

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 52, Issue 1

September/October 2008

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President's Message

by Mike Saunders, RCA President

Well, RCA'ers, the stores have been finishing their back to school sales and I've already seen some Halloween merchandise on the shelves so it must be the end of summer. I hope you have got the things done this summer you planned to do. I sure didn't. The same goes for RCA. We testified before the Planning Board on July 24th and got a lot of sympathy from the board on the plight of our Recreation Center but they are still planning to bulldoze it shortly. We presented a good case for our park and the Rec Center will be a discussion item again in the fall. In any event, the new playground equipment is going to be installed in front of and partially over top of the current Rec Center. There is sufficient space in the area near the parking lot in front of the Rec Center to place a new building in the future and that is drawn on the plans presented to the Planning Board.

Now, we need to keep the pressure up on our elected members of the County Council. They provide the funding for our Rec Center and they can ensure it gets replaced. Also, one of the Planning Board members asked if a replacement building could be donated as part of a larger, area-wide project. She was told that the parks could accept such an offer. So, we may be looking for a benefactor willing to provide a public accommodation in the form of a new Rec Center as part of a larger development project nearby. Hey, that works for me.

If your travels around the neighborhood take you to the bottom of Hunters Lane, you will note a new 200 foot long split rail fence in place in the park protecting people from falling into the drainage culvert. For the last five years there was an orange plastic snow fence protecting people

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2008, 8:00 p.m.
Election of RCA Officers for 2008-2009

Meetings are held on the **first Thursday of every month at 8 p.m.**, except January, July, and August, at the Veirs Mill Rec Center, 4425 Garrett Park Road. Usually, we alternate between General and Executive meetings.
All are welcome at every meeting.

Don't miss these RCA Events!

RCA Community Yard Sale

Saturday, October 4, 2008, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
at Loehmann's Plaza. Cost is \$5.00 for RCA members, \$10.00 for non-members. No registration required, just show up. No rain date. Bring your own table(s) if necessary.

RCA Community Picnic

Saturday, September 27, 2008, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
at the Randolph Hills Rec Center. It's free, all you can eat! Bring the family!

RCA Executive Committee for 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Vice President

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

2nd Vice President

Dan Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-938-7494

Secretary

Kevin Kline
4808 Randolph Road
301-230-1486

Treasurer

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

Directors

Jack Stillwell
5106 Macon Road
301-231-4934

Frank Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

Matthew Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Echo Editor

Eileen White
11225 Ashley Drive
301-984-2579

Echo Advertising

Mauro Biondo
11508 Monongahela Court
301-770-7590

Membership

John Kehoe
4814 Red Fox Road
301-231-4933

Environment

Matt Tifford
11235 Ashley Drive
301-770-4377

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(continued)

Education

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Yard Sale Signs

Lorena Segura
4802 Macon Road
301-984-8727

Special Projects

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

Randolph Civic Webmaster

Karen Helfert
11429 Ashley Drive
301-468-0236

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Scout Leader, Troop 1083

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

Cub Master, Pack 1081

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

Scout Liaison

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

Scout Unit Commissioner

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Brownie Leader, Troop 1028

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

Girl Scout Leader, Troop 2138

Deanne Marino
11129 Schuylkill Road
301-560-4840

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Kevin Kline, Matthew Shore, Eileen White, Richard Zierdt
www.montgomerycivic.org

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):

Councilman: Roger Berliner 240-777-7828
email: Councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov
Mr. Berliner's aides: Colleen Lauer, Cindy Gibson, Karen Williams, Rebecca Lord

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

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive: Ike Leggett 240-777-2500

Montgomery County Public Schools: 301-279-3000

School Board Offices: 301-279-3617

School System Information: 301-279-3391

School Board Member for District 3

(representing all of RCA):

Ms. Patricia O'Neill 301-320-7600

Maryland Legislative District 18 (representing all of RCA):

Senator: Richard Madaleno 301-858-3137

Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181

Al Carr 301-858-3638

Jeffrey Waldstreicher 301-858-3130

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

Montgomery County Delegation Office:

All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8:

Christopher Van Hollen 202-225-5341

email: chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate:

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654

Benjamin Cardin 202-224-4524

Election Precinct:

04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road

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

751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20851

www.777vote.org

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

Governor Martin O'Malley

Office of the Governor

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-974-3591

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



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

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

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

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

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org



Andy Wood's Eagle Service Project – A New Split Rail Fence in the Park.

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

from falling into it. I've included a photo of the fence. Great job and many thanks go to Andy Wood on his Eagle Scout Service Project. Also, Shaul Kopyto, thanks for the idea and a year or so pushing me to get something done about an eyesore.

Our Scout organizations are truly an asset to the community. Right now, I am working with another scout on his Eagle Service Project. Our plan is to build and place top quality park benches in the area near Andy Wood's fence and across the bridge into the Winding Creek park. My wife tells me that park has insufficient benches located in shade when she goes there with my grandsons. A few more benches would make the park much more hospitable to the people using the park.

We are planning our Fall Yard Sale and RCA Picnic. You will see more information in this *Echo* on that. I encourage all to attend both events. You never know, you might see a neighbor you have not seen in a while.

School is now in session. Remember when you leave for work in the morning that the children will be out waiting for their buses and in some cases, walking farther than they did last year to school. Children don't always expect cars to act the way they do so please drive safely when the children are around.

I've been riding both my Harley and my scooter around RCA-Land recently. If you see me, wave and say hi. ■

**Check out the RCA's Web Site at
www.randolphcivic.com**

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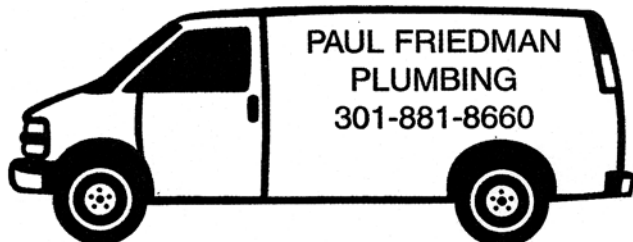
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Minutes of the RCA General Meeting

by Kevin Kline, Secretary

June 5, 2008

The meeting site, Veirs Mill Recreation Center, was without electricity, so this important meeting was held outdoors by lantern light. President Mike Saunders called the meeting to order early, taking advantage of the remaining daylight.

The speakers were from Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Parks): Lynn Colman, John Hench, and Kathy Dearstine. Lynn lead MNCPPC's presentation, stating that the RCA's recreation building was in poor condition, and repairing it would be too expensive. There was discussion of how much repairs would cost, what the demolition would cost, and whether the building was under-utilized.

RCA'ers reminded Parks they were responsible for routine maintenance that was not performed. RCA'ers suggested that since Parks admitted that they did not perform routine maintenance on their existing buildings, perhaps they should not be responsible for maintenance for their new \$80M headquarters!

Background: Since November 2007 (at least), Parks has had new playground equipment in storage, ready to replace the existing playground equipment in Randolph Hills Local Park. The existing equipment is too close to Rock Creek and in a mosquito-infested area. Parks has long planned to demolish the RCA rec center, then locate the new playground equipment at the rec center site.

RCA Execs had a special meeting to develop talking points for this Parks meeting. The Execs decided they would concede that the rec building was beyond repair, but would have a request: that the new playground equipment be located anywhere in the 18-acre Randolph Hills Local Park except the rec building site, so as to preserve it for a new rec center. The RCA will have to fight for a new rec center, but preserving the building site would be a first step.

