

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 45, Issue 1

September/October 2001

In this Issue...

RCA'ers Meet With MNCPPC Officials on the Use of the Park Soccer Field	1
President's Message	3
Membership Drive Begins	3
Sam's Club Card from RCA	4
Minutes of the June General Meeting	5
Cars Blocking Sidewalks (continued)	7
Treasurer's Report	8
Calls Received on the RCA Hotline	11
Note to Our Readers	14
Success! Park & Planning to Purchase Millard Property	14
Help Wanted: Weed Warriors	15
News from Pack 1081	17
Troop 1083 Summer Doings	18
Boy Scouts Take on Goshen	18
Call for Yard Workers Exceeds Expectations	20
Adult Scout Leaders Support Our Boys	20
Gardening Tips	21
RCA Map	22
Classifieds	23

RCA'ers Meet With MNCPPC Officials on the Use of the Park Soccer Field

by Frank Rossomondo, RCA Park Committee Chair

On Tuesday, August 28th, fourteen concerned RCA'ers met with four representatives of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission on the ongoing use of our neighborhood park for playing soccer. In the Park group was Peter Boettinger, the park manager for this area, Denise Bourne, a Park Permits supervisor, and officers of the park police Cpl. Mary Carlin and Officer Howard Battle. The RCA'ers explained how the use of the Park soccer field has deteriorated over the years, and its adverse impact on our local community. Almost all of the soccer players are from out of this area. Discussion focused on ways of controlling and monitoring this soccer activity. Several courses of action were examined:

- Restricting use of the soccer field to permit holders only.
- Because of its size, restricting use of the soccer field to youth (up to 18 years) only.
- Better communications from local residents to the Park Police seeking enforcement of Park rules.
- Directing soccer activities which draw big crowds to a more secluded soccer field along Dewey Drive.
- Restricting soccer playing on Sunday mornings, which is very annoying to local residents.

It was agreed that we should try option 1 and/or 2 as soon as possible. Because these actions could also impinge on our local residents, a decision was made to bring the matter before the RCA for approval at its October 4th General Meeting. The four MNCPPC officials promised to be at hand to answer questions. All RCA residents interested in the use of the soccer field facility are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 2001
8:00 p.m.

RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, November 1, 2001
8:00 p.m.

Annual RCA Membership Drive in Full Swing – Join Now!

See page 3

RCA Community Picnic

Saturday, September 29
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

RCA Community Yard Sale

Saturday, October 6
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Details on page 21

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.

RCA Executive Committee for 2001-2002

OFFICERS	COMMITTEE CHAIRS
President Kevin Kline 4808 Randolph Road 301-230-1486	Echo Editor Eileen White 11225 Ashley Drive 301-984-2579
Vice President Matthew Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225	Echo Advertising Mauro Biondo 11508 Monongahela Court 301-770-7590
Secretary Open	Membership Patricia Longenecker 4703 Wyaconda Road 301-770-1927
Treasurer Richard Zierdt 4707 Coachway Drive 301-881-0283	Environment Jack Stillwell 5106 Macon Road 301-231-4934
Directors Wilbur Van der Linden 11711 Ashley Drive 301-770-7235	Education Elinor Walker 12111 Galena Road 301-468-6335
Frank Shore 11230 Troy Road 301-468-1225	Mobile Watch John Polk 11216 Troy Road 301-984-8015
	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
	Scout Unit Commissioner Mike Saunders 12107 Hunters Lane 301-468-9268

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES Montgomery County Civic Federation: Kevin Kline, Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt www.montgomerycivic.org North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore
MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA): Councilman: Howard Denis 240-777-7964 email: Councilmember.Denis@co.mo.md.us Mr. Denis' aide: Tedi Osias 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 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: 240-777-8500 www.co.mo.md.us/services/elections



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 eewwhite@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..."

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

President's Message

by Kevin Kline

The Randolph Civic Association (RCA) welcomes you back to the Fall season with this newsletter. And now the big news: RCA'er Eileen White deserves a round of applause for organizing the effort to get Montgomery County to purchase the two acre Millard Property and adding it to our Waverly-Schuylkill Neighborhood Park! (see article on page 14.) Not only is our local park two acres bigger, but we no longer have to worry about new houses going up in our backyards!

The RCA played a major role in convincing the County to upgrade your streetlights, sidewalks and gutters – work that continues as you read this. September is the RCA's membership drive, but your \$5 membership does not begin to cover the cost of this slick newsletter (advertising does). Your membership is important because it means the RCA represents you, so pay up! Half of the 1,340 houses in this neighborhood are RCA members, which is a higher participation rate than at any time since the RCA was founded in 1958! This newsletter is delivered to all 1,340 houses, whether they are a member or not, and you can thank the Boy Scouts for that.

These are the big issues facing your neighborhood: keeping our Randolph Hills Local Park peaceful; traffic on Rockinghorse, Boiling Brook, Ashley, and Schuylkill; and education (Walter Johnson HS, Wheaton HS, and the Down-county Consortium).

The RCA isn't a debating society – we get things done! If you want a say in the direction we're taking your neighborhood, you should join us at the monthly meetings.

Membership Drive Begins

by Patricia Longenecker

Throughout the year new residents ask how they can join the RCA (let alone the RCF!). Well, now is the time, using the convenient, pre-stamped envelope!

Names and e-mail addresses are printed on the membership form. Please update as necessary. Because of some turnover, the RCA does not have every (new) homeowner's name, so please supply your name if the previous occupant has moved. The only thing that never changes is the address!

RCA Membership dues remain at \$5 per year, one of the lowest, if not the lowest, in the county. This does not cover the cost of all the things the RCA does (community yard sales, picnics, support for our children [Cub and Boy Scouts]) and keeping you informed of community issues. Advertising makes up the rest.

One way to further help financially is to contribute any amount over \$5. These extra amounts go automatically to the Randolph Civic Foundation, our non-profit, charitable counterpart. All donations *over* \$5 are tax-deductible. Become a member of the "star" club; see the giving ranges on your membership form.

This year's membership form may request demographic information, such as the number of children you have attending school. This is purely voluntary; you do not have to answer. However, this information helps us to argue for better schools, etc. All information is kept confidential; it is never sold, rented, etc., to any other organization, commercial or otherwise, nor will it ever be.

SAM's Club numbers (if applicable) are printed on the membership form and e-mail addresses. Membership in SAM's Club is \$14 per person, but your household must be a RCA member (See article on SAM's on page 4).

No one makes a dime doing any of the work for the RCA/RCF; we're all volunteers. We spend around \$500 in postage and envelopes for membership out of an approximate \$10,000 annual budget. That's a 95% effectiveness rate on your donations. We don't believe you'll find any other organization so efficient with your donation. Please join to keep your community a good community.

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Sam's Club Card from RCA

by Richard Zierdt

Here's how the SAM's Club cards work through the RCA. This works only if you obtain your card through the RCA. All cards must be renewed (unless otherwise indicated on your RCA membership form) or begun new when you start or renew your RCA membership. RCA membership is \$5, SAM's Club card are \$14 each. Each SAM's Club Card can only be used by one person. You may buy goods for someone else, such as your spouse, but you must pay for it – not the other person. For convenience, some couples get two cards – one for each person. SAM's Club cards are good all over the country.

