brook has had at least twenty violations where county employees have had to come out and tell them how to live. Even today, they took a sofa – which caller saw them do because caller leaves early in the morning – and put it in front of a neighbor's home. If the civic association wants to have a presence in the neighborhood, it needs to start with the way that properties are maintained and kept. And, you should use full addresses – a hot page of people who are constantly having housing violations – that's not illegal. *(RCA Note: The RCA addresses these issues directly with the homeowner and the county when it is made aware of a specific situation. We push the County for action but have no authority to impose any sanctions of our own. Also keep in mind the all-volunteer nature of the RCA. If there is a specific house that is causing an issue please allow us to help you in dealing with the situation.)*

09-08-11 (Thurs) at 11:40am. Not Anonymous. Caller is interested in advertising in the Echo.

09-08-11 (Thurs) at 2:33pm. Not Anonymous. Different caller is interested in advertising in the Echo. *(RCA Note: Erin Meitzler is our Echo advertising coordinator. Her contact information is on page 2.)*

09-10-11 (Sat) at 10:58am. Anonymous. Calling to report someone leaving a couch on Boiling Brook Parkway, right next to the creek. The couch has been there for about a week and is harboring all sorts of animals and mosquitoes. Caller is very concerned

because it makes our neighborhood look terrible. It is ridiculous that people dump their trash like this out in the street and are dumping their stuff into the Boiling Brook Creek. Caller hopes people stop doing this because they're jerks. *(RCA Note: Also call 311 to report these types of incidents.)*

09-15-11 (Thurs) at 3:56pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is looking for information on the fall yard sale.

09-25-11 (Sun) at 1:18pm. Not Anonymous. Caller is looking for information on the fall yard sale. *(RCA Note: The Community Bazaar, formerly the yard sale, is Saturday, October 15th. See the cover for details.)*

09-25-11 (Sun) at 1:27pm. Anonymous. Caller is calling because over the last two or three weekends, there have been loud parties that have gone past midnight on in the general area of Ashley Drive and Boiling Brook Parkway. Please remind neighbors about the hours of quiet time. Perhaps there is a way – a system in place – to notify neighbors about potential exceptions to the quiet hours in advance so we can make plans to work with such situations and minimize inconveniences. It's tough when you don't sleep well and caller is just trying to maintain the peace for all. Perhaps this can be addressed in a way that's helpful to all so we're all aware of the quiet time hours and can keep each other in mind.

The logo for Rock Creek Dance Academy. It features a stylized silhouette of a ballerina in a graceful pose, with one leg extended and arms outstretched. The background is a light gray with a repeating pattern of the words "poise", "balance", "strength", "confidence", "grace", and "poise" in a light, sans-serif font. The text "ROCKCREEK" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and "dance academy" is in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the ballerina, the words "ballet", "jazz", "tap", "youth", "teens", and "adult" are listed in a sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website "www.rockcreekdance.com" and the phone number "301-515-1841" are displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. The address "corner of Randolph Rd &amp; Nebel St." is also visible at the bottom.



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

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

## Join Your Neighbors Online



The RCA Yahoo Group is a great resource for keeping up with happenings in RCA land. Need a recommendation for a local handyman? Looking for a babysitter or dog walker? Want to learn more about local activities? Have an idea to improve our neighborhood?