At this meeting, the RCA conceded that the rec building was beyond repair, and focused instead on where new playground equipment should be placed, suggesting two different locations, and ready to agree to any third site Parks might suggest.

After some discussion, Parks remained non-committal on the alternate sites. A Parks reports with their recommendation was due soon to the County Council. RCA'ers suggested that it appeared our new playground equipment was being held "hostage" until we agreed to losing the rec center. Parks assured us that was not the case. The Parks representatives were given a round of applause as they finished.

The rest of the meeting went quickly, as RCA'ers were sitting outside in near darkness.

Approved by voice-vote: the General Meeting minutes as posted in the *Echo*. Also approved by voice-vote: the Treasurer's report. President Mike Saunders asked for

Committee Chair reports, but there were none. Finally, upcoming RCA events were briefly discussed, including the Fall yard sale date, and where to hold the Fall Community Picnic. ■

RCA Membership Drive for 2008-2009 Begins

by John Kehoe, Membership Chair

The beginning of fall in RCA-land means it's time to renew your support for our association! We continue this year with our low cost rate of \$10 per household. Membership dues are spent on a variety of items for the neighborhood. The most visible include the yard sale and fall picnic hosted by the RCA each year and production of the *Echo* – an invaluable resource into what is happening within RCA. Behind the scenes, we must also pay for corporate liability insurance, maintaining the RCA hotline and hosting fees for our web site.

Separate from the dollars and cents, your membership supports efforts by the RCA Executive Committee to represent our members to our local, county and state government. Our membership count gives them that extra clout when they represent us. Our president Mike Saunders and every executive has spent significant time this year on issues such as the recreation center demolishment, playground relocation and construction, White Flint sector plan development efforts and interfacing with the county police as they work to keep our neighborhood safe. Even more impressive, our executive board volunteers their time! So, please show your support of them and our neighborhood by sending in your dues on the membership form included with this *Echo*.

Another way to further help our community is to contribute any amount over \$10. These extra amounts go automatically to the Randolph Civic Foundation, our non-profit, charitable counterpart. All donations *over* \$10 are tax-deductible. It is the Randolph Civic Foundation which supports our local Boy Scout Troop via yearly donations. Extra donations make you an automatic member of the "star" club (see the giving ranges on your membership form) as well as membership in the RCF, a non-profit organization separate from the RCA.

RCA membership is not required, but feel free to ignore this fact and join anyway!

Use the convenient, prestamped envelope provided with this *Echo* to send in your \$10 annual support! RCA dues are the lowest civic association dues in the county. Hopefully, your correct name, address, phone number, and email address are printed on the membership form. Sam's Club numbers (if applicable) are printed on the membership form as well as e-mail addresses. Please update the form 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! If you'd like to join or renew your Sam's Club membership, keep in mind you save \$5 by doing it through the RCA. ■

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Neighbors ready to fight for new community center

■ A decision on the Randolph Hills facility will be made in the fall

by Andrew Ujifusa / Staff Writer

Randolph Hills residents who are losing their community center to demolition say they won't be satisfied until a new building has been approved and the concrete is poured at Randolph Hills Local Park, according to the local civic association president.

Mike Saunders, president of the Randolph Civic Association, said he and the 1,500 households in the group are prepared to act if a new center doesn't get built.

"That's the focal point for our identity," Saunders said, referring to the facility, which has hosted Christmas celebrations, Boy Scout events and political campaign speeches since it was donated to the park from the U.S. Navy in 1956.

A spokesperson for the Parks Department said the decision about whether to build a new center would be discussed in the fall.

On July 24, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved the demolition of the current community center, officially called the Randolph Hills Recreation Center. A report by Facility Engineering Associates, a consulting engineering firm headquartered in Fairfax, Va., stated that it had deteriorated beyond safe usage because of water damage and other problems.

The board also designated that the playground at the 18-acre park, located at 11805 Ashley Drive in Rockville, be relocated to a portion of the community center's current location because of environmental concerns about the playground's current location. A Parks Department report stated that a high concentration of mosquitoes were present at the playground due to its proximity

to Rock Creek Stream.

The playground equipment is scheduled to be relocated as soon as the recreation center is demolished.

Kevin Kline, the executive secretary

*Mike Saunders,
president of the
Randolph Civic
Association, said he
and the 1,500
households in the
group are prepared to
act if a new center
doesn't get built.*

for the civic association, said in a phone message that the group asked that the playground equipment not be relocated exactly on the community center site, but that this request was ignored.

In its report the Department of Parks did not explicitly recommend that the community center be replaced, stating that, "There is no clear policy guidance addressing whether existing park activity buildings should be replaced."

Parks Department spokesperson Kelli Holsendolph said the Parks Department considered it technically feasible to replace the existing community center on roughly the same site while

also relocating the playground.

"There's space for a building of similar size still on the site," she said.

A map included in the Parks Department report showed both the relocated playground and the footprint for a new community center on the site of the current building scheduled to be torn down.

"What happens in the future with respect to another building there ... remains to be determined," she said.

The Planning Board decided in 1984 that no new park activity buildings would be built in the county. Holsendolph said this decision could be revisited.

A June 2007 report on the county's 31 park activity buildings identified the Randolph Hills building as one of five to be torn down or transferred from the Parks Department to another county agency.

Saunders said a new community center, if built, should be classified as a maintenance project rather than a capital improvement project in order to cut down on red tape. Holsendolph said no decision has been made about a new building's classification in that regard.

Saunders also said if sufficient progress is not made on a new building, the civic association was prepared to get the 25,000 signatures necessary to put the matter on the ballot as an initiative.

"Most of us are either current, former or retired government employees," he said. "We already know how the process works. We already know what the fallacies are, and we already know how the processes can be stymied if someone doesn't want to play." ■

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

Thanks to donations, RCA finished the 2007-2008 fiscal year in the black. In August, advertising income for the 2008-2009 year also gave the checking balance a welcome boost. For the period May 7 through August 16, expenses totaled \$2,617.01 and deposits amounted to \$3,794.95, and \$550 in donations were transferred to Randolph Civic Foundation. ■

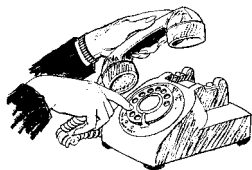
RCA Checking Register 05/07/2008 through 08/16/2008

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 05/07/08			\$ 2,535.05
05/08/08	1056	yard sale concession food		-276.95	2,258.10
05/09/08	DEP	Advertising Income		30.00	2,288.10
05/12/08	DEP	yard sale concession food		26.95	2,315.05
05/12/08	DEP	Donation income		500.00	2,815.05
05/12/08	1057	transfer donations to RCF		-500.00	2,315.05
05/19/08	EFT	Verizon: Telephone		-26.04	2,289.01
05/27/08	1058	Sams club membership		-17.50	2,271.51
05/28/08	1059	Quick Print: Echo printing		-1,113.00	1,158.51
05/29/08	1060	Boy Scouts: Echo delivery		-960.00	198.51
06/07/08	DEP	Advertising Income		15.00	213.51
06/07/08	1061	transfer donations to RCF		-50.00	163.51
06/16/08	EFT	Verizon: Telephone		-26.02	137.49
06/18/08	DEP	Advertising Income		140.00	277.49
07/17/08	EFT	Verizon: Telephone		-26.02	251.47
07/27/08	1062	Postage: special Echo mailings		-77.48	173.99
07/27/08	1062	Envelopes: special Echo mailings		-9.00	164.99
08/01/08	DEP	Advertising Income		140.00	304.99
08/02/08	1063	Montg Co Civic Federation dues		-85.00	219.99
08/04/08	DEP	Dues Income		30.00	249.99
08/04/08	DEP	Donation income		345.00	594.99
08/06/08	DEP	Advertising Income		1,200.00	1,794.99
08/13/08	DEP	Advertising Income		816.00	2,610.99
08/13/08	DEP	Advertising Income		272.00	2,882.99
08/15/08	DEP	Advertising Income		140.00	3,022.99
08/15/08	DEP	Advertising Income		140.00	3,162.99
		BALANCE 08/16/08			\$ 3,162.99

The RCA Hotline

301-881-2722 (2RCA)

Calls Received May 25, 2008 to August 23, 2008



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

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

Note: Around August 5, 2008, the RCA hotline was converted from Verizon to VoiceStick, which is an online service that will save the RCA \$285 per year. The hotline number remains the same. There continues to be no caller-id, etc., so callers may leave messages in complete freedom.

