

Upcoming Events in RCA Land

visit www.randolphcivic.org for more details

RCA Community Meeting

Thursday, December 4, 2025, 7pm at 4425 Garrett Park Rd.
Holiday Special! All are encouraged to bring some of their favorite holiday snacks and/or stories of their favorite holiday traditions to share.

RCA Community Meeting - Virtual

Thursday, January 8, 2026, 7pm
Virtual on Zoom. See website for link.



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

It's hard to believe that 2025 is coming to an end and shortly we'll be starting 2026. As the dark days of November and December settle over us and the colder temperatures keep us inside a bit more, it seems natural for self-reflection. I think about what the year brought, what it took away, what was sustained, what grew, and what was outgrown. I think about these things not only in my personal life but for the various communities with which I'm involved. We saw a lot happen in 2025, some were small incremental changes and some were major shifts or beginnings. We saw a new high school open that will not only affect RCA land but the entire County. A site plan was passed by the Montgomery County Planning Board to transform Loehman's plaza into townhomes over the next few years. We had our bus lines reduced and renamed, the Garrett Park Road bridge work was postponed yet again, and we had a Randolph Hills sign destroyed and a new one installed (thank you Daniel Biggs!). These are just a few of the happenings that come to my mind. It was an eventful year.

In the spirit of even more historical reflection of RCA-land, we're wishing Frank Shore a happy 90th birthday this month. What a person to celebrate! Frank has been a Randolph Hills member for decades, pivotal in his involvement in local politics and statewide politics. For those who attended the October RCA meeting, there was an open invitation for Frank's birthday celebration held in early December. Mr. Shore was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1971-1978

and was a Maryland state Senator from 1978-1990. He was instrumental in many key improvements to the Randolph Hills community and beyond. We honor Frank's decades of service to Randolph Hills, Montgomery County, and the state of Maryland and we honor his esteemed life as he celebrates 90 years. Happy Birthday, Frank!

One additional plug I'd like to make for going forward in 2026 is for the new online newspaper, The Banner. The online news source was recently launched and is part of the Baltimore Banner newspaper but is focused on Montgomery County news. It's been a long time since we've had a news source dedicated to in-depth reporting on Montgomery County. Yes, we have the Washington Post, but as one can plainly see, the Post is focused mostly on national, international, and regional news. The MoCo Show and Bethesda Today are good sources to hear about store openings, road closures, etc. but I find they don't dig too deep into specific issues. I have found The Banner to provide quality, fair and current reporting on important issues specific to Montgomery County. I would encourage residents to check it out if you want to receive more news relevant to our local government, schools, and our area. I have no affiliation with The Banner, I simply think that we've lacked a County focused new source for many years and I'm excited about its availability. I believe that having an informed community is important and helps inform decisions we make as individuals and as a whole.

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

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Webmaster

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..."

Ashley Drive Speed Hump Update

by Alison Dewey

The RCA received the below email response from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) regarding an inquiry about the process of installing speed humps on Ashley Drive.

This is a follow up response to your email dated November 3, 2025 regarding speed humps along Ashley Drive. Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has confirmed that Ashley Drive between Rocking Horse Road and Schuylkill Road meets eligibility criteria in accordance with Executive Regulation 5-24 (ER 5-24) <https://tinyurl.com/2nfsfax5>.

Our office will prepare speed hump location plans and send them to you by December 5, 2025. Once received, we ask that you review it and let us know if any revisions are necessary. If no modifications to the plan are requested, ER 5-24 requires that the Randolph Civic Association (RCA) hold a community speed hump meeting to inform the community of the RCA's desire to pursue speed humps.

This meeting is anticipated to be conducted using the Zoom/Microsoft Teams format. Please notify MCDOT of the RCA meeting date at least 30 days in advance, as ER 5-24 requires that MCDOT install signs at both ends of the corridor to provide notice of the community's upcoming meeting. This is to allow MCDOT sufficient time to fabricate and install the signs along the roadway prior to the meeting.