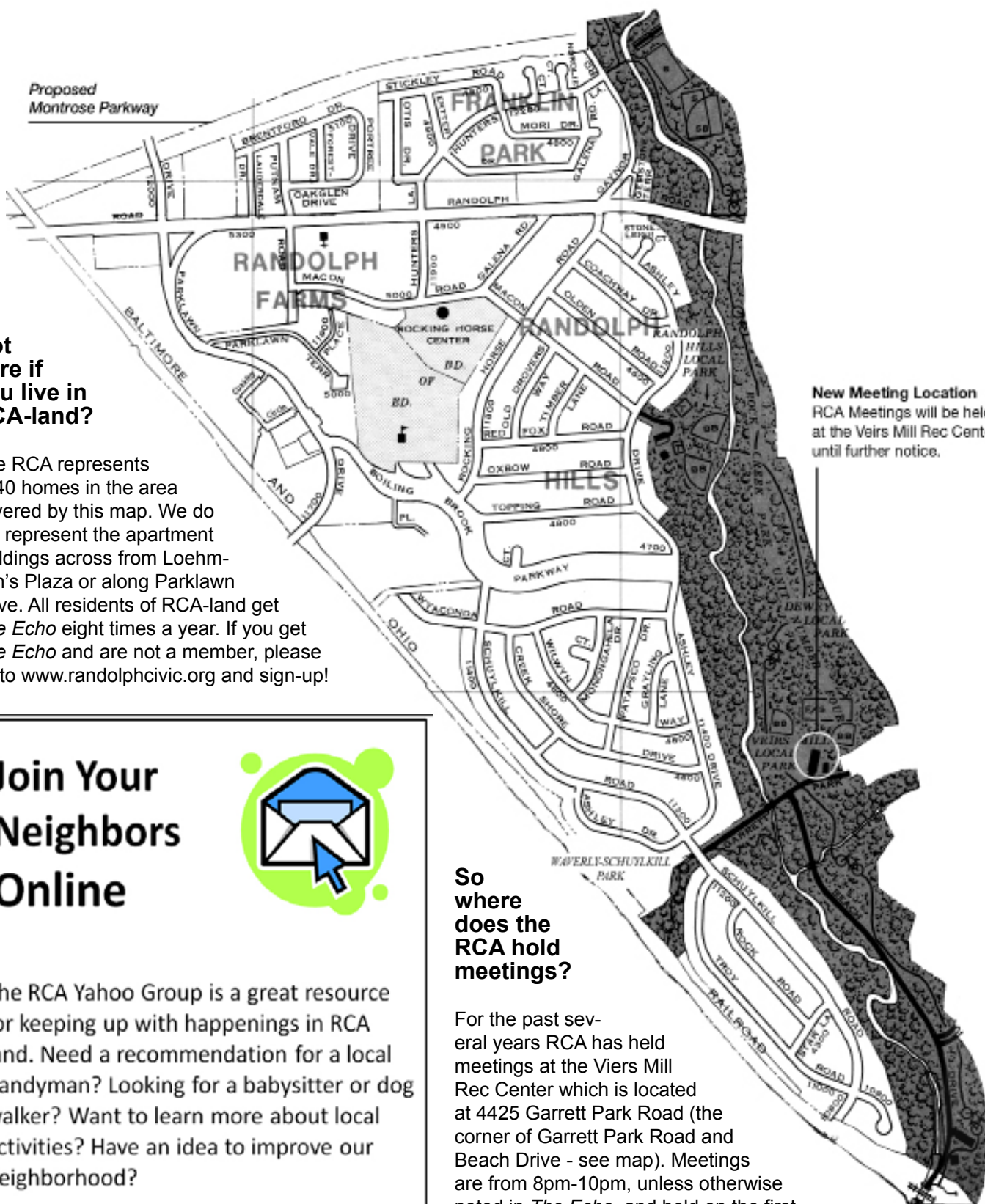
**Get in on the conversation at:**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>

## So where does the RCA hold meetings?

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

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



## President's Message

by Matt Tifford

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

*Margaret Mead*

I read this quote the other day and it immediately made me think of the Foundation and it's place in our community. I must confess, that I despite Ms. Mead's urging, I do have some doubt about the "only thing that ever has" part of the quote. However, I do know from personal experience that a such a group can bring about positive change in a community such as ours. After all, the Randolph Civic Foundation has been doing just that each year since it's founding, and it certainly has been a very small group.

But this month I want to urge all of our readers to change that. Let's make our Foundation a very large group. When I first moved here in 1998, my wife and I were not volunteering kind of people. We went to our jobs, busied ourselves with our home, and really only opened the Echo for the "Hotline". I must confess that I still do read that part first. Because of this, it took us years to get to know our neighbors. These days, I count many of my neighbors as my dearest friends. The ways in which getting to know them have enriched our lives and our childrens cannot be measured. None of this would have happened if we hadn't gotten involved volunteering in the community.