Existing Sam's Club Cardholders: Renew your RCA membership (\$5) and SAM's card (\$14 per card) and continue using your existing card. You will not receive a new one. You can check your SAM's card number with the one listed on your RCA membership form. I renew all cards in September, and then delete those who have not renewed by late November or early December. Your cancelled RCA check is your receipt. *PLEASE PLEASE – IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR CARD – PLEASE SEND YOUR MONEY IN NOW! PRO-CRASTINATORS TAKE MORE TIME AND TRIPS TO SAM'S CLUB – BY ME! PLEASE CHECK YOUR PHONE NUMBER. IF I CAN'T REACH YOU, YOUR CARD WILL BE DELETED.*

New Sam's Club Card Requests: Start or renew your RCA membership (\$5) and SAM's card (\$14 per card). YOU MUST PROVIDE A PHONE NUMBER WHERE I CAN REACH YOU. NO PHONE NUMBER – NO SAM'S. I will go to SAM's occasionally through October and buy new cards for those who order them, and telephone, leave a voice mail, or drop in your door your new SAM's Club membership number. Simply take the membership number to the membership desk at any SAM's Club store and get a permanent, plastic card. You will need a picture ID, typically a driver's license. The cards are good through October 31, 2002. The permanent card will be used as long as you renew your SAM's membership. Once you are established at SAM's, you do not have to get a new card and picture again.

If you have any questions, call Richard Zierdt, RCA Treasurer, 301-881-0283.

**Support your Community.
Join the RCA!
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Minutes of the June General Meeting

June 7, 2001

President Jack Stillwell made a change to the meeting agenda that was distributed to the membership, by including an Education update. The first agenda item was revising the RCA Bylaws. Secretary Kevin Kline said the bylaws had not been revised since 1983, but three revisions were necessary to keep the RCA "legal." Each revision was quickly discussed and approved.

The bylaws imposed term limits of "two consecutive terms" on RCA Officers, but we don't have enough volunteers to limit terms. **Passed by majority hand vote: Revise Article III, Section 2, to read: "Officers are permitted three or more consecutive terms only if the incumbent candidate receives at least 75% of the votes cast."**

The bylaws stated that RCA elections are to be held at the May meeting, but for years we've been voting in June. **Passed by majority voice-vote: Revise Article IV, Section 2, to read: "A general membership meeting to elect officers shall be held on the first Thursday in June of each year, unless voted otherwise by a majority of members at a regular meeting."**

The bylaws stated that a quorum of 20 RCA'ers at a general meeting was required to vote on issues, but sometimes the turnout is less than 20. Lately turnout's been good, but in the winter smaller groups show up. After discussion, 15 was decided to be a good compromise: not too low to cause a coup, and not too high to stop a meeting. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: Revise Article IV, Section 4, to read: The established quorum at all regular, special, or emergency meetings of the Association shall be fifteen (15) members.**

Jack, who is stepping down as President, turned to the election of new officers. The Secretary noted that the RCA still needs volunteers, and the post of Secretary is left unfilled. **The slate of candidates were elected by unanimous voice-vote: Kevin Kline is the President-elect; Matt Shore will continue a second term as Vice-President; and Richard Zierdt will continue as Treasurer.**

Education Chair Elinor Walker briefed RCA'ers on a new school action committee, that focuses on the financial aspects of School Board issues. This financial data will allow the action committee to go toe-to-toe with Board members on the decisions they make.

Elinor reported that the Connecticut Park Adult Education Center (really a closed elementary school building) is scheduled to be re-opened as a public school. She reminded the RCA of its long-term goal to get our own elementary school (at Macon and Rockinghorse) reopened. She recommended we write

the School Board suggesting our school should be re-opened, instead of Connecticut Park. Elinor noted that school transportation and bus routes are crucial to the re-opening decision, and our elementary school is superior in this regard.

In a related matter, re-opening any school automatically triggers a review of school boundaries. The RCA has a long-standing goal of changing the school boundaries so that all of our kids attend the same schools. Elinor, with Education Committee member George Gadbois, strongly urged a letter-writing campaign as the best way to get the Board's attention. George reported that the principal of Wheaton High will step down, and his successor will be announced soon. Also, and unrelated, Dr. Martirano is stepping down as the Down-county Consortium Director with his successor to be announced soon as well. The Down-county Consortium will hopefully not be affected by these changes. George mentioned

(continued on page 6)

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Minutes of the General Meeting

(continued from page 5)

that Belt Jr. High will re-open after renovation, probably in 2005.

Turning to old business, Treasurer Richard Zierdt opened the discussion of illegal signs posted throughout RCA-land for yard/moving sales. RCA'ers complain that during the summer two or three tacky home-made signs are posted every weekend at key intersections, near their house, and that they are tired of this annoyance. The signs are never removed, left to melt under the weather. Illegal signs posted to telephone poles are bad enough, but nailing to trees is going too far. The signs are always posted on signs/trees at Rockinghorse & (Randolph or Boiling Brook or Macon). Instead of cold-heartedly removing the signs, Richard instead repeated his previous motion: **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: to spend up to \$200 for the purchase of 'nice' yard/sale moving signs, to be loaned to RCA'ers having a sale.**

The County arborist unexpectedly has many more trees for planting, and the RCA wants its share. The Execs proposed writing a letter asking for trees. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: that RCA policy is for a tree in front of every house.** In an unrelated item, an

RCA'er suggested we could significantly reduce mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus by eliminating standing water around our houses.

The Execs suggested we could get County traffic engineers to "white-stripe" streets like Rockinghorse, Ashley, and Schuylkill to annotate side-of-the-road parking. Kensington and Aspen Hill have this lane striping. The purpose is to slow cars down, or at least keep drivers in the middle of the street. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: to ask the County to white stripe RCA-land streets.**

Richard Zierdt suggested a letter reminding the County that all of RCA-land wants to be included in any school, state legislative, or County Council redistricting. One question was, "what's the downside?" Frankly, the Execs couldn't think of any. Legislators look at the map, and always want to draw a line down Randolph Rd, but that is not the natural division. For example, in 1990 RCA-land was split between State Legislative District's #1 and #3, but now we are all in #1, at the RCA's insistence. The RCA neighborhoods north of Randolph Rd, Franklin Park and Montrose Park, were lumped with the voters in the apartments along Veirs Mill Road. All that did was to dilute RCA-land voting power. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: ensure any School Board, State Legislative, or County Council redistricting include RCA-land as one voting block.**

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Turning to new business, the Cub Scouts asked for a donation of \$100 - \$200. This turned into a wide-ranging discussion of how the RCA decides to make charitable donations, of why we don't support the Girl Scouts, and whether RCA should take over the sponsorship of the Cubs. In response, the Execs said that the RCA makes donations pretty much on a first-come, first serve basis. The RCA would donate to the Girl Scouts, but there is no nearby group. The discussion of the RCA sponsoring the Cub Scouts was deferred indefinitely. The discussion of an annual donation to the Cub Scouts was deferred to future meetings. **Passed by unanimous voice-vote: A donation of \$200 to Cub Scout Pack 1081.**

RCA'er Frank Rossomondo gave an impassioned speech on how the character of our Randolph Hill Local Park has taken a turn for the worse. Several years ago, a "field sport facility" or soccer field was added. The park area was leveled, trees removed, grass planted, and sidelines laid out. It was supposed to be a "community playing field."