Upon completion of RCA's presentation, MCDOT will be available to answer any questions related to speed humps or the speed hump process. Once all questions have been addressed, MCDOT will leave the meeting to allow the community to discuss its desire to pursue the hump process. RCA must alert MCDOT within 30 days if they wish to continue the process.

The RCA plans to discuss the issue of speed humps on Ashley Drive at the Thursday, January 8th RCA meeting, scheduled for 7:30pm. Please visit the calendar at randolphcivic.org for the location of the meeting.

MCPS School Boundary Study

by Alison Dewey

MCPS is hosting a new round of engagement sessions on the boundary study during December 1st - 4th. Four will be virtual; two will be in person.

Visit <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/boundary-study/> for more information and the zoom links.

MCPS plans to add additional boundary options to supplement the current A-D options. The current boundary options A-D that have already been released and can also be found in the link above.

The additional options for the Woodward/Northwood Boundary Study will include the recommendation for the potential Silver Spring International Middle School closure.

The Echo will most likely be delivered after these meetings take place so we'll try to have more information about the boundary study in the next Echo.



A graphic for SolarEnergyWorld featuring the company logo (a stylized sun) and the tagline "Because Tomorrow Matters". To the right of the logo is the name "Andy Grygier" in a large, bold font, with "Field Energy Advisor" underneath. Below this are four contact details, each with a small icon: a phone icon for "301.455.0796", an email icon for "agrygier@solarenergyworld.com", a globe icon for "SolarEnergyWorld.com", and a location pin icon for "14880 Sweitzer Ln. Laurel, MD 20707". The background of the graphic is white with a partial view of a solar panel at the bottom left.

Treasurer's Report for RCA for October 2025

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

The beginning balance as of October 1, 2025, was \$12,754.83.

There was \$389.90 in membership fees and donations to the RCA and RCF and \$685.39 for Advertising Revenue (Ads in ECHO) from Solar Energy World (Andrew Grygier) and Mike Pu for Medicare Plan Options. Total revenue collected was \$1,075.29.

There were three expenses: \$637.00 to Erie Insurance for Annual Liability Insurance, \$451.65 to A-V Distribution for distributing the September/ October 2025 ECHO, and \$1,060.00 to Quick Printing for printing the November 2025 ECHO. Total expenses in

October 2025 were \$2,148.65. The ending balance on October 31, 2025, was \$11,681.47.

Total Y-T-D for Fiscal Year 2026 for Membership Collection:

RCA Membership and Donations - \$3,017.00

RCF Donations - \$1,148.00

Sign Replacement - \$260.00

PayPal Fees deducted - \$70.66

Approximately 95 households have paid RCA membership dues for Fiscal Year 2026

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		\$3,175	
Community Day Expenses								
Echo Printing		\$7,420		\$6,970		\$7,420		\$2,974
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		\$296
MusicFest		\$500				\$500		
RCA/RCF Dues & Donations (MINUS PayPal Fee)	\$8,500		\$8,030		\$8,500		\$4,933	
RCF Echo Charge	\$500				\$500			
RCF Reconciliation		\$1,500		\$1,126		\$1,500		\$1,343
RCF Sign Fund		\$850		\$841		\$850		\$290
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	\$11,921	\$9,824
Annual Surplus / Deficit	\$18		\$31		\$18		\$2,097	

Reach over 1,400 homes and thousands of readers.

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Support your local community!

2024-2025 Media Kit Details:

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

Connect with local home owners located near your business.

Rates start at only \$45 per issue (with a one-year contract)



ADVERTISE IN THE RANDOLPH CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S ECHO NEWSLETTER

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/>

<https://sowhatelse.volunteerhub.com/vv2/>

RCA Hotline | Summer 2025

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

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

Nov 1, 2025

We have lived in Randolph Hills for nearly five years. It didn't take long to figure out we couldn't have chosen somewhere more friendly, diverse, tree lined and pretty had we looked for years. I enjoy reading the Echo and am grateful for all the different kinds of hard work you do for us which makes it even better.