The good news is, volunteering is easy. It takes very little time, and the rewards are great. If you are still reading, hopefully that means that your intrigued and want to know more. Your Randolph Civic Foundation is the ideal means toward getting started. We have many existing opportunities, including beautification efforts and social events. We are also ready to help you with any new ideas you might want to bring to the table. We may not change the world, but we can certainly change our corner of it. What are you waiting for?

### Note to Contributors:

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

November/December 2011...	November 4th
January/February 2012.....	January 20th
March 2012.....	February 17th
April 2012.....	March 2th
May 2012 .....	April 13th
June/July/Aug 2012 .....	May 11th

## Venture Crew 1083 Update

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

Venture Crew 1083 is in a transitional phase, as several of last year's key senior members moved on to new academic challenges out of the immediate area. Nevertheless, the core members remain and new members will be joining soon. In the meantime, September Crew meetings—which will take place weekly this year, instead of biweekly as they had in the past—have focused on the Crew's near-term activities and long-term vision. That vision seems very likely to have a strong High Adventure component.

Apart from that, however, September was something of a slow news month in Crew-World. Next month's ECHO will have a more extensive Venture Crew article; be sure to check back then for the latest news!

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 21. The Crew will meet every Monday night during the school year, from 6:30–7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Why not join us? Bring a like-minded friend so you'll already know someone else at the meeting! For more information, contact crew advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755.

## RCF Executive Committee for 2011-2012

### OFFICERS

#### President

Matt Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

#### Vice President

Lindsay Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-775-9807

#### Secretary

Bob Walker  
11813 Ashley Drive  
amorworks1@aol.com

#### Treasurer

Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957

#### Directors

Mike Saunders  
12107 Hunters Lane  
301-468-9268

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

George Gadbois  
4718 Topping Road  
301-770-5386

The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community. The address is: Randolph Civic Foundation, PO Box 489, Garrett Park, MD 20896-0489

[www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org](http://www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org) - Phone: 240-389-4723



### King's Way Care Pharmacy

4701 Randolph Rd Ste G-4  
Rockville, MD 20852

Phone: (301)770-5545

Fax: (301)770-5547

Free Local Delivery

We carry Durable Medical Equipment!  
Mention this ad and receive 20%  
Off your Over-the-counter Purchase!

# 2011-2012 RCA Membership

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

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

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

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

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

Would you be interested in helping as a volunteer?

☐ Yes, please contact me by email

☐ Yes, please contact me by phone

¿Quisiera tener mas noticias en español?

☐ ¡Sí!

## You Can Also Renew or

### Join Online!

Save yourself a stamp and  
save RCA volunteers some  
time. Renew or Join online!

Just go to

**www.randolphcivic.org**  
right now and click on  
"Membership" to renew or  
join.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

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

## Help Make our Community a Safer Place Become a RCA Block Captain



The RCA Safety Committee is reviving the neighborhood watch program. The goal of the program is to make our community a safer place and to increase communication regarding safety issues and other neighborhood concerns.

Becoming a Block Captain simply means joining the RCA Safety Committee email listserve and keeping an eye out for safety issues on your street.

Email [safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org) for more information and to learn how you can help.



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

*Sales settled since August 2011...*

<u>Address...</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sale Price</u>	<u>DOM</u>	<u>Subsidy</u>
10901 Troy Road	\$399,999	\$380,000	20	\$0
11913 Ashley Drive	\$349,900	\$335,000	41	\$1,000
11214 Troy Road	\$365,000	\$356,000	56	\$0
4903 Stickley Road	\$379,900	\$379,900	75	\$2,150
11436 Schuylkill Road	\$339,900	\$339,900	70	\$11,551
11303 Creek Shore Place	\$329,900	\$315,000	66	\$0
11107 Rock Road	\$346,900	\$346,900	45	\$10,000

*The Spring market was unusually slow for the neighborhood, but it picked up considerably in July with six properties going under contract. September has been busy with three homes under contract and lots of buyers at open houses... and the interest rate is still hovering around 4.5%!*

*If you're thinking of selling or buying a home this year, call Denise for advice, timing and marketing strategies. Denise has more than twenty years of experience as a realtor in the area.*

***Denise***  
**Szczur**  
**301-452-5544**



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



***email: Denise.Szczur@LNF.com***  
***website: DeniseSzczur.LNF.com***



***"Professional Service with a Personal Touch"***