

The ECHO

The Newsletter
of the Randolph
Civic Association

November 2025
Volume 69, Issue 2

Upcoming Events in RCA Land

visit www.randolphcivic.org for more details

RCA Community Meeting - Virtual

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 7pm

Virtual on Zoom. See website for link.

Special Guest: Montgomery County Councilmember Evan Glass

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, December 4, 2025, 7pm at 4425 Garrett Park Rd.

Holiday Special! Participants are encouraged to bring some of their favorite holiday snacks and/or stories of their favorite holiday traditions to share.

Thanksgiving Fun Run for Kids /

Trote de Acción de Gracias para niños

.25 & .5 mi runs / carreras

Thursday / jueves Nov 27

11 am

4425 Garrett Park Road



President's Message *By Alison Dewey, RCA President*

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Thursday, October 2 meeting. I apologize for the misprint in the last Echo regarding the meeting date. RCA meetings routinely happen on the first Thursday of the month. We alternate every other month between General Meetings and Board Meetings. Board meetings are open for people to attend, however, there is more mundane business discussion and aren't, in my opinion, as engaging as General Meetings. You can find more information about the RCA meetings on the neighborhood website: randolphcivic.org.

In this message, I'd like to lay out a few things that I'd really like to see happen in our neighborhood in the next year and make a call for people to lend their talents in any way they can. The RCA operates on volunteer hours. So as the saying goes "many hands make light work." The more people involved, the stronger the organization is and the more we can get done.

One thing I'd like to see happen this year is improved communication. I think the NextDoor app was great for its first few years. When it was new it kept many people connected and was a great resource to learn about local happenings. To some extent, it still serves a purpose. However, the version of NextDoor that I have is so full of ads and strange disconnected posts that I rarely open it anymore. Facebook is useful but

I don't think it generates the level of input that a connected neighborhood needs. I would love to see our neighborhood resuscitate our listserv. I know it may seem like listservs are not as flashy and convenient as an app but I think it gives us the most control over focusing on neighborhood participation and not having to deal with ads. The digest function is also a very nice way to view posts in a more succinct way.

The other thing I'd love to try to accomplish is to have a weekly concert series on the civic green next summer. We have so many talented musicians in our neighborhood that I think we could really pull this off. I'd love to see if we can get a small grant to offer a stipend to the musicians that participate. Here is my call to action - Do you happen to have experience with grant writing and could help us? I know of a few small grant programs we could apply for. If you'd like to help, please let me know: alison@randolphcivic.org.

I'd love to hear your ideas on ways to improve the Randolph Hills neighborhood. General meetings are a great time to have discussion and present ideas. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 7:00 - 8:00pm as a virtual meeting over Zoom. Check the randolphcivic.org website for more details. I hope to see you in attendance.

Randolph Civic Association Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and Contact Details

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Open

Environment Committee

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about/membership

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Chad Salganik
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Yard Sale Signs for Community Use

Lorena Moyer
moyerle@gmail.com

Contact RCA

Telephone (240) 668-4722

Recorded announcements of
community events, 24/7.
Callers may leave messages.

E-mail info@randolphcivic.org

Website

www.randolphcivic.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/randolphcivic

**RCA Membership:
\$10 per year.**

Randolph Civic Foundation Executive Board

The Randolph Civic Foundation board can be reached at foundation@randolphcivic.org.

Sara Montone - President

Mara Greenglass - Vice President

Ellen Bourbon - Treasurer

Ryan Ecuacion - Director

Andrea Jones - Director

Carol da Silva - Director



Call **311** for all
non-emergency
government services.

Other Contact Information

For traffic complaints,
please call Officer Albert
Hance at 240-773-6700 or
email albert.hance@
montgomerycountymd.gov.

To report a street light
outage, go to pepco.
streetlightoutages.com.

Montgomery County Police



www.mymcpnews.com

Emergency..... 911
Non-Emergency..... 301-279-8000
1st District..... 240-773-6070
100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(Serves Franklin Park, Montrose Park, Hilltop Square)
2nd District..... 240-773-6700
4823 Rugby Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814
(Serves Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms)
Crime Tip Line..... 240-773-TIPS

The Maryland-National Capital PARK POLICE

Emergency
301-949-3010

Non-Emergency
301-949-8010

Montgomery County Division

12751 Layhill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906

The Echo is the official publication of the Randolph Civic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. The Echo is published 7 times a year and distributed free to all residents of Franklin Park, Hilltop Square, Montrose Park, Randolph Hills, and Randolph Farms. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please email it to info@randolphcivic.org. The deadline for submission of articles

varies. 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..."