However I cannot help wishing that the Echo could be published in Spanish as well. I do understand that this is not an easy thing to do considering how few of us English speakers are fluent in Spanish and indeed not that many Spanish speakers are fluent in English. I cannot help hoping a small team of people could be found to see if it could be done. I speak Spanish and would be happy to be involved but it is not good enough to do it by myself.

RCA Response: *The RCA responded inviting the neighbor to help make the recommendation a reality.*

Nov 4, 2025

One of our neighbors left 5 tube fluorescent bulbs on their lawn for the trash. The trash people tagged them saying they didn't take bulbs. The bulbs stayed out there for another week and then someone broke a couple of the bulbs. Now there is broken glass and probably mercury on the lawn where the dogs and squirrels and deer walk.

I picked up the bulk of it to take to the dump. I knocked on the neighbor's door and even though I could see they were home, they didn't answer.

What can be done about this? Can it be reported to the county? What to do about the broken glass in the grass?

Thanks.

RCA Response: *The RCA responded recommending to contact 311. Eventually the County reached out to the homeowner to advise them on how to dispose of fluorescent bulbs. You can dispose of old fluorescent bulbs at the County's Household Hazardous Waste dropoff at the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station.*



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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

Another View *By Elinor Walker*

The November, 2025 issue of The Echo included a *crie de coeur* from “concerned resident of 14 years” whose name was undisclosed. This person briefly noted two fatal auto crashes in the county, damage to a parked car in our community and mentioned having been tailgated and passed on both Ashley and Beach Drives. The author proceeded to advocate for widespread reporting of other drivers and increased policing, among other things.

Having first moved here in the early ‘80’s, I can’t say that I ever would have imagined drafting a defense of local drivers, but I was startled by how starkly different the anonymous author’s experience seemed from my own. In thousands upon thousands of trips on those same streets, I don’t recall ever having been tailgated or passed on either of those thoroughfares, although from time to time I have noticed motorists driving at a rate markedly lower than the speed limit. I wondered if the author’s irritation provoked some of the conduct s/he observes in other drivers.

The author’s advice to call the police non-emergency line with a detailed report of perpetrators of “reckless driving” also struck me as ill-considered. Readers were exhorted to “(r)eport (it) every time you see it”, “gather details” and to call consistently, “even if it feels repetitive”. My understanding is that such reporting is all but useless in the absence of a prospective witnesses’ name, contact information and

willingness to testify under oath in the unlikely event the offender is cited by law enforcement.

That brings me to another troubling aspect of the author’s advice: exhortations to involve and “(s)upport our police” in efforts to target other drivers. As a member of a law enforcement family myself, I find this to be a remarkable suggestion given current circumstances.

We’re living in a time and place where many of our non-citizen neighbors are living in abject fear of any contact with any level of law enforcement. That’s not to say that annoying or dangerous drivers should continue their risky or discourteous behavior. It’s simply a reminder that not every source of irritation should be met with an invitation to armed police officers to involve themselves in every potential or minor incident.

The inescapable irony here is that we are urged to report on others by someone who was unwilling to attach their own name to such a lengthy and impassioned opinion piece. If the author’s anonymity is a function of fear of retribution from fellow Echo readers, that strikes me as unrealistic in the extreme. Should threats of or actual violence result from an author’s exercise of their right to express an opinion on a matter of public concern, such menacing would genuinely merit a police report.

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



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MCPS Proposes Elimination of the Down County Consortium *by Alison Dewey*

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is proposing to eliminate the Down County Consortium (DCC) through changes to Secondary Academic Programs. I attended the first engagement session in a series of six sessions to be hosted throughout the County throughout November to find out more. The meeting took place on Thursday, October 30 from 7-8pm at John F. Kennedy High School. Despite the short notice of announcing the meeting, there were about 100 - 130 people in attendance. Many people asking questions expressed frustration and worry regarding the proposed changes.