Instead, on Sunday mornings, Ashley has droves of spectators who walk across lawns, and leave liquor bottles and food wrappers. Soccer players disrobe in public, and relieve themselves in bushes. Recently six police cars were necessary to deal with the situation, and it is getting worse. Frank wanted RCA support, and got a rousing hand of applause.

Secretary Kevin Kline responded that yes, the RCA would help. Kevin noted that until 1 1/2 years ago the RCA had a Park Committee. Kevin still checks yearly on any "improvements" the County has planned for our Randolph Hills Park. The RCA has learned its lesson, and we're not interested in any more park "improvements."

The Park and Planning Commission's own Master Plan states that "Local" parks, such as RCA-land's "Randolph Hill's Local Park" are NOT for everyone, but rather intended for the local, surrounding community – that's us. The various Park entities seem unaware of this distinction, believing the parks are for everyone, etc. Kevin reported that, technically, there are limits on how much "organized play" (soccer, baseball, team sports) can be scheduled in a local park. Frank and Kevin agreed to revive the Park Committee and put Park matters high on the RCA agenda.

Comments on topics concerning the neighborhood?

Call 301-881-2722

RCA Hotline – 24 hours

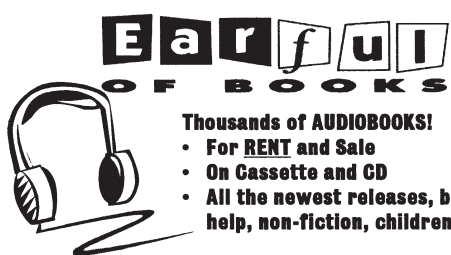
Cars Blocking Sidewalks (continued)

by Richard Zierdt

Several calls received on the RCA hotline continue to report parked cars blocking the sidewalk. RCA Execs have discussed the issue ad infinitum, and it has been heard several times in general membership meetings. Notices have been placed in the *Echo*, and "pull-out" notices, suitable for copying and placing on such cars, also printed in the *Echo*. Thanks to the neighbors who have done this.

At this juncture, the RCA needs to enlist the support of the police, who sometimes seem unwilling to enforce what they may feel are frivolous laws. This attitude must change (or the County Council agree and rescind such laws). RCA officers need to schedule a meeting with Rockville police captains and come to some meeting of the minds on this issue. In the meantime, it would help if residents began calling in these violations directly to police dispatchers. The general number for County police is 301-279-8000. Our local police station in Rockville is 301-279-1591. When I have called the Rockville number, the dispatcher refers me to the general number (279-8000), but I'd like the Rockville precinct to know we are concerned.


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Treasurer's Report

by Richard Zierdt

As of August 26, 2001, combined RCA+RCF assets total \$3,547.42. This puts us in pretty good shape for the beginning of the year. Postage and envelope expenses for the 2001-02 membership drive have been paid. RCA payments to the RC Foundation were made on June 11. This represents extra donations collected during the RCA membership drive intended for the RCF.

RCA Checking Register 5/4/2001 through 8/26/2001

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 05/04/2001			4,572.70
05/11	642	Quick Printing	June ECHO	-787.50	3,785.20
05/17	E-xfr	Verizon	Apr 22 Telephone	- 20.56	3,764.64
05/21		RCAssociation		115.00	3,879.64
		inc:advertising	Chef Theos	110.00	
		inc:donation	AMC Cancer Center	5.00	
06/11		RCAssociation	Sound of Life Hearing	225.00	4,104.64
06/11	643	Mauro Biondo	ECHO postage	- 80.53	4,024.11
06/11	644	RCFoundation		-1,268.00	2,756.11
		RCF_donations	1999-2000	-468.00	
		RCF_donations	2000-2001	-800.00	
06/11	645	Boy Scout Trp 1083	ECHO distribution	-960.00	1,796.11
06/18	E-xfr	Verizon	May 22 Telephone	-20.55	1,775.56
07/17	E-xfr	Verizon	Jun 22 Telephone	-20.55	1,755.01
08/02	646	Quick Printing	1500 envelopes/mbrship	-110.25	1,644.76
08/02	647	MNCPPC	Rec Center key deposit	-160.00	1,484.76
08/02	648	Postmaster - Rkvlc	1340 stamps/membership	-455.60	1,029.16
08/03		RCAssociation	—SPLIT—	520.00	1,549.16
		inc:advertising	Armand's Pizza	420.00	
		inc:advertising	Parcel Plus	100.00	
08/09		RCAssociation	—SPLIT—	240.00	1,789.16
		inc:advertising	Dr. Flick, DDS	120.00	
		inc:advertising	Elmer Custead, realt	120.00	
08/16	E-xfr	Verizon	Jul 22 Telephone	-21.84	1,767.21
08/23		RCAssociation	—SPLIT—	840.00	2,607.32
		inc:advertising	Denise Szczur, realt	720.00	
		inc:advertising	Paul Friedman, plumb	120.00	
		BALANCE 08/26/2001			2,607.32

Thank you for supporting your community!

RCF Checking Register
5/4/2001 through 8/26/2001

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
BALANCE 05/04/2001					495.95
05/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	545.95
05/31		interest	Suntrust - .41%	0.27	546.22
06/11		RCFoundation	contributions from RCA	1,268.00	1,814.22
		inc:donation	1999-2000	468.00	
		inc:donation	2000-2001	800.00	
06/11	1046	Boy Scout Trp 1083	annual contribution	-400.00	1,414.22
06/15		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	1,464.22
06/27	1047	Scaletta	shrubbery removal	-575.00	889.22
06/29		interest	Suntrust - .40%	0.46	889.68
07/16		RCFoundation	donation	50.00	939.68
07/31		interest	Suntrust - .40%	0.42	940.10
BALANCE 08/26/2001					940.10

Total RCA+RCF cash assets **3,547.42**



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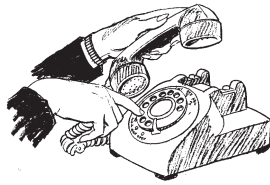
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Calls Received on the RCA Hotline

May 4, 2001 to
August 25, 2001



General Note: We took a bit of a break this summer, so several calls were not returned, at least not as of this writing. But we're back now!

2001-05-07 (Mon) 11:07 am Galena Road Renew Montgomery. Front sidewalk is uneven, causing never-ending pools of mud. Also, would like an estimate on re-paving caller's driveway.

2001-05-09 (Wed) 7:27 am (anonymous) Franklin Park. Calling to see if the Park Department, or the County government, or RCA is doing anything about the massive infestation of tent caterpillars and the ultimate devastation that they can wreak on a tree. Is anything being done to combat the tent caterpillar? Could you address this in the next issue of the *Echo*, please?

2001-05-15 (Mon) 5:26 pm Franklin Park. Renew Montgomery. Wants tree removed. It is lifting up the sidewalk, and is so large that it blocks the light from the street light.

2001-05-15 (Tue) 8:52 pm Andrew Souder 301-770-7632 Mows lawns. Please call if someone needs their grass mowed.