RCF President Message

by Sara Montone, President

When times are hard, I remind myself of a message that Mr. Rogers used to say, "**look for the helpers.**" With so much going on in the world today, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and helpless. But when I look around at my neighbors, I see a lot of good being done and it reminds me that we all play a small part in helping our community.

Epictetus, an ancient Greek Philosopher, had a very valuable message, **seek to control what you can, and let go of what you can't.** Easier said than done, I know, but when we focus on small actions in the present moment that make a difference, we often feel better about the world and our place in it. As the weather gets colder and we all settle in for the darker half of the year, I would ask that we all

look for opportunities to help our neighbors. Maybe it's raking some of the leaves in their yard while you are out doing your own lawn. Maybe it's clearing the sidewalk of snow before it freezes to prevent someone from falling on ice. You can be the hero we need in the world, one little gesture of kindness at a time. I promise that doing kind things is worth the effort. It not only feels good to help others but seeing others being helped restores our faith in humanity.

So I request we all stop doom scrolling or watching the news and get out and enjoy the crisp fall weather and help our neighbors.

With Kindness,
Sara

Boilingbrook Parkway Clean-up!

Please join us on Saturday November 8th from 9-11am to clean up the parkway.

We have gloves, trash bags and grabbers for folks to use. We meet in the parking lot in front of the Goodwill.

We hope to see you there!



The RCF is a neighborhood organization focused on charitable activities including neighborhood beautification, community education, promoting environmental stewardship, and supporting our local schools and community youth groups.

BoBo on the Go

By Loretta E Chi

in "Back to School"



Councilmember-At-Large Evan Glass to join Virtual Community Meeting November 6 @ 7pm

We are thrilled to learn that Montgomery County Councilmember-At-Large Evan Glass will be joining our upcoming civic association virtual community meeting on Thursday, November 6 at 7pm ET.

We hope you can join us, too!

Be sure to check for the updated meeting link on our website at randolphcivic.org at the top right, under "Neighborhood Events"

Treasurer's Report for RCA as of October 12, 2025

By Diane LaGrega Bertocchi, Treasurer the of Randolph Hills Civic Association

We are still waiting for some advertising payments, but we did receive a payment from Artifact Homes (Denise Szczur and Aret Koseian) for advertising on the back cover of the ECHO. We appreciate their business. The new sign located at Schuylkill Rd and Garett Park Rd has been paid in full and installed by Daniel Biggs, a boy scout in the neighborhood, and he did receive his Eagle Scout Merit Badge for this Project. There were also expenses for printing and distributing the September/October 2025 ECHO and the annual payment for liability insurance. We did receive membership dues and donations from 86 households and look forward to doubling that within the next month. Our goal is to

reach 300 by the end of 2025. Thank you to those who have made a generous donation above and beyond the \$10 membership dues. Your contributions help to keep the ECHO afloat and support our community.

Winners of membership by street

Ashley Drive (11 households), Oxbow Rd (8 households), Schuylkill Rd (7 households), Troy Rd (6 households), AND 5 households each Creek Shore Dr. & Wilwyn Way. Rock Rd & Rocking Horse Rd had 4 households each. Boiling Brook Pkwy, Coachway Dr., Macon Rd, Old Drovers Way & Red Fox Rd. had 3 households each.

Category	FY2025 Projections		FY2025 Actuals		FY2026 Projections		FY2026 Actuals	
	Credit(+)	Debit(-)	Credit(+)	Debit(-)	Credit(+)	Debit(-)	Credit(+)	Debit(-)
Advertising income	\$6,000		\$5,020		\$6,000		\$2,500	
Community Day Expenses								
Echo Printing		\$7,420		\$6,970		\$7,420		\$1,914
Echo Mailing		\$2,800		\$2,696		\$2,800		\$935
Events								
Insurance		\$733		\$764		\$733		\$637
Friends of White Flint membership		\$250				\$250		
PO Box Fee		\$299		\$282		\$299		
MusicFest		\$500				\$500		
RCA/RCF Dues & Donations (MINUS PayPal Fee)	\$8,500		\$8,030		\$8,500		\$4,156	
RCF Echo Charge	\$500				\$500			
RCF Reconciliation		\$1,500		\$1,126		\$1,500		\$1,118
RCF Sign Fund		\$850		\$841		\$850		\$250
Sign Replacement							\$3,813	\$2,813
Rec Center rental		\$340		\$340		\$340		\$204
Website & Domain		\$190				\$190		
Miscellaneous/Civic Green Expenses		\$100				\$100		\$333
Block Parties								
Totals	\$15,000	\$14,982	\$13,050	\$13,019	\$15,000	\$14,982	\$10,468	\$8,203
Annual Surplus / Deficit	\$18		\$31		\$18		\$2,265	

Daily Food Donations in the Neighborhood

There are free food donations at Randolph Hill Shopping center daily. This activity provides volunteer opportunities for SSL hours.