The proposed changes are of particular interest to our Randolph Hills community because Randolph Hills is currently part of the DCC. According to MCPS, the Academic Program Analysis and the proposed Six-Region Model intends to "expand equitable access to high-quality academic and career-focused programs for all high school students across the county." Through these proposed changes, MCPS will be eliminating the Down County Consortium (DCC) and the Northeast Consortium (NEC). The DCC encompasses the following high schools, each having distinctive academy programs by application designed to capture student interest:

Wheaton: biomedical, engineering;

Einstein: visual arts;

Blair: Communication Arts, Science, Math, and Computer;

Kennedy: Leadership Training Institute, Regional International Diploma, Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp;

Northwood: Montgomery College Middle College.

Each DCC high school also offers academy programs similar to the above mentioned that are open to all students at the school.

MCPS's proposed changes would eliminate the DCC and group the County's 25 high schools into one of six program study regions. A map of the proposed program study regions is below. (There will be 27 high schools in MCPS when Charles Woodward high school (Fall 2027) and Crown High School (tentatively Fall 2027) open). Within each of these six program study regions there will be program strands reflective of the established academy programs within the DCC and the NEC.

Below are a few of the FAQs distributed by MCPS regarding the program analysis (all highlights are MCPS's):

Why are the program changes happening now, and why concurrently with the high school boundary study?

The changes are happening now to address historical inequities and a scarcity model that limits access to high-demand programs for many students. The program analysis is being done concurrently with the boundary study (final decision expected March 2026) to provide families with a full picture of school assignments and program access at the same time.

Are we eliminating the DCC and NEC?

Yes. The DCC and NEC will be realigned to a six-region model. All students will have the opportunity to apply to programs in their region. This work did not start with the interest to discontinue the consortia.

After review of the various program installations over the past 50 years, it was noted that MCPS is absent a program implementation process that ensures consistency for all programs such as resources, admission, staffing and transportation. This is a critical opportunity to build from the successes of the Consortia and Choice model by ensuring all students have access to program themes in their region supported by bus transportation and highly qualified teachers and curriculum.

What is the rationale for dissolving the DCC and NEC consortia and replacing them with the Regional Model?

The goal is to ensure every student has access to the best opportunities. A recent analysis found the consortium model is limited to only eight high schools with limited seats. The proposed six-region model would expand the most successful parts of the consortia into the regional program model, providing all students with equitable access to high-quality programs closer to home - not eliminate opportunities.

How will current NEC and DCC students be impacted?

Current students and 8th grade students currently participating in the Choice Process for the 2026-2027 school year will be able to remain in their current school through graduation.

The new six-region model will phase in beginning with current Grade 7 students, who will be the first group to experience the regional program structure when they reach high school in the 2027-2028 school year.

For more information visit: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/academic-programs-analysis>

News Bullets from Montgomery County Regional Services

October 10 - November 28, 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/>

Nov 25, 2025

A guide to ice skating in Montgomery County

Our county offers ice skating options for all ages and skill levels, making it a perfect cold-weather activity for families. For those who enjoy the crisp winter air, there are two popular outdoor rinks: at Rockville Town Square, with the largest outdoor rink in the county, at 7,200 square feet -- and the Silver Spring Ice Skating Rink at Veterans' Plaza, which opens for the season next week.

Consider reserving tickets online for lower prices. Montgomery Parks provides two year-round indoor facilities for enthusiasts: Cabin John Ice Rink and Wheaton Ice Arena.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdescxu9>

Nov 21, 2025

Credit, debit cards now OK to pay for Metro rides

As of November 18, Metro users have the option to use any contactless credit or debit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay to pay for their bus fare -- just tap, ride and go -- instead of using a SmarTrip card. (SmarTrip cards still accepted.) Metro rolled out credit card payment for Metro rail in May.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdp7yrnk>

Nov 19, 2025

County Council approves \$7.75M to support county residents

Today the County Council passed a \$7.75 million special appropriation, titled Public Service Support Resolution, to provide assistance for residents and nonprofit organizations affected by the recent federal government shutdown and federal administration policies.