2001-05-17 (Thu) 7:53 pm Rockinghorse Road. Renew Montgomery. Driveway entrance is really torn up. [*now fixed*]

2001-05-19 (Sat) 3:15 pm 30-year resident on Ertter Drive. Flowers at Franklin Park entrance (Hunters Lane & Randolph Road) were wilting because there was so little rain. Caller has watered the plants a couple of times, but it is difficult to walk to the sign carrying water. Would the neighbors who live close to the sign be willing to water the flowers?

2001-05-20 (Sun) 7:59 pm RCA resident. A home on Rockinghorse is very unsightly. What can the community do to take care of these homes that take down the value of our homes? [*Caller left specific address*]

2001-05-23 (Wed) 6:44 pm Resident on Ashley. Has lawn mower, will travel. Call Brett 301-816-0293. Also, the house on the corner of Schuylkill and Wyaconda has been deserted for a couple of years. Could the home be turned into a center for the community?

2001-05-23 (Wed) 7:00 pm 4700 Block of Coachway Drive. Renew Montgomery. Sidewalks need repair. [*in progress*]

2001-05-24 (Thu) 3:52 pm Anonymous. Holiday Park Senior Center is *not* closing. The minutes in the last *Echo* indicated that it was being converted into an elementary school. It is not. [*The caller is correct. The building being considered as reopening as an elementary school is Connecticut Park.*]

2001-05-25 (Fri) 6:41 pm Montrose Park. Caller walks to work every day. At 53xx Randolph Road, every day, there is a tremendous smell, detectible from the sidewalk, that is horrible. Could RCA check it out, please?

2001-05-26 (Sat) 10:47 am Brendon Tolley 301-947-1486. Willing to mow lawns. Call weekdays between 2:30 and 6 pm.

2001-05-26 (Sat) 3:32 pm Alex Cassel 301-770-8757. Willing to mow lawns.

2001-05-30 (Wed) 8:40 am 11xxx Ashley Drive. Renew Montgomery. Needs sidewalk repair.

2001-05-30 (Wed) 8:46 am Randolph Hills. What can be done about next-door neighbor who always complains about everything? Please call back. [*done*]

2001-05-30 (Wed) 2:04 pm Randolph Hills. Caller urges everyone to empty water containers, all standing water, etc., anything that can attract mosquitos, so that we do not have pesticide spraying in our neighborhood.

2001-06-07 (Thu) 4:50 pm Anonymous. Important phone numbers list: Senior Citizens - number is no longer in service.

2001-06-08 (Fri) 4:46 pm Montrose Park. Renew Montgomery program. Caller is not satisfied with the quality of the work (sidewalk replacement) being performed. Uneven sidewalks; wavy, etc.

2001-06-10 (Sun) 11:37 pm Anonymous. People are urinating and undressing around the park (Ashley Drive and BBP).

2001-06-10 (Sun) 4:14 pm Franklin Park. Renew Montgomery. Wants info as soon as it's available. Wants extra work done.

2001-06-13 (Wed) 7:06 am Hilltop Square. Would like additional lights and trees.

(continued on page 12)

RCA Hotline

(continued from page 11)

2001-06-21 (Thu) 2:34 pm Franklin Park. Renew Montgomery. Sidewalk repair signs were posted the same day, and a car towed. This is insufficient notice.

2001-06-24 (Sun) 12:27 pm Randolph Hills. Returning resident after 3 years; wants to renew membership. Neighborhood looks nice, yards are looking great. Willing to work on school committee.

2001-06-26 (Tue) 11:49 am Resident on Boiling Brook Parkway. Enormous number of mosquitoes this year. Any talk of spraying this year?

2001-06-27 (Wed) 1:48 pm Topping Road. Has not received June *Echo*. Please call or send one out.

2001-07-04 (Wed) 8:22 am Thanks for the beautiful U.S. flags that covered the neighborhood this morning. Happy July 4th! Caller believes the Boy Scouts probably put them up. *[Actually, it was a very innovative real estate agent, but it's the thought that counts, both the agent's and the caller's. The flags were pretty. Perhaps the RCA should do a similar "July 4th" activity every year.]*

2001-07-07 (Sat) 11:21 am There are some cars that block the sidewalk on a regular basis. 11xxx Ashley Drive every day, and always at night; and 10xxx Ashley Drive. *[see article on page 7]*

2001-07-08 (Sun) 6:58 pm Randolph Hills. The June *Echo* had solicited for youngsters wanting mow lawns, etc. Caller's son is interested. *[see article on page 20]*

2001-07-11 (Wed) 10:47 am Montrose Park. Message for the *Echo*: (Caller had terrible accident turning off Randolph Road onto Lauderdale in November. Caller is still recuperating from the injuries.) Drivers, travelling eastbound on Randolph Road, are turning (left) onto Lauderdale Drive and turning around in residents' driveways (not even going down to the intersection at Brentford). Caller's car, which was parked on the street, was hit by one of these drivers. Caller would like a letter sent to the police, and also suggests that Lauderdale be made one-way, to prevent such turn-around traffic.

2001-07-25 (Wed) 5:00 pm Randolph Hills, 1st section. Will Randolph Hills be getting its sidewalks repaired this year, as Montrose and Franklin Parks have? *[Yes, 1st section only. 2nd and 3rd sections next year]*

2001-07-28 (Sat) 10:15 am Anonymous. There is a crisis in our mists. A bicyclist is going to get killed at Garrett

Park Road/Beach Drive. We need more park police presence especially on Saturdays. Cyclists are not stopping at stop signs; they ride four abreast, inhibiting traffic and being discourteous; some ride low, recumbent bicycles that are difficult to see. Caller is not against bicycles on the road, but they should obey the traffic laws.

2001-08-10 (Fri) 12:33 pm Randolph Farms. Caller replaced his roof. Could a series on common household problem/solutions be started in the *Echo*? This would discuss things like window replacement, roofing, plumbing, etc. Any interest out there? *[This is a very good idea. We simply need a (or some) volunteer(s).]*

2001-08-10 (Fri) 5:06 pm 11xxx Schuylkill Road. Please call. *[done]*

2001-08-16 (Thu) 12:30 pm Anonymous, Randolph Hills resident. Walks the neighborhood almost daily. There is a home on Topping Road with many unregistered, out-of-state vehicles. Seems like many are expensive cars: Saab, Mercedes, Volvo. They come and go a lot. Expiration dates written by hand. Who can be called? *[Call police at 301-279-8000. Also, leave the house number.]*

2001-08-18 (Sat) 12:11 pm Anonymous. 46xx Creek Shore Drive needs sidewalk repair. *[Renew Montgomery may not get that far south this year, but certainly by next spring/summer.]*

2001-08-21 (Tue) 1:38 pm Anonymous, Rockinghorse Road. While walking the dogs, caller noticed that drug dealers are dealing drugs at the corner of Macon and Galena, and at the end of Macon Road cul-de-sac. Also in Randolph Hills Park. There is a special number to call to report such activity: 301-840-2500, which is the Special Investigative Division for Montgomery County. Caller has seen this activity, as have other people while walking. This is a very serious problem.

