

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 59, Issue 8

Summer 2016

Pool it Safely this Summer

By Shannon O'Sullivan

I am convinced my son Winston was born with gills. He delights in all things water: oceans, rivers, pools, baths, even plastic baby pools -- he loves them all.

At nearly six years of age and with dozens of swim lessons under his belt, I cautiously say he can swim. Just last week, at our community pool (Connecticut Belair), he jumped off a diving board into the deep end and swam to the side unaided. He repeated this 10 times within an hour.

Yet just two weeks ago, in a hotel pool that was only four feet deep, he struggled and within a few seconds was under the water. I was less than five feet away from him, but was distracted with his little sister and did not even know he was in trouble. Thankfully a watchful stranger scooped him up and dragged him to the side of pool. Winston coughed and sputtered for a minute, caught his breath, and happily jumped back in for more.

Each day in the United States, two children lose their lives playing in or around water. That adds up to about 700 kids each year.

Drowning happens fast. It is often quiet. Sometimes drowning happens when kids are by themselves, and sometimes it happens with

people all around. Kids who are considered competent swimmers can drown. Babies can drown in a few inches

Summer Comes to RCA-Land!



New for 2016 in Randolph Hills Local Park: a butterfly waystation, and newly renovated tennis courts!



(continued on p. 8)

Wheaton High School Modernization

By George Gadbois

At long last, awaiting years of delays in BOE and Council approvals, funding approvals once the project design was accepted, and some permit delays, construction finally finished, and staff and students moved from the old 1950s vintage building to the new facility that stands boldly at the corner of Randolph and Dalewood Rds.

The big move-in occurred over this past winter break and the school community enjoyed the spring semester in their new digs. The beautiful brick and glass construction was the design brainchild of Grimm & Parker Architects (Steve Parker grew up in Wheaton) and executed by a construction team led by Oak Contracting.

Faculty, community and students were all involved with the process and provided input from the start on the exterior aesthetics and interior flow and functional use. The community also had a say on architect and general contractor recommendations. Ultimately, MCPS used the firms the community recommended.

Construction started in October 2013, and the next phase is

to demolish the Wheaton High School side of the old building that also houses the Edison Center of Technology.

(continued on p. 8)

Upcoming Events

RCA Community Day and 5K Run: Saturday October 1, Randolph Hills Park

RCA General Meeting: Thursday, October 6, Veirs Mill Activity Ctr.

RCA Community Bazaar: Saturday October 8, Loehmann's Plaza (tentative)

RCA President's Message - Summer 2016

by Matthew Tifford

The popular expression (attributed as a Chinese curse) "may you live in interesting times," comes to mind when considering the rapid change occurring in our area. Between the ongoing White Flint 1 and upcoming White Flint 2 development projects, we are living in a time of great change for our community. To some, change represents exciting improvements with all kinds of new stores and restaurants as well as the promise of increased property values, while others fear these changes will be more of a curse, with the possibility of increased traffic, school overcrowding, and ultimately higher taxes.

The RCA remains actively involved with both White Flint 1 and 2, with hopes to help steer developments in a direction that will bring positive changes for our community. Just this past week we testified before planning board staff on our current objectives in the White Flint 2 sector plan. Our testimony had four primary focal points: 1. Pedestrian & bicycle access to White Flint, with concept plans for additional pedestrian railroad crossings; 2. Inclusion of public park/green space areas in any new developments at the two shopping centers, the Montrose Christian townhome redevelopment, and Rocking Horse Center; 3. A complete re-imagining and reconstruction of the intersections of Randolph Road/Parklawn Drive and Boiling Brook Parkway/Rocking Horse Road; 4. Our opposition to any plans to connect Putnam Road to Macon Road.

It's taken quite a few years, but our community social media outlets have really been taking off. In addition to the RCA yahoo group and Facebook page, we also have a thriving online community at Nextdoor.com. As of this writing, our Nextdoor account is limited to the Randolph Hills subdivision, but we are working to get the rest of the community added in as soon as possible--hopefully by the time this issue reaches your mailbox. Links to all three can be found on our website: www.randolphcivic.org.