2008-05-xx (Tue) 8:05 am Anonymous, from Franklin Park. Caller reports the story of a neighbor last September who became irate and threatened a man whose commercial truck was parked on the street (apparently while conducting business). Caller reports that the man called the police, who then told the neighbor that the street is public property, etc. Have a good day.

2008-05-xx (Tue) 12:36 pm Anonymous. Over the past eleven days, there have been six vehicle burglaries in our neighborhood. On May 15 alone, three cars were hit: Ashley Drive, Red Fox Road, and Troy Road. May 19 another on Wyaconda, May 25 on Schuylkill, and May 26 another on Ashley. We obviously have people going through our neighborhood. Everyone should be diligent in making sure their car doors are locked. Caller talked with Montgomery County police and if you see anything suspicious, please call the police and let them investigate. If you see anything that doesn't look quite right, give them a call. They want to come out, canvass the neighborhood, and try to catch these people. Thanks. *[MC police phone is 301-219-8000.]*

2008-05-31 (Sat) 11:46 am Anonymous, from Franklin Park. Leaves from caller's neighbor's trees fall into caller's gutters. Is neighbor supposed to clean caller's gutters? Charge the neighbor for cleaning caller's gutters? Enjoy the shade or curse the leaves? Is it caller's responsibility to rake neighbors leaves that fall into caller's yard? Thank you.

2008-06-xx (Tue) 10:04 pm Anonymous. Caller is all for ticketing cars that block the sidewalk. It's illegal and it's wrong. Very disturbing. Some homes have 10 to 15 cars parked all over the street and the lawn. It makes our neighborhood look very bad. In particular, the corner of Ashley and Schuylkill. And Boiling Brook Parkway before Wyaconda. Cars are parked all over the grass and back yard. Also, drying clothes on clothes lines in the back yard caller thinks is disgusting. Very bad for the neighborhood. Very trashy. Given the price of electricity, caller can understand it, but caller wouldn't do it.

2008-06-04 (Wed) 6:23 am Not Anonymous. 111xx Troy Road. This morning, the *Echo* was delivered, but it was soaking wet. Can caller get another one?

2008-06-05 (Thu) 12:46 pm Not anonymous. 120xx Ashley Drive. The three young men delivering the *Echo* today threw them on the sidewalk; didn't even bother to take them up to the door, with storms threatening. Maybe they were in a hurry. Thought you should know. Bye.

2008-06-05 (Thu) 5:10 pm Anonymous. Schuylkill, third section. Caller reports driving on Garrett Park Road, waiting to turn left onto Schuylkill, where, after waiting for one car turning left from Schuylkill onto Garrett Park Road, three cars followed immediately after the first one without regard for the stop sign. Caller honked horn until the flow of cars stopped *[there are three-way stop signs at that T intersection]*. Is there any way we can get police enforcement both at this intersection and at Boiling Brook and Rocking Horse? *[Oh, how we've asked, how we have asked. Perhaps a County Council member reading this might take note?]*

2008-06-xx (Tue) 11:33 am Anonymous, from Galena Road. Someone parks at 120xx Galena, and they park commercial vehicles all over the place, particularly a big, black trailer, and frankly, our property values are having a tough time as it is, and if anyone wants to sell a house on Galena, any (poten-

(continued on page 10)

HARRY B. SEWELL, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW, CHARTERED
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RCA Hotline

(continued from page 9)

tial buyer is) going to look at this street and say “we’re not going to live here.” So, please, tell people who own businesses to keep their trucks on their business property, not on our streets. It looks horrible, and it just says a lot about our neighborhood. Caller is so tired of it. Police have gone multiple times to tell them they’re going to ticket them yet they don’t move them. Caller has had enough. We as a community need to step up and not tolerate businesses making their businesses known to everyone on the sides of our streets. It’s bad for us. *[Richard Zierdt here. The County Council held a hearing about this problem in July, at which I testified. There will be more about this in the coming legislative year.]*

2008-06-xx (Fri) 9:19 pm Anonymous, from Franklin Park. Caller reports a fox on Ertter Drive, during the early evening. Beware of nocturnal animals walking around in daylight. They may be rabid.

2008-06-xx (Mon) 3:44 pm Anonymous. Caller is very pleased with the flowers planted next to the RCA sign on Boiling Brook Parkway as one enters the neighborhood. They are just really lovely. Someone has done a lot of good work here. They look so cheery and bright.

2008-06-xx (Sun) 11:35 pm Anonymous. Caller reports commercial trucks parking on residential streets. It’s just too much that these big, big trucks are parked on Rock Road. Caller thinks there are four or five of them; commercial trucks. Please help us. These trucks are too big.

2008-07-xx (Wed) 5:12 pm Not anonymous. For several months now, a neighbor parks their car in front of caller’s home because neighbor’s home already has used up all their spaces. Caller has trouble parking in front of caller’s own home. *[Caller may want to bring the following to their neighbor or the police: Montgomery County Code, Part II, Chapter 31, Article III, Sec. 31-16. Parking over twenty-four hours prohibited. This law states that “The parking of motor vehicles and trailers upon the streets in the county for a period longer than twenty-four (24) hours is hereby prohibited; except when not otherwise prohibited adjacent to property lines of owner’s residence or business.”]* ■

***Comments on topics concerning
the neighborhood?***

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RCA Hotline – 24 hours**

Local School News

by George Gadbois, Education Chair

By now all youngsters in RCA-land are back in school after enjoying their much-needed time off. This summer, there were relatively few changes in leadership at public schools our children attend. Changes were mostly on the staffing level, while principals from last year remained in place.

At Parkland Middle School, Dr. Benjamin OuYang, who was acting principal last year, was appointed as principal. Parkland staff and students have enjoyed a full year in their new facility, and look forward to many more.

Tilden Middle has Jennifer Baker continuing as principal after having served her first year as their leader already. Tilden students and faculty will enjoy new heating and AC systems as well as an upgraded fire alarm system. This work was completed over the summer.

Loiederman MS (old Belt) also welcomed back students on August 26th with Ms. Alison Serino still at the helm as principal. Loiederman students, as well as most other middle schools slated for middle school reform initiatives, will experience a number of changes and improvements such as new Promethean Boards. These are interactive whiteboards that work in conjunction with computers, projectors and televisions to help enhance the educational experience.

Argyle MS, another MSMC (Middle School Magnet Consortium) choice for some of our students, had no reported changes with Dr. Debra Mugge maintaining principal-ship.