For more information about the Food Rescue Bank: <https://sowhatelse.org/>

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2024-2025 Media Kit Details:
<https://randolphcivic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/RCA-media-kit-24-25.pdf>

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ADVERTISE IN THE RANDOLPH CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S ECHO NEWSLETTER

RCA Hotline | Summer 2025

240-668-4722 (4RCA), or info@randolphcivic.org

The following calls and emails have been edited for privacy and current relevance.

October 2025

I was interested in coming to the RCA general meeting. However the date and the day do not correspond in the Echo. It says Thursday October 7th, and October 7th is a Tuesday. So do you mean Tuesday October 7th or do you mean Thursday October 9th?

RCA Response: We apologize for the misprint. The RCA generally meets the first Thursday of every month. The meetings alternate each month from being a General Meeting to a Board Meeting. Members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. More information can be found at randolphcivic.org

Hello! I'm reaching out because recently there have been multiple "No Turn on Red" signs that have been put up all along Randolph Road and as a result are causing significant traffic issues. I understand how for major intersections they may be useful, but I feel that it's unnecessary to put them up for every single turn. I'd love to know any suggestions that the RCA would have for this. Thank you so much!

RCA Response: There is an article in the ECHO addressing one intersection where the No Turn on Red may not be warranted. The resident that wrote the article opened a ticket with TrafficOps@montgomerycountymd.gov or (240) 777-2190. The RCA has not taken an official stance on this issue.


More Speed Cameras, Higher Fines Coming In October

Summarized from mymcmedia.org

The County is installing 140 new speed cameras and 76 red-light cameras throughout the county in October. They will be placed in school zones where the greatest number of speeders and injury-related collisions are, according to Montgomery County police.

Also starting in October will be higher fines for those speeding, fines increase the faster a driver goes.

New Automated Speed Camera Fines	
Miles over the speed limit	Fine starting October 1
12 to 15	\$40
16 to 19	\$70
20 to 29	\$120
30 to 39	\$230
40 or more	\$425

Safe Speeds Save Lives 

Troop 1083 Christmas Tree Sale

4315 Howard Ave, Kensington, MD

Saturdays & Sundays November 29 - December 21

9:00 am to 5:00pm



Supporting Scouts is supporting our youth and investing in our community!

Scout Service Projects this year:

- Randolph Hills Stream Clean Up
- Randolph Hills Summer Festival
- Origami for Lourie Center TNP
- Locust Grove Invasive Plant Removal
- Waverly Schuylkill Park Clean Up &
- Randolph Hills Sign Restoration
- Salvation Army Donation Run
- Manna Food Drive



No Right on Red *By Brian Hooker*

As we are all well aware the County has placed over 200 “no right on red signs” in high density areas in compliance with the Safe Streets Act of 2023. The legislation was championed by Councilmember Evan Glass, who chairs the County Council’s Transportation Committee. The high density areas include the White Flint 2 Sector Plan area east of the CSX Metropolitan Branch under the “town center” density designation.

The RCA has advocated for being treated as a high density area in order to be considered for traffic calming amenities and improved bicycle and pedestrian safety measures. And indeed there are likely many places where the no right on red make sense. However, there are likely some places where there needs to be additional consideration by MCDOT as to whether or not they actually accomplish the goal of improving safety.

One area in particular where some additional consideration is warranted is the Parklawn/Nicholson intersection with Boiling Brook Parkway. On July 15, 2025 one resident wrote into the Hotline requesting “a green arrow for the light at Boiling Brook and Parklawn/Nicholson? The new “No Turn on Red” signs are going to seriously impede traffic during rush hour. Additionally, since there is no crosswalk on the side of Nicholson, the new sign seems unnecessary.” I completely agree with the commenter. To elaborate further, as I’m sure many readers have experienced, the right turn onto Boiling Brook Parkway from north

bound Nicholson Lane only allows right turns when the walk sign is on.

There is a whole traffic light cycle when vehicles are turning left from Boiling Brook Parkway onto southbound Nicholson Lane when pedestrian crossing of Boiling Brook Parkway is prohibited. This is actually the safest time during the light cycle to make a right-hand turn onto Boiling Brook from Nicholson but yet it is prohibited until the light turns green, which is actually the same time (accounting for the required signal delay) that the pedestrian crossing of Boiling Brook Parkway is allowed.