2001-08-25 (Sat) 9:35 pm Light is out on light pole at 4702 Topping Road. Would you kindly assist us to replace the light, maybe? *[Here's what to do. Call 240-777-2190, and tell the dispatcher the street address and whether the pole is wooden or metal – this determines who gets billed: the County or PEPCO. You do not need the pole number.]*



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Note to Our Readers

by Mauro Biondo

We are most fortunate to have a newsletter such as *The Echo*. Through the years the *Echo* has become the heart of our community as it represents our principal means of communication. How else can we reach nearly 1,400 homes eight times a year? Being informed about Civic Association activities, yard sales, Renew Montgomery, the Scouts, schools, etc. is essential to all of us. The "Hot Line," as reported in the *Echo*, enables our community to report and to share mutual problems.

Our Editor, Eileen White, and the many contributors of RCA news have combined to make our newsletter one in which we can all take considerable pride. Do you know of any other community with a publication like ours?

The cost to print and deliver the *Echo* each year is approximately \$7,200. Over the years, advertising revenues have averaged \$6,200. The deficit of \$1,000 is made up through the annual membership drive. Last year, through the efforts of our Membership leader, Pat Longenecker, we achieved a new high in membership participation. Let's help Pat surpass last season's huge success!



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Thank you, Mauro Biondo, 301-770-7590.

Success! Park & Planning to Purchase Millard Property

by Eileen White

I am thrilled to report that the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission has approved the purchase of the 2.38 wooded acres known as the Millard Property. This is a huge accomplishment and a great boon for the community.

For those of you just tuning in, the Millard property is a heavily wooded parcel next to Waverly-Schuykill park, between RCA-land and Garrett Park (on your right as you walk up the bike path to Garrett Park). A year ago, the property's owner submitted a preliminary plan to Park & Planning to build a subdivision on the property. Both the RCA and the Town of Garrett Park fought to have the land preserved as parkland, both for conservation and for safety reasons (the only access to the proposed subdivision would have been over the CSX railroad tracks).

Over the past year the RCA made numerous phone calls to Park & Planning to track the status of the property; we attended hearings, wrote letters, coordinated our efforts with Garrett Park and circulated a petition that yielded over 400 signatures urging P&P to acquire the property and preserve it as woodland. After due examination, P&P deemed the property unsuitable for a subdivision, and entered purchase negotiations with the owner. A price was agreed upon, and the purchase should go to settlement in a month or so. I believe the owner received a fair price for the land, and everyone has come out a winner.

I'd like to thank everyone who offered their support and signed the petition, and to acknowledge the efforts of Frank Shore and Mayor Nancy Floreen of Garrett Park in making this happen. If you're a birder or a nature-watcher, be sure to check out this latest addition to our parks – the Millard property has been relatively undisturbed for years and provides a great opportunity for observing wildlife. But do wait until the purchase is complete, which should be sometime in October.

Help Wanted: Weed Warriors

by Margaret Dikel

You may have noticed some cut vines hanging from trees while walking down the Rock Creek Trail and wondered who was doing that. Or maybe you wondered about those piles of plant debris waiting for pickup by the sign for Waverly-Schuylkill Park and what was going on there. These are signs that Weed Warriors are at work.

The Weed Warriors are volunteers with the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission working to help control non-native invasive plants in our parks. Most Weed Warriors work during regular walks through their local parks, dedicating anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes a week pulling, cutting, and bagging plant parts. I'm one of a small group of volunteers working in Waverly-Schuylkill Park, chopping away at the kudzu and other invasives growing there.

Why is there so much concern about non-native invasive plants? The next time you are on Beach Drive, take a close look at all that green you see. Almost all of it is Porcelain Berry. There's no Trumpet honeysuckle, Trumpet vine, or Virginia creeper, just Porcelain Berry. You can hardly see the trees for all the Porcelain Berry, which is the problem. The invasives become so thick that they shroud the trees, cutting off their light and killing them. There's a similar problem in Waverly-Schuylkill Park with the kudzu. Our native trees and other native plants are suffering because of these fast-growing aliens, which can quickly and easily overcome and kill them.

This is a short list of invasive plants I can easily see as I drive around our community:

Vines

- Porcelain Berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)
- Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
- English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
- Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)
- Mile-a-minute Vine / Devil's Tearthumb (*Tracaulon [Polygonum] perfoliatum*)

Shrubs

- Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

There are probably many more, but I can personally say these are major problems for our area. I even have them in my garden and have spent a lot of time and effort trying to get rid of them. In some areas, alien invasives have choked waterways, closing some to passage and killing the fish. They've displaced native plants that serve as a food source for local animals, driving those animals to new areas. Farmers have also been affected as these plants move into their fields, taking space and

nutrients from their crops.

So what can you do? Join us.

Being a warrior is a physical job, but it is also a rewarding one. The training is simple – one hour working with Carol Bergmann, the M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist, and you are ready to go. After you are trained, you'll get your gloves, a hat identifying you as a volunteer, and a green ID card. You just provide your own tools – pruning shears, loppers, garden saws, etc., and you choose where and when you will work. Weed Warriors are completely manual and non-chemical, so no bottles of Roundup or chain saws allowed. If that kind of work is needed, a call is placed to Carol or the local parks maintenance supervisor.

If you are interested in plants, or even if you just want to get out of the house for a little while each week, then we can use you. If you can only work with ground-level plants, we can use you. And if you are just looking for a great new way to get some exercise, we can use you. Come on over to Waverly-Schuylkill Park and help us with the kudzu, or make your way down Beach and chop away at the Porcelain Berry, but consider joining us. There is so much to do, and this stuff grows so fast. It doesn't take a lot of time, but it does take you outside. We aren't focused on ridding ourselves of these plants, just controlling them, but through control, maybe we can convince them to grow somewhere else.

If you'd like to see what it's like to be a Weed Warrior without committing to the full program, then watch for Community Service Day in October. We'll organize a "clean-up" in Waverly-Schuylkill Park that day, and you can come and spend a couple of hours clobbering kudzu. We'll put signs in the park letting people know what's coming up.

To learn more about the Weed Warrior program or to volunteer, call Carol Bergmann at 301-949-2818 or email her at bergmann@mncppc.state.md.us (email is preferred, if possible). If you'd just like to learn more about non-native invasive plants, these resources can help along with books from the local public library.

Invasive Exotic Plants that Threaten Native Species and Natural Habitats in Maryland,

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/iep.html>

Invaders Database, University of Montana,
<http://invader.dbs.umt.edu/>

Maryland Native Plant Society,
<http://www.mdflora.org/>

Weeds Gone Wild from the Plant Conservation Alliance,
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/> (includes pictures)

Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia,
<http://www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/invinform.htm>
(includes pictures)

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News from Pack 1081

by Doneby Smith



Cub Scout Pack 1081 here to catch you up on all our summer doings! First, here's a word about the end of the school year, which was a flurry of awards and advancements. These Tigers earned Paws for Big Idea #10 "Something Special All Your Own" and #15 "Fitness & Sports" and #17 "Cub Scouting, Here We Come": **Alan Costas, AJ Taylor, Gregory Gadbois, Jake Blakely, Joshua Hart, Kyle Arey, Thomas Shaw, Dwayne Remillard.** Arrow points were awarded as follows: Wolf **Matt Fieller**, Gold, One Silver; Bear Gold Arrow points – **Joseph Owen, Johnny Hilderbrand, Jake Bennington, Micheal Spitler, Drew Delatos** and Bear Silver Arrow Point(s) – **Johnny Hilderbrand 2, Jake Bennington 2, Micheal Spitler 2, Drew Delatos 1.** **Jake Bennington** and **Tony Caffi** showed how nimble they were on the Billy Goat Trail, earning themselves an outing patch.