As far as High Schools, Darryl Williams completed his first year as Blair's new principal and continues this year. The four other DCC High Schools, as well as Walter Johnson, had no change at the top: Kevin Lowndes - Wheaton, James Fernandez - Einstein, Henry Johnson - Northwood, Thomas Anderson - Kennedy, and Christopher Garra - WJ. WJ has had continued progress with their modernization: construction of the new indoor athletic spaces is finishing up; this November, they open several academic hallways, a new third floor and a new academic wing; the new stadium is under construction as well as the front eastern half of the building; and next summer they will open the new WJ stadium, new classrooms, a new main office, the new main entrance and a student union.

For our Elementary Schools, Viers Mill (our National Blue Ribbon School) still has Matt Devan in charge, and at Garrett Park, Elaine Chang-Baxter remains principal after completing her rookie year last year.

The RCA extends best wishes for great success to all RCA-land students as we start the new school year. Also, if you are a parent of an MCPS student, please join your school's PTA as soon as possible. This is a way to both support your school and advocate for your child. ■

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RCF Director Dan Hoffman receives a \$1000 check from Alan Kronstadt (center). RCF treasurer Richard Zierdt (right) provides back-up.

Randolph Hills Shopping Center Donates \$1000 to the RCF

On June 18, Randolph Hills Shopping Center owner Alan Kronstadt donated \$1000 to the RCF. Alan has attended several RCA/RCF meetings. Both the RCA and RCF appreciate his interest in our community. RCF director Dan Hoffman and Alan are also on the White Flint Sector Master Plan Citizen Advisory Committee. ■

President's Pen

by George Gadbois, RCF President

I hope everyone has had a safe and relaxing summer. As vacations wind down and we get ready for school to start, as well as prepare for a new football season, we also look forward to our last summer holiday weekend.

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. Many states enacted legislation to make Labor Day a holiday. On June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a Federal holiday. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership – the American worker. Remember to display your US flag on Labor Day weekend. (The historical information above was taken in part from the dol.gov website.)

Autumn is now here, and for many this means less outdoor activities and more time indoors. For parents, this means being extra vigilant to keep your children safe and healthy. Here are some seasonal tips:

Allergies and Asthma – Know the food, clothing, decorations and environments to avoid to prevent reactions and attacks. Although many people often think that seasonal allergies are only bad in the spring, autumn can be just as bad, or worse, when ragweed and mold counts are high.

Back To School Safety– As children are now back in school, it is important to learn to help them get to and from school safely.

RCF Executive Committee for 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Secretary

Open

Directors

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Dan Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-938-7494

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

Vice President

Chad Salganik
4818 Mori Drive
202-359-6158

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Karen Helfert
11429 Ashley Drive
301-468-0236

Matt Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

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

Halloween Safety – Halloween is a fun time for kids, but it is also an important time to be extra vigilant for possible safety hazards so that your children have a fun and safe Halloween. Homeowners should prepare their home for trick-or-treaters by removing obstacles from the front yard, restraining dogs and other animals, and lighting the house well. Provide treats that are individually wrapped candy or offer kids nonfood treats, such as stickers and erasers.

Halloween Costumes – Since popular costumes are sold out quickly, it is not too early to shop for or plan to make your child's Halloween costume. And that means thinking about how to make sure that costume is safe.

Flu Shots – The influenza season in the United States is usually from the middle of November to April each year. A flu shot can help protect your child from getting infected with the influenza virus.

Heating System Inspections – As the weather turns colder throughout much of the country, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urges consumers to have a professional inspection of all fuel-burning heating systems – including furnaces, boilers, fireplaces, water heaters and space heaters – to detect potentially deadly carbon monoxide (CO) leaks.

This information and more can be found at www.keepkidshealthy.com.

Enjoy the fall beauty with an afternoon on Skyline Drive. Consider volunteering at Manna's food bank in Rockville as they begin to stock for winter. And finally, see a brief update on schools elsewhere in this edition. ■

Minutes of the RCF General Meeting

by Kevin Kline, RCF Secretary

June 5, 2008

The RCF General Meeting was held right after the RCA meeting. The Veirs Mill Recreation Center was still without electricity, so the shortened meeting was held outdoors by lantern light. RCF President George Gadbois said the usual presentation by a guest speaker was cancelled. The Treasurer did not give a report. Passed by voice-vote: the meeting minutes as published in the *Echo*. Scouts funding was discussed. Passed by voice-vote: \$200 for the Girl Scouts; \$400 for the Boy Scouts; and \$100-\$200 for the Cub Scouts.

This RCF meeting was short given the lack of electricity. Karen Helfert reported on new members, saying that 70 persons had joined the e-mail list. As webmaster, Karen reminded RCF'ers she needs interesting information to post on the new RCF website. The tax-exempt status was briefly discussed, and the draft by-laws that need to be reviewed and edited. Passed by voice-vote: to hold the election of officers at the RCF General Meeting of September 4, 2008. ■

RCF Treasurer's Report by Richard Zierdt, RCF Treasurer

As of August 29, 2008, RCF assets totaled \$621.43. Activity since the Foundation was re-vamped last August, 2007, with a beginning balance of \$27.34, has been light; however, this will change this year as finances become more formalized between the RCA and the RCF. This means, for example, that the RCF will help pay for the cost of the *Echo*, since the space devoted to the groups that the Foundation sponsors is rightly an RCF cost. ■

RCA Checking Register					
011/04/2006 through 08/31/2008					
Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 11/04/2006			27.34
07/01/07	Donation	Richard Zierdt		75.00	102.34
07/01/07	Suntrust	Printed checks		- 30.91	71.43
05/12/08	Donation	Anonymous		500.00	571.43
06/09/08	Donation	from Randolph Civic		50.00	621.43
06/09/08	1000	Boy Scout Troop 1083	Donation	- 400.00	221.43
06/19/08	Donation	Alan Kronstadt		1000.00	1221.43
06/25/08	1001	Venturing Crew 1083	Donation	- 200.00	1021.43
06/25/08	1002	Cub Scout Pack 1081	Donation	- 200.00	821.43
06/25/08	1003	Girl Scout Trp 1028	Donation	- 200.00	621.43
		BALANCE 08/29/2008			621.43
		<i>Suntrust Bank statement, July 31, 2008: 1,021.43</i>			

News from Pack 1081

by Don Gibbons



Pack 1081 Cub Scouts are back for yet another year of fun and achievement, but first here are the exciting highlights from this Spring and Summer's activities. At our May Pack Meeting, Cubmaster **Sandra Kimball** took time to highlight all of the activities that were accomplished during the year and thank all of the volunteers and parents that helped make the PACK GO!! Also at the pack meeting, the following TIGERS earned Sports & Academic Belt Loops: **Nathaniel Harley** in Soccer and **Thomas Alder** in Swimming. TIGERS earning a Tiger Track Bead were **Galen Gibbons** and **Thomas Alder**.

WOLVES earning Silver and Gold Arrow Points were **Pedro Cerriteno**, **Jordan Pitts**, **Wolfie Woolard** and **Mark Kimball**.