This has the effect of focussing pedestrians and vehicles into the intersection at the same time. As stated earlier there is no crosswalk across Nicholson Drive on the south side of the intersection.

The two solutions could be either to remove the sign or install a new traffic light that gives a green arrow to right turns during the phase of the traffic light cycle when vehicles are turning left onto Nicholson from Boiling Brook Parkway.

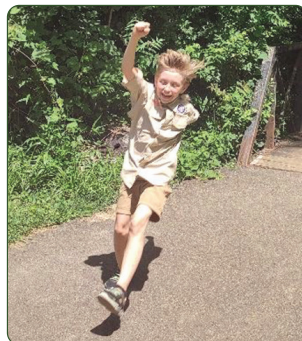
I recently made a request to MCDOT to reconsider this intersection. If residents are supportive of a re-evaluation of the “no right on red” on Nicholson Lane at Boiling Brook Parkway, you may email TrafficOps@montgomerycountymd.gov and specifically request such a reconsideration. I believe the more people that advocate for a new signal, the more likely we are to see a result.



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6th-12th grade

Frank Hackenberg: 301-871-7704

Troop1083md@gmail.com

K-5th

Duke Kennedy: 301-520-3947

wbkennedy@icloud.com

Scout Liaison

Lisa Biggs: 240-678-4835

lisa.biggs@verizon.net



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News Bullets from Montgomery County Regional Services

September 16 - October 9, 2025

Note: News Bullets are sorted by release date and edited for current relevancy. For timely updates from Montgomery County, readers can subscribe to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services newsletter: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bcc/>

September 16, 2025

Council approves expanded tax credits for child care providers

The Montgomery County Council voted today to approve legislation that will provide broader and more generous property tax credits, from \$3000 to \$10,000, to Montgomery County child care providers. The intent of the bill is to help providers stay in operation and incentivize construction of new facilities.

Following an update to the state law, Bill 21-25 that passed today expands eligibility for the tax credit to include large family child care homes. The tax credit previously did not; it applied to registered family child care homes, licensed child care centers, licensed day care centers for the elderly, and licensed day care centers for adults.

For additional information, see the staff report (<https://tinyurl.com/4436jd2j>) and the press release (<https://tinyurl.com/senhd2kd>).

September 18, 2025

Rise in scam calls impersonating law enforcement personnel

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is alerting residents to a rise in scams where a caller impersonates a law enforcement employee in an effort to steal a victim's money.

The scam typically begins with a call from someone claiming to be from a fictitious section of the sheriff's office. The caller tells the victim that they missed a court date, failed to respond to a summons or skipped jury duty, and that a judge has issued an arrest warrant. The caller then tells the victim to pay a "fine" immediately to avoid being taken into custody, pressuring the victim to load money onto a prepaid card and then read the card numbers to the "law enforcement" caller over the phone.

Sheriff Uy urges residents not to fall for this scheme. Anyone with questions can contact the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office directly at 240-777-7000. If you have already given money to one of these scammers,

call the Montgomery County Police at 301-279-8000. <https://tinyurl.com/4uyv2a8k>

September 23, 2025

Maryland federal job losses worst in the nation

Maryland has about 135,000 federal workers but has lost more than 15,000 federal jobs since the start of the year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is the largest such decline in the country during the administration's ongoing efforts to reduce the size of the federal government. In August, Maryland lost another 2,500 federal jobs, the state's seventh consecutive month of decline in that category of employment.

The administration also has canceled plans to locate the new FBI headquarters in Greenbelt and plans to reorganize and close the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. It would relocate the center's functions to cities across the country. Of the USDA's 4,600 employees, 2,600 would be relocated or laid off.

The data indicates that the administration's large-scale reduction in federal spending has had an outside impact on the Washington region. Mark Zandi, a chief economist at Moody's, said in an interview that at this stage, it's safe to say the Maryland economy is in a full-scale recession, largely driven by the loss of federal jobs and the effects on government contracts and the ecosystem built around the federal workforce in the state. <https://tinyurl.com/yyhwd3ww>

Purple Line track work expected to finish in spring 2026

Overall, the Purple Line project is slightly more than 80% complete, according to Purple Line officials at a briefing before members of the county council's Transportation and Environment Committee on Monday. Passenger service is projected to begin in winter 2027.

All track work is expected to be finished in spring 2026. Track work in the Prince George's section of the 16-mile light rail line is completed; work on the Montgomery County side is about 79% complete.

The Capital Crescent Trail between Bethesda and Silver Spring is expected to be reopen around the spring or summer of 2026. <https://tinyurl.com/283u7ayj>

September 25, 2025

\$10 million investment in early childhood education announced

Yesterday, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich announced new initiatives meant to fundamentally

strengthen the county's early childhood education system: a new loan fund; a historic federal grant; and a collaborative for child care educators and partnerships. The initiatives are a direct response to a recent study that identified major gaps in child care access in the county, especially for infants and toddlers in underserved communities.