Advancing in rank, our new Webelos II are **Anthony Gadbois, Moses Hart, Miguel Manzano, Galen Miley, John Pitkin, Tommy Rivas-Siles, Larry Souder, Oneal Summers. Joseph Owen, Johnny Hilderbrand, Jake Bennington, Micheal Spitler, Drew Delatos, Andrew Costas, Elliott Edwards** became Webelos I.

Our Bear Scouts this year will be **Kyle Blakely, Tony Caffi, Matt Fieller, Matee Kowl, Robbie Smith, Patrick Souder, Dylan Summers. Alan Costas, AJ Taylor, Gregory Gadbois, Jake Blakely, Joshua Hart, Kyle Arey, Thomas Shaw, Dwayne Remillard, Sasha Hevey, Diego Plazas, Jaccen Schairer, and Diego Vallejas** are ready to howl with the Wolves.

The Gadbois, Hilderbrand, Caffi, Costas and **Hevey** families stayed dry despite the threat of rain at our annual spring campout at Pinecliff Park. Heat was the issue at our pack picnic, but our tough scouts (and moms!) managed five innings of mother/son softball. The boys came back from last year's 5-4 loss to beat the moms this year in a come-from-behind victory 11-7! Our scouts who attended Scout night on June 29 with the Bowie Baysox unfortunately saw our Baysox lose to the Portland Seadogs in a close 4-3 game, but there was a dazzling fireworks display afterward.

Anthony & Gregory Gadbois, Larry & Patrick Souder, John Pitkin, Galen Miley, Tony Caffi, Moses & Joshua Hart

and **Miguel Manzano** made our carwash fund-raiser on July 14 a splashing success. We even beat last year's net by \$25, despite competition from some high school students washing cars just down the block. Check out all those brother teams! And thanks to Colonial Shell for the space and water.

Cub Scout Day Camp was held in Colesville rather than Gaithersburg as originally planned. **Tony Caffi, Robbie Smith, Gregory Gadbois, Thomas Shaw, Dwayne Remillard, Kyle & Jake Blakely** and **Joshua Hart** had a good time playing games and learning new skills with Scouts from other Packs. **Anthony Gadbois** attended Webelos activities there as well. **Anthony & Gregory Gadbois, Thomas Shaw** and **Dwayne Remillard** stayed cool and wet with swimming, boating and jet-skiing at the Remillard's lake property for our July overnight on the weekend of the 29th. Our thanks to Dwayne Sr. & Mary for hosting our group.

In August, Webelos I and II Scouts **Elliot Edwards, Joseph Owen, Andrew Costas, Jake Bennington, Drew Delatos, Michael Spitler, Anthony Gadbois, Galen Miley, John Pitkin, Moses Hart** and **Larry Souder** headed to Camp Tuckahoe, our "sleep-away" camp in PA. Sad to say, Joseph broke his arm and had to go home, but we expect he'll be back next year to join in the fun. The Scouts kept busy from reveille to taps with swimming,

(continued on page 18)

Cub Scout Pack 1081 Wants You!



Pack 1081, chartered by the Randolph Lions Club, joins with America's favorite cool cat Garfield to invite you and your 1st through 5th grade son to become a part of one of America's leading values-driven organizations. The Cub Scout program is a valuable resource that can help families accomplish worthy goals while building and strengthening relationships within the family.

Cub Scouting combines fun with educational activities and lifelong values. It also helps parents to help their boys strengthen character, develop good citizenship, and enhance both mental and physical fitness. In addition, the program provides

boys with positive peer groups and tools to shape their future.

In Cub Scouting, boys learn ideals like honesty, bravery, and respect. These values help boys make constructive decisions throughout their lifetimes and give them the confidence they need to grow and develop. According to a recent study conducted by Louis Harris & Associates, "Character may be defined as the 'willingness to do what is right, regardless of circumstances.' Cub Scouting teaches boys what is right, in part by encouraging them to reflect on lessons learned through Cub Scouting activities."

Our neighborhood Pack 1081 will be hosting a "Join Cub Scouting Night" recruitment event to be held on **Thursday September 20, 2001, 7:00 p.m.** at Viers Mill Elementary School. Viers Mill ES is located at 11711 Joseph Mill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20906. Join us that night for a short presentation and to get more information. Garfield, along with his buddy Odie, encourages every boy to come by and sign up and to bring a buddy, too. Call Mr. George Gadbois (301-770-5386) if you have questions.

Cub Scouting: Everything you could want for your son and more.



News from Pack 1081

(continued from page 17)

boating, BB shooting, archery, sports, geology, science, crafts, a movie, an ice cream social, a campfire and more!

Those not off at camp watched the Frederick Keys play the Kinston Indians at Harry Grove Stadium on August 8th, Keys Scout Night. To wind up our summer, we visited the Civil War ship "USS Constellation" at the Inner Harbor on August 18. **John Pitkin, Anthony Gadbois** and **Gregory Gadbois** learned about the disputed history and ongoing renovations of this historic vessel.

As the school year starts, Pack 1081 will be recruiting, looking for "a few good boys" to join the ranks of fun and learning in the Cub Scouts. Physical Fitness Field Day in September and family camping weekend in October are just two of our upcoming exciting activities. If you're a boy in the 1st to 5th grade, please visit us on Join Scouting Night at Viers Mill Elementary School on Thursday, September 20th at 7 PM to get more information and join up! Call Mr. George Gadbois at (301) 770-5386 for more details.

Troop 1083 Summer Doings

by Brian McGahey

We closed the school year with a Picnic Court of Honor at the Randolph Rec. Center. Awards included: First Class to **Collins Murphy** and **Joe Ridesatthedoor**. Tenderfoot Rank was awarded to **Hafez Taghavi**. **Mark Bushong, Edward Huggins, Andy Wood, and Matt Ulanow** were recognized with Scout Rank as new Scouts. Merit Badges included Fishing for **Collins Murphy** and **Joe Ridesatthedoor**, Snow Sports for **Nachi Roper** and **Scott Talbott**, and Music for **Hafez Taghavi**.

Our June outing was to Assateague Island State Park. We biked, visited Ocean City, and watched it rain. We had a great time. We went to Summer Camp at Camp Olmsted on the beautiful Goshen Scout Reservation. With a week of no rain, we got a lot done, with a lot of help from **Mike Saunders** and **Greg Skolnik**.

Mark Bushong, Edward Huggins and **Andy Wood** each completed requirements for Tenderfoot, and earned Leatherwork, Mammal Study and Swimming merit badges. **Scott Talbott** finished requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and lots of First Class. **Hafez Taghavi** and **Steve Santos** earned Environmental Science, Wilderness Survival, Mammal Study and First Aid merit badges and completed requirements for Second Class. **Jake Bolt** earned Rowing, Leatherwork, and Rifle Shooting merit badges and finished First Class.