Sports and Academic Belt Loops in Soccer and Chess Bicycling were earned by **Pedro Cerriteno**. BEARS were awarded their service pins, **Sebastian Jardine** (1 year) and **Devon Parker** (1 year). WEBELOS I scouts earning Webelos Activity Pins for Handyman & Scholar were **Mateo Streed** and **Cameron Lett**. **Cameron Lett** also earned the Traveler Activity Pin. **Mateo Streed**, **Cameron Lett** and **Matthew Kimball** also earned the Compass Emblem & 1st Compass Point. Winding up our May meeting was our "bridging" ceremony where the scouts graduated to the next level of rank in Cub Scouting: Moving up to WEBELOS II from WEBELOS I - **Matthew Kimball**, **Cameron Lett**, and **Mateo Streed**; moving from BEARS to WEBELOS I - **Sebastian Jardine** and **Devon Parker**. Moving from WOLVES to BEARS - **Mark Kimball**, **Pedro Cerriteno**, **Jordan Pitts**, **Zachery Huyhn**, and **Wolfie Woolard**; moving from TIGERS TO WOLVES were **Thomas Alder**, **Galen**

Gibbons, **Nathaniel Harley**, **Danny Hernandez**, **Damien Raber**, **JoJo Polk**, **Adrian Streed** and **Daniel Hernandez**.

Our May outings included hiking on the Billy Goat Trail along the Potomac River on Saturday, May 3rd and a family camping trip to Smallwood State Park (south of Washington along the Potomac River) over the weekend of May 16th -18th. The boys and their families had a great time on the camping trip, even learning how to catch a fish under the trained eye of Webelos Den Leader **Mr. Erik Streed**. In fact, everyone caught at least one fish, so a big THANKS to Mr. Streed for being a great teacher. Good food and good fun were had by all in attendance:

Thomas Alder, **Galen Gibbons**, **Matthew Kimball**, **Mark Kimball**, **Sebastian Jardine**, **Devon Parker**, **Mateo Streed**, and **Adrian Streed**. Cub Scouts attending the Billy Goat Trail event included: **Thomas Alder**, **Damien Raber**, **Wolfie Woolard**, **Mark Kimball**, **Matthew Kimball**, **Nathaniel Harley**, and **Devon Parker**.

Our annual Pack picnic at Wheaton Claridge Park (due to center at Randolph Hills Park being closed) on Sunday, June 8th took place on a rather balmy day. The boys and their families still managed to enjoy themselves with water balloon toss, bobbing for apples, searching the creek for hidden treasures, and as usual, the food was great! The Scouts in attendance at the picnic were: **Matthew Kimball**, **Mark Kimball**, **Mateo Streed**, **Adrian Streed**, **Wolfie Woolard**, **JoJo Polk**, **Galen Gibbons**, **Sebastian Jardine**, **Devon Parker**, **Nathaniel Harley**, and **Pedro Cerriteno**.

Another Scout activity in June took place on June 13th in Bowie, MD for a scout sleep-over at the Bowie Baysox stadium. Scouts **Adrian Streed**, **Mateo Streed**, **Mark Kimball**, **Matthew Kimball**, **Wolfie Woolard**, and **Jordan Pitts** all enjoyed the very close game, a movie

and a soft outfield to pitch their tents. Also attending the Frederick Keys game on June 28th were **Thomas Alder** and **Galen Gibbons**.

In July we had our car wash fundraiser outing at Safeway parking lot at Loehmann's Plaza, which was another opportunity for leaders and Cubs to both stay cool and to do some fundraising. We cleaned cars and trucks alike on Saturday, July 19th earning the Pack around \$175. Thank you to any of our RCAers who stopped buy to support us! Special thanks to Safeway and those that stopped by for a cleaning to help defer our Pack expenses. Participating Scouts included: **JoJo Polk**, **Mateo Streed**, **Matthew Kimball**, **Adrian Streed**, **Mark Kimball**, **Jordan Pitts**, **Wolfie Woolard**, and **Nathaniel Harley**.

Thanks to ALL for contributing to support Scouting!

There were also two July Day Camps for scouts, one at Needwood Regional Park during the week of July 7th and the other at Seven Locks Baptist Church in Potomac, Maryland during the week of July 28th. Camp was attended by **Galen Gibbons**,

(continued on page 16)

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JOIN CUB SCOUTS!

Last Year Pack 1081 had a fun filled year of Cub Scouting! Here are just a few of the adventures we had:

Pinewood Derby car racing
Cub Scout Day Camp w/ Archery
2 Camping Trips
Hiking the Billy Goat Trail
Camp Tuckahoe Webelos camp
Scouting for Food
Pack Picnic & Games Galore



Here are a few of the cool things we have planned for THIS year:

Family Camping in September
Physical Fitness Day with Awards in October
Duckpin Bowling
Visit to Mt. Vernon, home of Geo. Washington
Come see a Native American Ceremony
Race YOUR CAR at the Our Pinewood Derby

If this sounds like fun to you, then come join us at one of our upcoming activities:

Our special "Join Scouting Night" on **September 17th**, 7 p.m. in All Purpose Room (APR)

OR any Monday night Den Meeting at 6:30 p.m.,

All meetings are at Viers Mill Elementary School, 11711 Joseph Mill Rd., Silver Spring, MD

All boys in Grades 1-5 are invited to attend.

Check us out at www.pack1081.org

OR please join us for our next Pack meeting on **September 18th** at 6:30 p.m. in APR

For more information, please contact our Cubmaster Sandra Kimball

301-603-9078 or email: Kimball04@gmail.com

"These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent, or this school."

News from Pack 1081

(continued from page 14)

Adrian Streed, Mark Kimball, Nathaniel Harley, Pedro Cerriteno, Thomas Alder and Matthew Kimball. Matthew Kimball discussed his favorite camp activities such as archery, fishing, and crafts with a reporter from the Gazette.

From August 11th through 15th, our Webelos I & II Scouts attended Camp Tuckahoe Scout Camp in Dillsburg, PA for five days of resident overnight camping. As in previous years, the Scouts kept busy from reveille to taps with swimming, nature & forestry, BB shooting, archery, sports, geology, outdoor skills, crafts, fishing, boating, campfire and more! Attending Camp Tuckahoe were **Matthew Kimball, Mateo Streed, Sebastian Jardine, and Devon Parker.**

Also in August, some of the boys participated in the Montgomery County Fair. Among the participants were: **Matthew Kimball, Mark Kimball, Thomas Alder, and Wolfie Woolard.** **Mr. John Kimball**, a parent volunteer, was acknowledged for his assistance in the Join Scouting area of the Montgomery County Fair in the Montgomery Section of the Washington Post. Parents certainly help the PACK GO!

As the school year starts, Pack 1081 is actively looking for other boys to join the ranks to enjoy the fun and adventure in the Cub Scouts. Physical Fitness Field Day in October and family camping in September 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 Wednesday, September 17th at 7 PM to get more information and join up! Call Ms. Sandra Kimball, Pack 1081's Cubmaster, at (301) 603-9078 for more details. Also, check our website www.pack1081.org for updates on our activities and additional information. ■

Troop 1083 News

by Dave Talbott

WOW! What a summer! Since the last *Echo* article was written, Troop 1083 has done more than most Scouts do in a lifetime. Our May Campout was held at Sandy Point State Park on the Chesapeake Bay at the west end of the Bay Bridge. This was the first trip for many of us to Sandy Point and we were all impressed. It is a great youth campground and gives you a totally new perspective of the Bay Bridge. On Saturday, we hiked from our campsite

over to the beach and marina area of the park. While it was still a little too cold for swimming, we discovered that the US Coast Guard was docked at the marina providing free safety inspections for boat owners and doing demonstrations of their search and rescue techniques. The Scouts had an opportunity to see a helicopter, tour a boat and chat with several of the Guard Members about water safety and their experiences in the Coast Guard. Just as we thought the adventure was over, we were invited to observe the Navy's disaster training

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unit for boaters. We learned how to use ropes, rags and wood wedges to stop various leaks to try and keep our vessel seaworthy. The Scouts took off their shoes, got wet and practiced with the various tools to save their ship.