The \$10 million package does three things: allots \$6.125 million for Head Start and Early Head Start to reach children from birth to age five in community settings; creates a \$4 million facility loan fund to enable providers to add infant and toddler seats; and launches a shared-resources collaborative so that small providers can manage costs and focus on teaching.

See the press release (<https://tinyurl.com/m3uhncz2>) for additional details.

NPS awards \$1.5 million to upgrade two county parks

The National Park Service has awarded \$1.5 million in grant funding to help upgrade two county parks' outdoor recreation facilities.

The City of Rockville will use its money to redevelop the former golf course at RedGate Park. New paths and meadow areas will be constructed and park benches, picnic tables and educational signs will be added.

At Gunners Lake Park in Germantown, the pavilion, playground and athletic fields will be improved. A newly constructed walking track and adult fitness area will be expanded on Grey Eagle Court. In addition nearby paths will be improved, making it easier for residents to access the park. <https://tinyurl.com/57ayu5nw>

September 30, 2025

Water cremation now permitted in Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Council today unanimously approved zoning text amendment 25-09 to allow alkaline hydrolysis, also known as water cremation, as a funeral option in the county, aligning local zoning with state law and industry standards. Alkaline hydrolysis is already available in 20 states and was legalized in Maryland in 2024.

The process utilizes water, alkaline chemicals and heat in a watertight vessel to accelerate the natural decomposition process. It produces no direct emissions, uses less energy and does not generate smoke or noise in surrounding communities. The result is ash, which can be returned to families in an urn, and liquid byproduct that is 95 percent water and can be safely discharged as wastewater after pH adjustment.

<https://tinyurl.com/4az7dxhd>

County awards \$2.3 million for school-based food assistance

Montgomery County has awarded \$2,303,775 in grants to 13 organizations through the FY2026 school-based food assistance (SBFA) grant program. The grant recipients are expected to reach more than 9,000 county households by offering food assistance in a variety of formats that are tailored to meet the cultural preferences and dietary needs of each school community.

Food assistance offerings include pre-packed boxes of locally sourced, culturally relevant produce items, family markets to promote flexibility of choice and variety, and prepared meals for students with medically tailored diets.

To learn more about the grant program and other opportunities for engagement with the local food system: <https://tinyurl.com/8c5uy73n>.

County expands resources to reduce pet surrenders

More and more residents affected by economic hardship, including layoffs, are surrendering their pets to the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC). In turn, the adoption center faces increasing capacity challenges. To reduce the need for people to surrender their pets, MCASAC is offering the following support to help owners keep pets in their homes.

- Pet food pantries for free pet food, no appointment needed, at two locations
- Weekly rabies clinics
- Low-cost spay/neuter clinics
- Free behavior consultations
- Online behavior guidance and low-cost medical options are available on the MSASAC website

Community members can support the county animal shelter by adopting or fostering, donating money or pet supplies, or volunteering. MCASAC is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, noon-7 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 pm. It is closed on Wednesdays. <https://tinyurl.com/3f9pvbt5>

Leaf blower enforcement's "unintended consequences"

A group of councilmembers today introduced an expedited measure to address "unintended consequences" of enforcing the county's ban on gas-

continued on page 10

powered leaf blowers.

A ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in Montgomery County took effect July 1. Under the current law, a person who witnesses someone using a gas-powered leaf blower can send a complaint to the director of the county's Department of Environmental Protection. The complaint must be supported by "photographic evidence" to result in a fine.

The expedited bill introduced today would remove the photographic-evidence requirement, in response to concerns that taking photographs of landscapers, many of them Latino immigrants, could make them uneasy given today's political climate, according to the council's staff report.

The expedited bill would replace the photographic-evidence requirement with a provision that would allow county officials to issue a fine based on complaints from at least two witnesses. If passed by the council, the measure would take effect as soon as it becomes law. <https://tinyurl.com/yawute6d>

October 2, 2025

Pepco offers shutdown support

Pepco has key support measures in place that are available to its customers, including current or recent federal employees and contractors, flexible payment options, late payment charge waivers, and streamlined verification (customers will not be required to

provide government ID to access additional support measures). Government furlough information will be added to customer accounts to properly track affected customers.

Pepco also offers proactive assistance resources. Examples include an assistance finder tool, which helps identify bill assistance and energy efficiency programs that customers may qualify for; and Single Stop, which helps customers check if they qualify for other benefits, including housing, money, food, school, healthcare, childcare, taxes, utility bills, and more.