Chris Soares earned First Aid, Wilderness Survival, and Environmental Science merit badges and Completed First Class. **Nachi Roper** earned Environmental Science, First Aid, Motorboating, and Wilderness Survival merit badges and is ready for the Board of Review for Life Scout, the last step before Eagle. Good work Scouts!!

Our Scout year starts again on September 10 when we meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday night at Viers Mill Elementary School. If you are a boy who has finished fifth grade or is 11 years old, you can join the fun. Visit a meeting or call Mr. McGahey at 301-770-7882.

Boy Scouts Take on Goshen

by Mike Saunders, Unit Commissioner

Hi Friends of Troop 1083,

We are back from a week-long (August 6 week: Hot!) stay at Goshen Boy Scout Camp in Virginia and this was a very good year from the Troop's perspective. Camp was attended by 9 boys and 3 adults. Some of the boys are more camera shy than others. I got a photo of everyone except Hafez Taghavi who was never around when the camera was out. Here are a couple of digital photos from Camp.

Scout leaders **Mike Saunders, Greg Skolnik** and now Scoutmaster **Brian McGahey** (all of the adults in our camp site) are all Amateur Radio operators as are several of the scouts in Troop 1083. In photo 1 we see **Chris Soares** (with microphone), **Steven Santos**, and **Ed Huggins** working the world on the Troop 1083 club KA3BSA hamradio station located in Mr. Saunders tent. In photo 2, **Steve Santos** is talking with some scouts at New Jersey's Alamuchie Scout Camp. Photo 3 has **Ed Huggins** working a European contact. Photo 4 has (L to R) **Nachi Roper, Jacob Bolt, Mr. Skolnik**, and **Scott Talbot** working on merit badge work around the table in the adult site. Photo 5 has **Mr. Skolnik** and **Scott Talbott** discussing rank advancement requirements. Photo 6 shows "sleeping beauty" **Chris Santos** giving the younger scouts moral support during "Mister Saunderson's" Friday night "all-nighter" so they could finish their merit badge work. This photo was taken around midnight. The Friday all-nighter works like the traditional college pre-final exam extended study period that all of you remember from your youth. In photo 7, **Andy Wood** and **Mark Bushong** (back to the camera) finishing up their Leatherwork during the Friday all-nighter.

For some reason in photo 8, **Ed Huggins** doesn't look like he is having that much fun at 1:00 AM trying to complete his weaving gimp requirements for the Leatherwork Merit Badge. Beyond Ed, you see **Brian McGahey** reading the latest edition of QST between

studying for his Amateur Radio license exam (by the way, he passed the exam with a 94% on Aug 18 at the Laurel ARC Volunteer Exam Session). By 2:00 AM Saturday morning, photo 9 shows that most of the “senior boy leadership” – (L to R) **Jacob Bolt**, **Chris Soares**, and **Nachi Roper** – are still giving the younger scouts a high degree of attentive moral support so they can finish their merit badge requirements before the witching hour which is Saturday noon. Most of these older gents have participated in Mr. Saunder’s all-nighters in previous years. They were finished with their requirements prior to Friday evening so that they could help if necessary.

Regards, Mike Saunders




Adult Scout Leaders Support Our Boys

by Richard Zierdt

Yeah, the RCA spends “a lot of money” on Boy Scout Troop 1083 (the RCA legally “owns” the Troop), and we wonder what the money is used for, but this August’s Boy Scout Camp in Goshen, Virginia is a good example of money well spent.

Here are three men – Mike Saunders, Greg Skolnik, and Scoutmaster Brian McGahey – who gave up a week of their own vacation time to encourage, teach, mentor, and sometimes goad nine boys for a week of *Un* air-conditioned discomfort. These men have no boys of their own (currently) in the Troop, but they see the value of providing direction to *all* young adolescents – not just their own. Some of the boys have no active male presence in their lives; in some ways the Troop takes up the slack.

I hope this gives some perspective of the time and effort that goes into Troop 1083, and at little or no financial cost to the parents. Mike, Greg, and Brian make no money at this (nor do the many other adults – men and women – who support our boys). This article highlights them only because their efforts were so visible this summer. There are many others. If you can help out with a little extra donation to the RCF (Randolph Civic Foundation), now is the time to do so on your RCA/RCF membership form.



MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK POLICE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DIVISION

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ?
DRUG USE ?**

CALL THE PARK POLICE
EMERGENCY: (301) 949-3010
NON-EMERGENCY: (301) 949-8010

Call for Yard Workers Exceeds Expectations

by Richard Zierdt

There’s hope for America yet! A new neighbor called the RCA hotline in April asking for someone who mowed lawns. After previous attempts asking for help from neighborhood teenagers failed (lawn mowing, snow shoveling), I was reluctant to ask again – I was sure no one would respond. The request this time was for youngsters willing to mow lawns (June, 2001 *Echo*). No less than seven boys who live in RCA-land responded over the summer, whose names appear below. It would be helpful to post them on the RCA website as well. What a turnout for the request for lawn help! Should we ask for teenagers willing to shovel snow? Although I haven’t explicitly asked, the boys below may be willing to deal in snow.

By the way, a new County law passed this year stipulates that snow must be cleared from sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowstorm. There is a \$50 fine for non-compliance. This may increase the market value of snow shovelers!

Andrew Souder 301-770-7632 Ashley Drive

J.P. Gibbons “J.P.” 301-770-4889

Matt 301-881-4698

Brett 301-816-0293 Ashley Drive

Brendon Tolley 301-947-1486

Alex Cassel 301-770-8757 Macon Road

Mike Couture 301-984-8647 Creekshore Drive

If you don't stand for something you'll fall for anything.

Jan Karon, “Out to Canaan”

Don't forget to check out RCA's web site at
<http://www.randolphcivic.org>

Designed by: *Electric Web Avenue*
To Contact Electric Web Avenue to design your business web site,
call (301) 540-1106 or check out <http://www.ElectricWebAvenue.com>

RCA Community Picnic

**Saturday
September 29th
11:30 a.m. until the food runs out!**

Randolph Hills Recreation Center
Free food, all you can eat!
Bring the family!
No rain date.



RCA Community Yard Sale

**Saturday
October 6th
8:00 a.m. until 1 p.m.
Loehmann's Plaza**

Cost is \$5.00 for RCA members,
\$10.00 for non-members.
No registration required, just show up.
Bring your own table(s) if necessary.
Loehmann's Plaza often provides
entertainment for kids: face painters,
balloon artists. Great opportunity to get rid
of that trash in the basement and attic.
No rain date.

Maryland Thyroid Group

**Education, information and support
about Thyroid disease**

Web site:
www.geocities.com/marylandthyroid

**Contact: Leila Thomas
(301) 515-9613**

Gardening Tips

Plant daffodils now, soaking the soil weekly throughout the fall. Begin to bag all your grass clippings. Mature pine and spruce trees will begin to show brown needles, dropping them after the fall

Equinox. This is normal and no cause for alarm. In late

September, remove the stakes supporting your peony, cut the canes to the ground, and trash them (do not compost).