In June, Venturing Crew 1083 took the lead in organizing our participation in the annual America Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The team was made up of Venturers from Crew 1083 and Scouts from Troop 1083. The event is an all-night marathon walk, and participants collected donations in advance of the event to raise funds for cancer research.

Troop 1083, along with Venturing Crew 1083, wrapped up the 2007-08 school year with the Troop's traditional weekend camping trip to Assateague Island. After arriving at the beach, we learned that our reserved campsites were not available, so we regrouped and found campsites not too far away from the shore at the Pocomoke State Park. In Troop 1083 tradition, this campout included go-karting, a day in the surf at Assateague Island, and an evening on the boardwalk in nearby Ocean City. It was a blast!

As summer kicked off, **Mike Mapes** and **Scott Johnson**, accompanied by **Pete Mapes**, attended a week of summer camp at Camp Bowman joining up with Mike's prior Troop from Ohio. The boys had a great time and earned a few merit badges each.

On Sunday, July 6, eight Scouts and two leaders left for the trip of a lifetime to the world-famous Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The trip was the culmination of three years of intensive preparation and team building, and featured "leave-no-trace" wilderness camping to elevations above 10,000 feet. The crew hiked over 75 miles in ten days and climbed three peaks including Baldy and the Tooth of Time. While words can't describe the beauty they observed, I am sure that there are many stories that will be told about this adventure. If you get the opportunity, chat with one of the crew members: **Bryan Bravo, Edwin Fuentes, Anthony Gadbois, Bubba Hart, Johnny Hilderbrand, Joseph Owen, John Pitkin** and **Jack Hanlon** (Frank Rossomondo's grandson). The crew was guided by **George Gadbois** and **Ben Pitkin**, who deserve a special thank you for their hard work in making this trip possible for our Scouts.


The week of July 19-25 saw three Scouts from Troop 1083 attending IMPESSA, a week-long Junior Leader Training Course at Camp Snyder. The purpose of IMPESSA is to train junior leaders in personal and organizational leadership skills which enable them to better develop and implement troop programs. The Troop's junior leaders who attended the program were **Jason Beam, Gregory Gadbois** and **Scott Levensgard**. We look forward to the entire Troop benefiting from their week of training.


(continued on page 18)

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Troop 1083 News

(continued from page 17)

During the last weekend in July, Troop 1083 participated in the 7th Annual Beach Safety Weekend at Dewey Beach, Delaware. The Scouts and their families owe a debt of gratitude to **Carl and Susan Johnson** of Silver Spring, who established the Beach Safety program to honor the memory of their son Michael, an Eagle Scout from former Troop 495 who lost his life ten years ago in a tragic accident at Rehoboth Beach. Susan and Carl have made a difference in making the Maryland and Delaware beaches safer for all of us. The morning started at the Dewey Beach Patrol headquarters where we watched the brave men and women who guard Dewey Beach go through their morning training routine. Under the guidance of the highly-trained Dewey Beach Patrol, participants learned how to recognize and avoid surf and beach hazards such as dehydration, jellyfish stings, rip currents, and hard shore breaks. Then, our Scouts and other participants ran through some examples of the training and responsibilities required of beach lifeguards. Next, they practiced surf rescue and first aid techniques. The Scouts had an opportunity to talk to the press about the program and even made it on TV. I think Jake, Adam and Noah are now self-proclaimed international stars. Finally, the program concluded with a full afternoon of relaxing and enjoying the beach – safely! Scouts who participated were: **Jake Blakely, Kyle Blakely, Scott Johnson, Adam Levengard and Noah Reideringer.**

Sunday, August 3, found 32 Scouts and 15 Leaders with gear packed, lunches made and smiles on our faces, because we were headed to our annual week of summer camp (Week 6) at Camp Olmsted on the Goshen Scout Reservation. We kissed the moms goodbye and boarded the bus raring to go. After almost two hours on the bus, the bus driver received a phone call that he was to turn the bus around and take us back home because the Goshen Scout Reservation was closed due to an E-coli outbreak. It was a long ride home with a bus full of very disappointed campers. Not to give up, before the sun set that Sunday, we pulled together a team of Scouts and adults and planned the first-ever Troop 1083 Mini-Summer Camp. On Friday, August 8, 29 Scouts and approximately 25 adult volunteers assembled at “Goshen North” (Cabin John Campground). The Scouts had an opportunity to work on merit badges including Fingerprinting, Nature, Mammal Study, Emergency Preparedness, Communications, Engineering, Camping, Forestry, Law, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Family Life, Weather and Radio. By the end of the weekend, 54 merit badges were earned (details will be published in the *Echo* following our Fall Court of Honor). In addition to the merit badges, our first year Scouts had an opportunity to work on their Trail to First Class requirements. On Saturday afternoon, **Geoff and Jane Owen** hosted the Scouts at the Connecticut Belair Swimming Pool where the Scouts had a



High Adventure Crew at Philmont Scout Ranch.

well deserved break from the work they were doing. However, it wasn't all fun and games inasmuch as the first year Scouts were all tested for their swimming proficiency to meet their swimming requirements for rank advancement. We owe our gratitude and thanks to the many adults who helped make the weekend a huge success by teaching, cooking, cleaning, or just being there to fill-in as needed. A special thanks to **Mary Anne Gadbois** and **Jamie Todaro** who organized the meals and the cooks for the weekend; they made it look so easy. While Goshen North did not make-up for all of the opportunities missed by attending a traditional week of summer camp, by the closing campfire the Scouts had a great time and achieved an incredible amount of work for one weekend. Hats off to the Scouts for making the best of a bad situation.

Through the efforts of Mr. Grundy, the Troop also had an opportunity for a week of summer camp August 11-17 at Camp Rodney on the Chesapeake Bay. While this week found most of us returning to work, or working on our summer reading or math packets, and even the beginning of high school sports, **Aidan Gibbons** and **Brady Grundy** accompanied by **Barry Grundy** set off for an adventure at Camp Rodney. Both boys received four merit badges for their week's work and a good time was had by all.

In addition to all of the adventures over the summer, we also provided some community service. Eagle candidate **Andy Wood** led a group of volunteers to build a fence in RCA-land. In the Park at the corner of Hunters Lane and Gaynor Road, the Department of Parks had erected a temporary orange mesh fence to prevent pedestrians from falling into a steep drainage gully. The fence was dilapidated and growth had all but destroyed the fence and it needed to be replaced. Andy and his crew of volunteers replaced the fence with a beautiful split-rail fence that will serve the community for many years to come. If you have the opportunity,

please stop by and take a look, you will be impressed.