Visit Pepco's website or call 202- 833-7500 for more information about these and other support measures and how to access them. <https://tinyurl.com/bdejky7t>

October 7, 2025

County offers free composting bins

Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is offering residents and businesses free compost bins to help turn yard trim into nutrient-rich compost and support the county's goal of zero waste by reducing waste, reuse, and recycling.

The lightweight, mesh-sided composting bins (meant for yard trim only) are available for pickup at multiple locations, including Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Potomac and Rockville. Click on the link above to confirm the hours and bin availability at your preferred location.

For details on composting, visit the DEP website. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8xjxta>

2025-2026 Albert Einstein High School Instrumental Music Community Calendar

STAGE CONCERTS

Fri, December 12

Winter Jazz & Dance Concert (Jazz Lab Band, Jazz Ens)

Thur, December 18

Winter Band/Orch Concert (Con Band, Con Orch, Sym Ens, Alumni)

Wed, May 13

Spring Band/Orch Concert (Con Band, Con Orch, Sym Ens)

Thu, May 21

Spring Jazz Concert (Jazz Lab Band, Jazz Ensemble, Alumni Jazz)

TITAN MARCHING BAND (TMB)

Sat, November 22

Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade

SPECIAL EVENTS

December-January

Home Varsity Basketball Games (Pep Band)

Sat, February 21

Swing Cafe (AE Jazz)

Fri, February 27

Einstein Drumline Showcase (Indoor Drumline)

Thur/Fri/Sun, March 5/6/8; Fri/Sat, March 13/14

Spring Musical (AE Pit Orchestra)

A Student Was Killed — A Call to Action *a concerned resident of 14 years*

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any organization.

Recently, a student was killed by a reckless driver on University Boulevard, and **speed was a significant factor in the tragedy**. Just one day later, another individual was killed in Wheaton in a hit-and-run. These are not random events — **they reflect a culture of reckless driving that has become normalized**.

In our own Randolph Hills neighborhood, two community signs have been destroyed by speeding vehicles. I am frequently passed on Beach Drive by brazen drivers. On Ashley Drive, drivers tailgate, pass and fail to stop at signs. In the past year, we have had roughly 3 car meet ups where numerous drivers race through our streets. Very recently, a hit and run destroyed a parked car of a resident here. While walking on the bike path, I have had to yield to a motorcycle and ATVs.

How many times have you witnessed these kinds of things?

New drivers now place bright bumper stickers **pleading for patience from others** while they endeavor to learn how to manage driving a car in this place — “New Driver,” “Please Be Patient.” Yet these reminders do little to nothing to change behavior. At all hours of the day you can hear cars zooming in the distance. Drivers tailgate, run red lights, modify mufflers, and speed through our streets largely with impunity.

The State of Maryland recently announced it will double camera fines for speed and red-light violations. **Does an extra fine really stop these drivers who treat our roads like a racetrack?** Or will they continue because they can, **and little to nothing is being done about it**.

Vision Zero vs. Reality: Montgomery County leadership likes to assert that we have Vision Zero initiatives in place to eliminate fatal and serious crashes — **yet**

pedestrian injuries and deaths are still rising. What is this all about?

Policing Is Overburdened - Community Policing is Unavailable to Us

The Montgomery County Police Department patrol staffing is down nearly 25 percent and remains below the national average. MCPD has a ratio of 1 to 1-one officer for every 1,000 residents. The national average is 2.5 officers for every 1,000. Our park police force is also understaffed. **Traffic enforcement is stretched dangerously thin, so we are left to negotiate the roads as they are and consequently, sustain tragic outcomes; not to mention daily stress and a lower quality of life.**

Who You Can Contact & Hold Accountable

- Email all Councilmembers: County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov
Council Main Line: 240-777-7900
- Public Safety Committee:
Sidney Katz (Chair): 240-777-7906
Dawn Luedtke: 240-777-7860
Kristin Mink: 240-777-7955

What You Can Do — Right Now

- Support our police, advocate for community policing and resist policies and/or leaders who weaken staffing.
- Report reckless driving every time you see it.
- Contact your leaders directly and demand stronger enforcement.
- Advocate locally for speed bumps, crosswalks, signage, and traffic calming.

We have allowed reckless driving to become “normal.” These tragedies demand action now — for the safety of our students, neighbors, and families.

See the next page for more information about what to do when you encounter a reckless driver.

Update on the Woodward School Boundary Study

MCPS has released a NEW survey to gather public feedback on options for the Woodward School Boundary Study. Residents are encouraged to submit their responses no later than Tuesday, November 25.