The special appropriation allocates funding to assist federal workers, nonprofits, businesses and others affected by the federal government shutdown and policies of the Trump Administration.

The five key funding areas are food assistance, community partner support, housing assistance,

human rights protections, and economic development.

Staff report: <https://tinyurl.com/497h8me3>

Press Release: <https://tinyurl.com/m4v3mbu6>

Garden of Lights at Brookside Gardens opens Friday

The annual Garden of Lights display at Brookside Gardens, which opens Friday, November 21, 5 pm, and will be up through January 4, 2026. The hours are 5-9:30 pm. The timed-entry tickets are \$13.99 per person Sundays through Thursdays, \$16.99 on Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets are free for children 5 years and younger.

<https://tinyurl.com/epx4yuz5>

Nov 16, 2025

Contests for local artists

Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District's 2026 essay, short story and poetry contests are now open for submissions. Deadline January 13, 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/476a5ymp>

Filmmakers in Maryland, D.C., and Virginia are invited to submit short documentary films, 5-30 minutes in length, for the Bethesda Film Fest, April 10-11, 2026. Deadline: January 9, 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/32p9ac6h>

Nov 5, 2025

Beach Drive to reopen to traffic on Fridays

Beach Drive between Knowles Avenue in south Kensington and Cedar Lane in Bethesda will reopen on Fridays to vehicular traffic, beginning Nov. 7. That section will continue to be closed from 9 am Saturdays until 4 pm Sundays. [In the spring and summer, the traffic restriction ends at 6 pm on Sunday.]

The 2.2-mile stretch along Beach Drive is part of the Open Parkways program, which was closed to vehicular traffic from 9 am Fridays until 4 pm Sundays during the covid pandemic as a way to meet the need for outdoor recreational space.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n7nhtvn>

FY 26 Membership: Join or Renew your RCA Membership Today!

Our small but mighty civic association team of volunteers is here to help keep you informed about the changes that will impact you and your neighbors, and to help advocate for issues that are important to you.

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.

Additional donations to the Randolph Civic Foundation, which supports and sponsors community beautification efforts and local youth groups, are tax deductible.

BoBo on the Go

By Loretta E Chi



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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
5012 Oakmoore Drive	\$789,000	\$780,000	\$0	7	20-Nov-2025
12109 Lauderdale Drive	\$629,900	\$620,000	\$0	121	10-Nov-2025
10903 Troy Road	\$699,900	\$710,000	\$0	0	24-Oct-2025
4802 Randolph Road	\$490,000	\$480,000	\$0	13	22-Oct-2025
4903 Stickley Road	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$0	38	08-Oct-2025
12119 Portree Drive	\$659,900	\$648,225	\$0	33	19-Sep-2025
11513 Ashley Drive	\$645,000	\$645,000	\$0	3	29-Aug-2025
12120 Hunters Lane	\$535,000	\$535,000	\$10,000	11	28-Aug-2025
12004 Ashley Drive	\$599,000	\$589,000	\$0	11	27-Aug-2025
11416 Schuylkill Road	\$625,000	\$640,000	\$0	36	11-Aug-2025
11411 Grayling Lane	\$629,000	\$629,000	\$0	2	28-July-2025
4819 Topping Road	\$635,000	\$625,000	\$0	7	25-July-2025

In real estate, there is no substitute for experience, knowledge of the area, and attention to detail.

Denise and Aret have a wealth of experience working with buyers and sellers through all types of housing markets.

With over 50 years of combined experience, Denise and Aret will put their extensive knowledge and experience to work for you!

Give Denise and Aret a call when it's time to sell your home, or buy a new one!



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"Professional Service with a Personal Touch"