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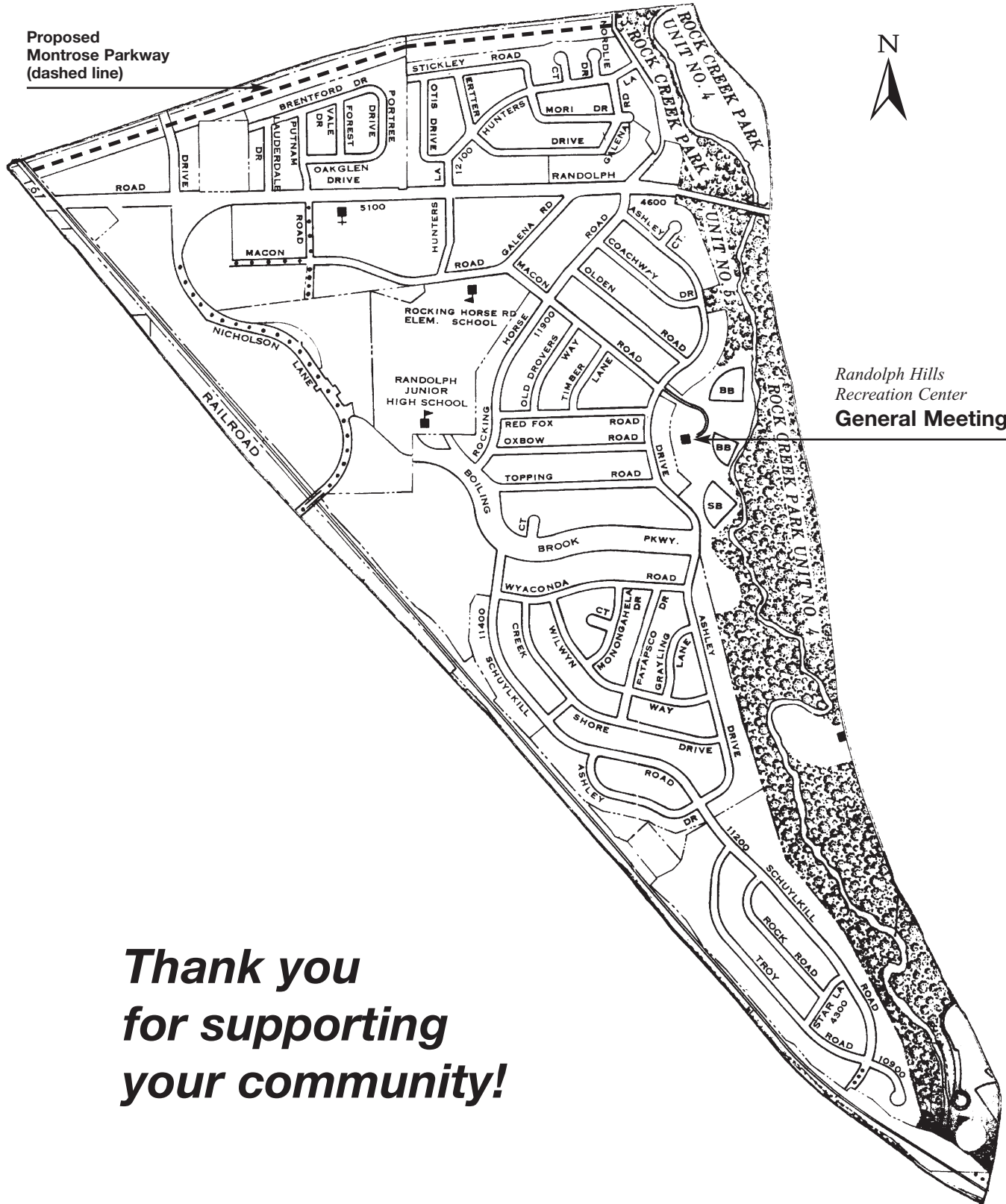
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Proposed
Montrose Parkway
(dashed line)



Randolph Hills
Recreation Center
General Meeting

***Thank you
for supporting
your community!***

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.

FALL WATERCOLOR CLASSES. Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Individual instruction for adults of all levels. Small, informal classes held in teacher's historic Victorian home. Martha Seigel, MFA, The American University. 20 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

BABY SITTING SERVICES. Call Berany, 301-230-8928. Rockinghorse Road. Will babysit in my home.

WANTED: House to share/rent. Mother and 15-year-old son looking to share house, rent and expenses. Call Tanya, 301-493-5355.

FOR SALE: Exercise bike "Vita Master," in perfect condition, \$65. Welbilt Bread Oven, like new, \$80. Freezer, Frigidaire, small upright, perfect condition, \$100. Please call Mrs. Nightingale, 301-770-7468.

LOST DOG.

Have you seen my Pomeranian Skittles? He has red fluffy hair with a little tan and weighs about 10 pounds. He is the kindest dog in the world. Answers to Skittles or Flee. Please call Brian or Michelle, 301-770-2503.



Fellow Neighbor 20 Years

Leaf Removal • Grass Cutting • Tree Work
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Local Lawn Care
Plus Handy Service
(301) 770-5549

Note to Contributors:
The deadline for the
November issue of *The Echo* is
October 5.



Important Phone Numbers



Police: Non-Emergency	301-279-8000
<i>(Police Reporting Areas (PRA): Franklin, Montrose Park: #306; Westminster, Randolph Farms: #308; Randolph Hills 1st & 2nd sections #308; Randolph Hills 3rd section: #309)</i>	
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	301-279-1591
Police: Emergency	.911
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3600
Animal Control	301-279-1823
Building Permits	240-777-6200
Consumer Affairs	240-777-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	301-315-4000
Department of Natural Resources	800-442-0708
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Resources	240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	240-777-0744
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3600
<i>(use this number for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Hours, etc.	240-777-0002
Telephone Reference	240-777-0001
Metrarail and Metrobus schedules & info.	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	301-279-1823
Emergencies only	301-279-1694
Volunteer Info	301-279-1026
Licensing Dept.	301-279-1249
Motor Vehicle Administration	301-948-3177
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance	240-777-7700
<i>(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)</i>	
Parking Violations	240-777-8960
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out	toll free 1-877-737-2662
Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)	240-777-3986
RCA Hotline	301-881-2722
Recycling Info (www.mcrcycles.org)	240-777-6400
Recreation Information	240-777-6804
School Information	301-279-3391
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)	301-468-4448
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
Tree Maintenance	240-777-7623
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-8000
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-6400

HOT HOT HOT
SUMMER OF HOME SALES

Denise's New Listings...

11310 Ashley Drive \$205,000

Denise's Recent Sales...

Oxbow Road - \$226,500
Ashley Drive - \$220,000
Wilwyn Way - \$214,950
Stoneleigh Court - \$212,000
Grayling Lane - \$210,000
Timber Lane - \$209,000
Ashley Drive - \$207,500

***And Denise has worked with a few
buyers to find their new home...***

Ashley Drive - \$220,000
Timber Lane - \$209,000
Barroll Lane - \$625,000
Bluebell Lane - \$590,000

Denise
SZCZUR
301-452-5544

**THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER
TIME TO SELL A HOME!**

Prices are Up

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and Homes are Selling Quickly!

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Email: denise.szczur@longandfoster.com