Office Hours will begin the week of October 20, 2025 and the dates, times, and virtual zoom link will

be shared on this website: <https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/woodward-boundary-options/home>

Here is a link to the survey directly: <https://tinyurl.com/yc36vc2w>

A link to the interactive map with the new options can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/4eyfv26a>

Dog Adoption Event: Info coming soon!

COMING SOON!

PuPu dog adoption event at the Randolph Hill Civic Green.

Provided by Home At Last Sanctuary, Inc.

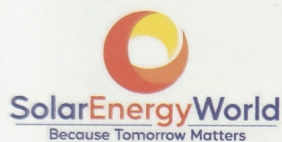
Come meet your new family member!
Dates and times coming soon.

In the meantime, check out
www.homeatlastsanctuary.org

FY 26 Membership:

Join or Renew your RCA Membership Today!

Our \$10 annual donation is the lowest of any civic association in Montgomery County and every contribution helps. Your contribution of \$10 (or more!) to the Randolph Civic Association helps make it possible to publish and deliver this ECHO to each one of the 1,400 households in our community.



Andy Grygier

Field Energy Advisor

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🌐 SolarEnergyWorld.com

📍 14880 Sweitzer Ln. Laurel, MD 20707

What To Do If You See or Encounter a Reckless Driver

Gather details

- Record the license plate, make, model, color of the vehicle, and location.
- If possible, note the time and the direction of travel.

Report it immediately

- Montgomery County Police (Non-Emergency): 301-279-8000
- U.S. Park Police (Non-Emergency): 301-949-3010

Be consistent

- Each call builds a record—even if it feels repetitive.
- Patterns of reckless driving are taken more seriously when multiple reports exist.

Encourage community accountability

- Talk with neighbors about doing the same.
- The more eyes and calls, the greater the chance of action.

Contact leadership

Reach out to those in leadership as well:

- Community Engagement at our Councilmembers Office: Jose Ortiz Benitez — jose.ortiz@montgomerycountymd.gov
- Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez's Office: councilmember.fani-gonzalez@montgomerycountymd.gov
- Park Police: tracy.lieberman@mncparkpolice.org

County Council Public Safety Committee

Reach out to members of the Montgomery County Council's Public Safety Committee:

- Sidney Katz (Chair, District 3) — 240-777-7906
- Dawn Luedtke (District 7) — 240-777-7860
- Kristin Mink (District 5) — 240-777-7955

More info: montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Committee/PSCComm.html

Change is coming to Montgomery County Public Schools

by Laurel Kennedy

This year will be the last year for our 5th and 8th graders to go through the school choice process as we know it. As we head off to open houses and watch our students weigh bus schedules, friends, interests and family history, it may be the end of an era. Although the future is not certain, the ongoing boundary study could shift Randolph Hills from Wheaton to a new high school, Woodward, and a separate program study is slated to dissolve the Down County Consortia Choice program and replace it with a regional program.

Region 3 in the draft plans includes Kennedy, Walter Johnson, Woodward and Wheaton. Students will be able to apply to regional magnet programs within these schools, but otherwise they will go to their home school. Access to Einstein, Northwood and Blair will be cut off. This will be a big shift from the current choice system.

The changes are moving very quickly to align with the opening of Woodward for the 2027 school year. If you

have a 7th grader or younger - this will have the greatest impact on you and your families, so pay attention!

I haven't heard any information about the middle school magnet consortia program. It's also unclear whether the academy model will be used at Woodward for students not enrolled in a magnet program. I did read that every school will have Calculus and it does sound like there will be a lot of great programs offered, potentially closer to home. It could be really exciting to be part of a new school.

We expect a lot of new information and opportunities to attend meetings and information sessions are planned.

If you would like more information check out the following websites:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/boundary-study/>

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/academic-programs-analysis/>

By the way to see how amazing our local schools are -- Check out Shuddersome - the Loiederman Fall Play coming November 7th and 8th.

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Mobilize Montgomery Federal Workforce Career Center to Provide Personalized Support and Services to Displaced Federal Workers

The Mobilize Montgomery Federal Workforce Career Center (FWCC) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark its official opening. Funded by the Montgomery County Government, the FWCC is the first-of-its-kind physical location in the United States dedicated to supporting displaced federal workers through personalized services and programs.

“The Mobilize Montgomery Federal Workforce Career Center is the first facility of its kind in the nation, and it was made possible because we had the foresight to include an additional \$700,000 in the FY26 budget for WorkSource Montgomery to expand its operations and prepare for the job losses we feared were coming,” said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. “We are grateful for the partnership of Governor Wes Moore and the State of Maryland, and for the tireless efforts of our Congressional delegation to protect and preserve the critical work done by federal employees.”