Eagle candidate **Mark Bushong** also completed his Eagle Project this summer. Mark led a group of volunteers to build a covered bike rack at the Harpers Ferry Hostel which is used by hikers and bikers. The Troop has camped at the hostel many times and we were glad to have an opportunity to give back to a place we love.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to report on the Spring Court of Honor which was held on June 9 at the Masonic Lodge Building in Kensington. The night started with a delicious potluck dinner followed by the COH. The following awards were presented at the COH: Citizenship In Nation - **Jake Blakely, Edwin Fuentes & Matthew Luong**; Citizenship In World - **Matthew Best, Brad**

Gessford, Brady Grundy, Josh Hart, Steve Hernandez, Sawyer Kibbe, Scott Levensgard, Patrick Owen, Erik Uglem & Andres Valencia; Collections - **David Santos**; Communications - **Bryan Bravo, Edwin Fuentes & John Pitkin**; Emergency Preparedness - **Jake Blakely & Kyle Blakely**; Family Life - **Jake Blakely, Bryan Bravo, Steve Hernandez & Matthew Luong**; Home Repairs - **Jason Beam, Maxwell DeMulder, Edwin Fuentes, Anthony Gadbois, Gregory Gadbois, Josh Hart, Steve Hernandez, Matthew Luong, Joseph Owen, David Santos & Andres Valencia**; Music - **Brad Gessford, Sawyer Kibbe, Patrick Owen & John Pitkin**; Personal Fitness - **Jake Blakely, Anthony Gadbois & Andy Wood**; Personal Management - **Mark Bushong, David Santos & Andy Wood**; Photography - **Maxwell DeMulder**; Snow Sports - **Brady Grundy & Noah Reidinger**; Stamp Collecting - **David Santos**; Wood Carving - **Maxwell DeMulder & Andres Valencia**.

Scouts advancing in Rank: Scout - **Will Anderson, Bohdan Bartsch, Cory Byrne, Aidan Gibbons, Adam Levensgard, Brian Lin, Colin McLean, Chris Mulcahy, Kevin Oakes, Matt Olson, Chuck Reese, Noah Reidinger, Ben Safford, DJ Terry & Brendon Wagner**; Tenderfoot - **Ben Safford & Andres Valencia**; 2nd Class - **Brady Grundy**; 1st Class - **Matthew Best, Brady Grundy & Sawyer Kibbe**; Star - **Steve Hernandez**; Life - **Jake Blakely & Edwin Fuentes**.

If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade, you can join us. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 at Viers Mill ES. Check out the troop web page at www.troop1083.org. Or, call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. We have weekend campouts scheduled for September, October and November. Join now and you can go, too!

Venturing Crew 1083 also has an exciting year planned and would welcome any youth (male or female) between the ages of 14 & 21 to join the crew. If you are interested contact Crew President Jen Wood at 301-946-4634. ■

Long-Delayed Playgrounds Moving Forward

by Matt Tifford

I am happy to report that the first of two new playgrounds for our community is finally being built. Installation of the new playground equipment at Veirs Mill Local Park has begun and should be ready for action by mid-September (if not sooner). I spoke with Mark Schappell, playground inspector, about the prospective completion date, and he informed me that there was a problem with one piece of equipment being back-ordered. However, he did say that they might be able to open the playground without the last piece and then install it when it arrives. Apparently there is another playground that has been opened for use that is waiting for an identical piece of equipment. In any case, they expect to get the missing equipment in about three weeks, so hopefully it won't be too long before the playground is fully installed. If you want to visit, the address is 4425 Garrett Park Road, 20906.

Sadly, installation of the new equipment for Randolph Hills Local Park still looks to be a ways off. As has been mentioned elsewhere in this and previous editions of the



The new Veirs Mill Local Park playground in progress.

Echo, the new equipment will be installed at the site of the old rec center. All the equipment is ready to go, and the Planning Board has given approval for the move. However, MNCPPC is dragging its heels in coming up with funds to pay for demolishing the rec center. We will keep you posted on further developments. ■

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Gardening in RCA-Land – The Non-Native Plant Invasion

by Karen Helfert

Have you heard we are being invaded? Invaded by non-native plants which seem to not only survive, but thrive in our area. The problem? In many cases they take over and overwhelm native plants, which then die out.

Local nurseries and garden centers sell these “pest” plants to unsuspecting homeowners. Once planted, many of these plants are almost impossible to get rid off. So knowing about some of the more common ones will help you avoid inadvertently bringing home a “pest plant.” There are links below which will help.

A number of local organizations have developed to try and stem the tide of these invaders. Some sponsor clean-up days when they try to pull out the non-natives from areas in our local parks. Some local citizens groups have participated in the effort.

Here’s some links to local groups and information about invasive plants:

Friends of Sligo Creek: <http://www.fosc.org/RIPTips.htm>
Tips for IDing and getting rid of non-native invasives

Friends of Rock Creek Park:
<http://www.friendsofrockcreek.org/>

National Fish and Wildlife publication:
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/index.htm>
Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

Maryland Native Plant Society – Control of non-native plants:
<http://mdflora.org/publications/invasivesframe.html>

Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council has extensive links/resources at: <http://ma-eppc.org/links.html>

MNCPPC Weed Warriors:
http://www.mc-mncppc.org/Parks/PPSD/Natural_Resources_Stewardship/Veg_Management/weed_warriors/index.shtm

New, Highly Invasive Plant Found in Waverly-Schuylkill Park

by Margaret Dikel

Carole Bergmann, Forest Ecologist with the Montgomery Parks division of the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, has alerted local volunteers with the Weed Warriors program to the presence of a newly discovered, highly invasive plant in Waverly-Schuylkill Park.

This plant, Wavyleaf Basketgrass, was originally discovered in Patapsco State Park by sharp-eyed botanists in 1996,

but it has been spreading to various locations around the state since then. Once the plant has a chance to establish roots, it spreads like wildfire, completely covering large areas of ground in a very short amount of time. According to Bergmann, this is the first sighting of Wavyleaf Basketgrass in Montgomery County, but it is very likely that it is not the only place it is currently growing.

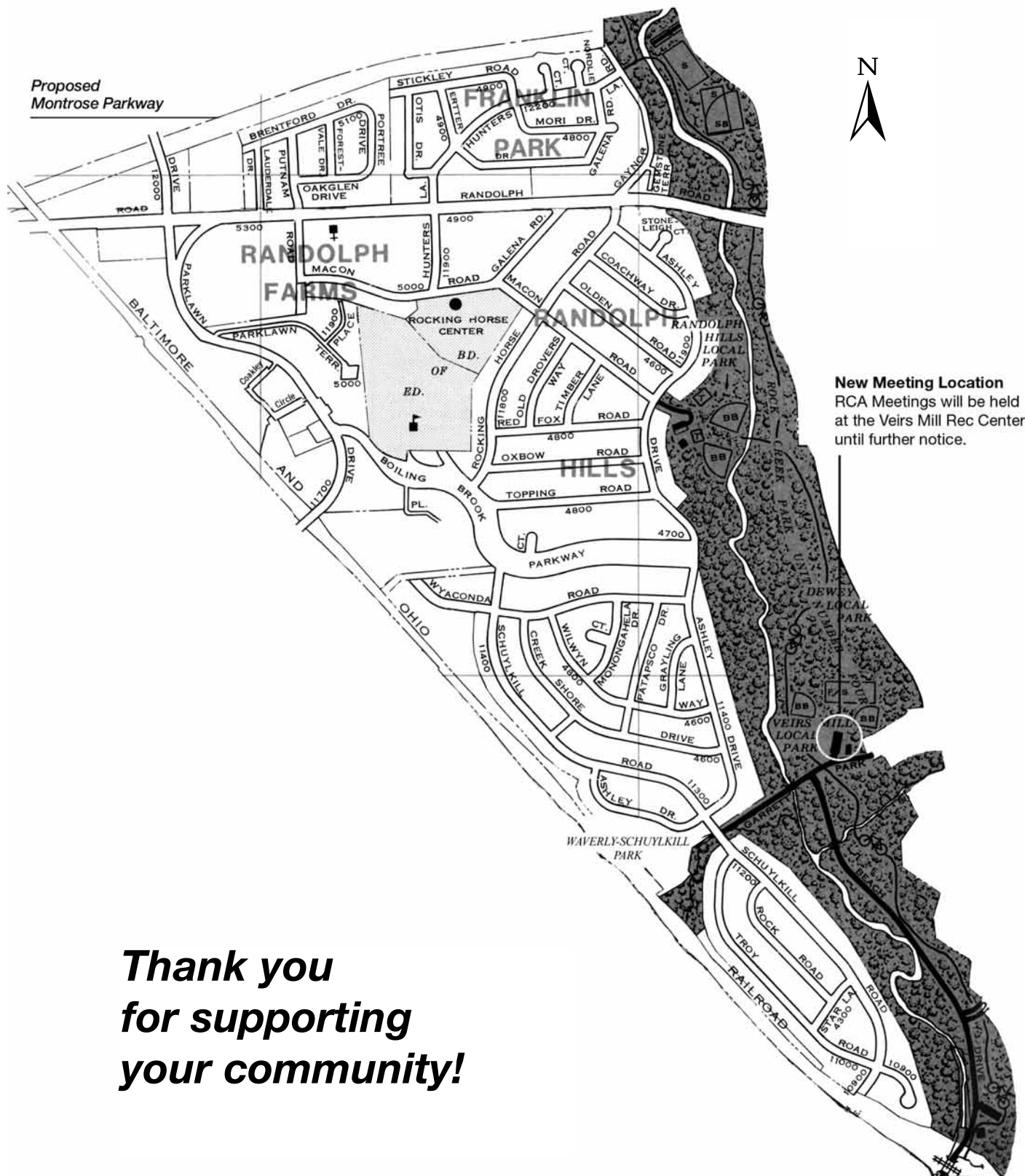
According to the website of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, “Wavyleaf basketgrass is a striking grass. It is a low-lying, trailing perennial grass, branching and rooting at nodes along creeping stems called stolons. The leaf blades are flat, about 1/2" to 1" wide and between 1 1/2" and 4" long, deep green with rippling waves across the grass blades, as though the tide were coming into shore along the leaves. They have elongated pointed tips. The leaf sheaths and stems are noticeably hairy, although the hairs are very short. [...] When it blooms, from mid-September well into November, the grass spikelets have glumes (lower bracts) with very long awns (extended pointed tips). The awns produce a sticky substance that allows the grass seed to adhere to passing animals and so disperse.” You can find photos and much more information on this highly invasive plant at http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl_basketgrass.asp.

DNR goes on to add that “If you walk, run, bicycle, horseback ride or pass through a patch of this grass right now, the seeds will stick to your pants, boots and vehicle and can be moved to new uninvaded locations. Please take precautions.”

They also want to know if you see it and where you’ve seen it. “DNR has begun to map the extent of the infestation, and is taking steps to limit the spread of this invasive grass. If you hike, bike, horseback ride, or simply walk your dog in Maryland forests, especially in moist forests along waterways, please keep an eye out for this grass. If you think you have seen it, please let us know where and how much of it there is (a few plants, patches, groundcover carpets). Digital pictures, especially close-ups, of the plant are extremely helpful for identification purposes.” You can make your report by sending an email to Kerrie L. Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist Habitat Conservation, kkyde@dnr.state.md.us (phone 301-948-8243) or to Carole Bergmann, Forest Ecologist for Montgomery Parks, Carole.Bergmann@mncppc-mc.org (phone 301-949-2818).

Meanwhile, the local Weed Warriors are working in Waverly-Schuylkill to remove the current infestation of Wavyleaf Basketgrass and will watch for new plants and/or patches to appear, but please help us out by carefully checking yourself and your dogs after walking through the woods and alerting the people listed above if you should see what you believe is this plant.

Information for this article was taken from the website for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service, Invasive and Exotic Species division (http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl_basketgrass.asp). ■



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CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

BABYSITTING AND PETSITTING. Noelle Valenta is available to babysit, pet sit and do yard work in Randolph Hills. Experienced, references available. Call 301-816-0293.

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Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the 2008-2009 Issue year are:

November 2008 October 3
December 2008 November 7
January/February 2009 January 2
March 2009 February 6
April 2009 March 6
May 2009 April 3
June/July/August 2009 May 8



Fall Leaves and Winter Snow: Here's Your Help

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

Moses (Bubba) Hart 301-230-2740

Jennifer Moy 240-672-4921

Anthony Gadbois 301-770-5386

Gregory Gadbois 301-770-5386

Noelle Valenta 301-816-0293


(also available for babysitting and petsitting)



Important Phone Numbers



Police: Emergency ONLY	911
Police: Non-Emergency (County-wide)	301-279-8000
Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	240-773-6070
Park Police	301-949-3010
(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	301-840-2454
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6200
Consumer Affairs	240-777-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	301-315-4000
Department of Natural Resources	800-442-0708
(wildlife nuisance problems)	
Disability Resources	240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	240-777-0744
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3600
(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
Libraries: Hours, etc.	240-777-0002
Telephone Reference	240-777-0001
Metrail and Metrobus schedules & info.	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	240-773-5960
Emergencies only	240-773-5900
Licensing Dept.	240-773-5946
Motor Vehicle Administration	1-800-950-1682
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance ..	240-777-7700
(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)	
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
PEPCO: Power Out	toll free 1-877-737-2662
Emergency/Life Threatening	202-872-3432
Post Office, Rollins Ave., Rockville	301-231-5973
Rat Control Unit (Health Dept.)	240-777-3986
RCA Hotline	301-881-2722
Recycling Info (www.mcrcycles.org)	240-777-6400
Recreation Information	240-777-6804
School Information	301-279-3391
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)	240-777-4999
Street Light Out (metal poles)	240-777-2190
Street Light Out (wooden poles)	202-872-3432
Transportation (Highway Services)	240-777-7623
(to report traffic signals out, street sign damage, potholes, graffiti, etc.)	
Transit Information Center (www.dtwp.com)	240-777-7433
Trash Collection	240-777-6410
Tree Maintenance (ask for county arborist)	240-777-7623
Voter Registration	240-777-8500
Water and Sewer (WSSC)	301-206-8000
Weeds/Rubbish Complaints	240-777-6400



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

<i>Address</i>	<i>List Price</i>	<i>Sold Price</i>	<i>DOM</i>	<i>Subsidy</i>	<i>Date Settled</i>
4702 Randolph Road	\$485,900	\$469,000	167	\$4,000	02-May-08
4809 Wyaconda Road	\$350,000	\$350,000	27	\$10,000	15-May-08
4809 Creek Shore Dr	\$420,000	\$396,000	41	\$12,500	13-Jun -08
11810 Rocking Horse	\$369,900	\$345,000	168	\$0	16-Jun -08
11704 Ashley Drive	\$339,000	\$279,350	228	\$0	20-Jun -08
12103 Putnam Road	\$399,000	\$350,000	52	\$0	30-Jun -08
11302 Schuylkill Rd	\$319,900	\$320,000	10	\$9,600	11-Jul -08
11613 Ashley Drive	\$445,000	\$437,000	8	\$0	18-Jul -08
11212 Ashley Drive	\$377,000	\$375,000	48	\$0	12-Aug-08
 Average	 \$389,522	 \$369,039	 83		
Low	\$319,900	\$279,350			
High	\$485,900	\$469,000			

Currently, there are 23 listings on the market in Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park... the average list price is \$351,239 and the average number of days on the market is 139.

Denise
Szczur
301-452-5544



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