Located within the Wheaton American Job Center at 11510 Georgia Avenue in Wheaton, MD, this space will welcome displaced federal workers, contractors, and others navigating career transitions due to the ongoing federal workforce reductions. Montgomery County residents will be able to benefit from federal resume and job placement assistance, career and entrepreneurial coaching, and professional development programs.

Additionally, job seekers will be able to utilize the full scope of WorkSource Montgomery’s American Job Center’s services, including free virtual and in-person workshops, financial counseling services through the Financial Empowerment Center, and on-site access to Maryland Department of Labor staff who can assist with unemployment insurance (UI) questions. Services offered at the FWCC are for Montgomery County residents; however, some events, such as job fairs, may be open to the broader public.

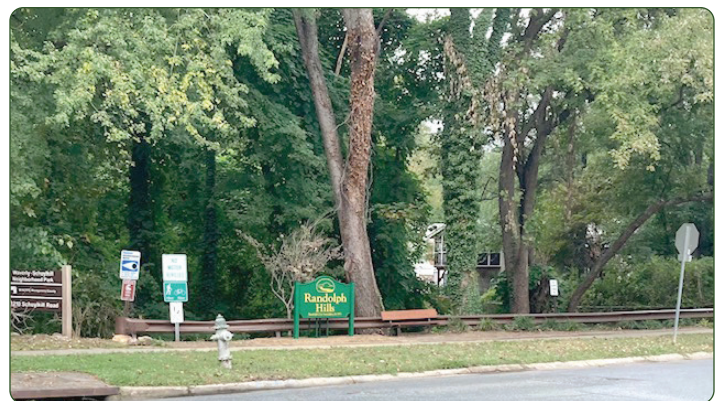
For residents of other counties and states, the FWCC team will be ready to provide them with information for their local job centers in Prince George’s County, Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, and other jurisdictions.

The FWCC will be open Monday - Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Job seekers interested in utilizing the FWCC's services should follow the three-step process listed on the Mobilize Montgomery website at <https://mobilize-montgomery.com/fwcc/>. While walk-ins are accepted, the FWCC recommends making an appointment. Jobseekers who need help or have questions should email fwcc@worksourcemontgomery.com or call 240-283-1509.

Thank you to Daniel Biggs and Scout Troop 1083!

Throughout the end of August and the beginning of September, the hardworking scouts of Scout Troop 1083 worked to install a new park sign at Waverly-Schuylkill park. The Randolph Hills sign, located at the intersection of Garrett Park Road and Schuylkill Road, was destroyed in a car accident in April this year. Daniel Biggs of Scout Troop 1083 undertook the planning

and installation of the sign, along with the removal of rampant foliage around the sign location and general cleanup of the park as part of his Eagle scout project. The Randolph Civic Association would like to thank Daniel and all other volunteers from Scout Troop 1083 whose help made this happen.





LOEHMANN'S PLAZA

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RESTAURANTS/EATERIES

El Patio.....(301) 231-9225

Subway.....(301) 881-4672

SPECIALTY

Dollar Tree.....(301) 231-6097

Royal Martial Arts.....(301) 770-1007

Utopia.....(301) 927-8227

Furniture & Rug Depot....(301) 881-8380

Pooshan Rugs.....(301) 230-0538



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RCA Neighborhood Real Estate Market Update

Randolph Hills • Randolph Farms • Franklin Park • Montrose Park

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy	DOM	Date Settled
4903 Stickley Rd	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$0	38	08-Oct-2025
12119 Portree Dr	\$659,900	\$648,225	\$0	33	19-Sep-2025
11513 Ashley Dr	\$645,000	\$645,000	\$0	3	29-Aug-2025
12120 Hunters Ln	\$535,000	\$535,000	\$10,000	11	28-Aug-2025
12004 Ashley Dr	\$599,000	\$589,000	\$0	11	27-Aug-2025
11416 Schuykill Rd	\$625,000	\$640,000	\$0	36	11-Aug-2025
11411 Grayling Ln	\$629,000	\$629,000	\$0	2	28-Jul-2025
4819 Topping Rd	\$635,000	\$625,000	\$0	7	25-Jul-2025
4603 Coachway Dr	\$675,000	\$715,000	\$0	5	21-Jul-2025
10900 Troy Rd	\$535,000	\$525,000	\$0	6	14-Jul-2025
4801 Oxbow Rd	\$580,000	\$555,750	\$0	21	14-Jul-2025
5140 Longstone Way	\$759,000	\$765,000	\$0	5	30-Jun-2025

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