This summer issue features a return of the annual membership list. The membership list is a great way for us to recognize and thank all of our supporters in the

(continued on p. 10)

RCA Executive Board and Committee Chairs for 2016-2017

OFFICERS:

President
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11235 Ashley Drive
matt.tifford@randolphcivic.org

Vice President
Diane LaGrega Bertocchi
11101 Rock Road

2nd Vice President
Chad Salganik
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secretary@randolphcivic.org

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Environment and Services Committee
Matthew Tifford
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Education Committee
Lorena Moyer
4802 Macon Rd
301-537-4189

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Lorena Moyer
4802 Macon Road
301-537-4189

Webmaster
Chad Salganik
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202-359-6158

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External Affairs Committee
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301-351-1957

Ways and Means Committee
Mara Greengrass
treasurer@randolphcivic.org

**Please recycle this Echo properly
when you have finished reading it!
Thank you!**

RCA Telephone Number: (240) 668-4722. Recorded announcements of community events, 24/7. Callers may leave messages. Facebook: www.facebook.com/randolphcivic Twitter: @RandolphCivic
Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

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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

RCA General Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2016, Veirs Mill Activity Bldg.

By Colby Prevost

President – Matt Tifford
Vice President 1 – Diane LaGrega Bertocchi
Vice President 2 – Chad Salganik
Director – Brian Hooker
Director – Mark Nensel
Secretary – Colby Prevost

1. Call to Order – Brian Hooker, filling in for Matt Tifford

2. Old Business

Wheaton tour update

On May 23, 2016 members of the RCA community attended a Wheaton High School tour led by its principal Dr. Debra Mugge. Dr. Mugge presented the highlights of the school and its different Academies and programs: Biosciences Academy, Academy of Information Technology, Academy of Engineering, and Institute for Global and Cultural Studies. Students are highly encouraged to enroll in one of the Academies or application programs but it is not a requirement for students enter into one of the Academies. The application programs, biosciences and engineering, are currently only available to the down-county consortium students (Randolph Hills residents are in the down-county consortium). The application programs are “test in” for all students. Students who do not test in can still take some of the application program courses in the Academies.

There were good discussions led by the group on parental involvement and other issues. Dr. Mugge then led the group on a tour of the state-of-the-art High school.

Question: If a student is in an Academy is there a limited curriculum? Answer: No. Students in an Academy take all the normal courses that they would take anywhere; math, science, English, foreign language, history, art, music, etc., however, students in an Academy are pointed towards 1-2 specialized elective courses per day that focus on their Academy specialization.

Question: How many students are attending Wheaton? Answer: Approximately 1,600 and the school is currently at capacity. There is still space in the new building that has not yet been fully constructed which, when finished, will provide additional classrooms for students. The school has the budget to finish these classrooms in the upcoming fiscal years.

Wheaton has improved in the rankings of High Schools in the consortium and it is on an upward trajectory. Currently the HS ranking is around the middle of the pack. Wheaton HS does have open houses so continue to check the RCA website if you want to visit the school.

Question: When will the sports fields open? Answer: First the old Wheaton High School needs to be torn down to make way for the new Thomas Edison High School of Technology to be built. Once the Thomas Edison HS is built then the old Thomas Edison building will be torn down and ball fields built where the current Thomas Edison HS currently stands. MCPS will take a few years to fully complete all the construction, approximately 3 years from now.

3. New Business

White Flint II

The planning board came back with their sketches of the community involvement. There were some elements that were added that the RCA board pushed for but not everything that the board was pushing for. In the opinion of several board members the planning board dropped the ball on addressing increased bike/pedestrian access and connectivity across the railroad tracks from the White Flint 1 area to the Randolph Hills Shopping Center.

On Monday, June 8th, the planning board will hold a meeting to focusing on school issues, specifically the Walter Johnson consortium. If residents want to add ideas to the slide deck that the planning board provided, there are 2 slides that really showed the vision of the project, then please let the RCA Board know by sending ideas to the RCA Board. The Board will add the ideas to the slides and send them back to the planning commission.

One of the most important aspects is the rezoning of the Randolph Hills Shopping Center. The planning commission wants to maintain the industrial sections along the railroad tracks because it is one of the last industrial spaces in Montgomery County between Nicholson Lane and Twinbrook. The RCA Board will continue to follow the development of White Flint II.

White Flint I

Lerner Enterprises LLC. appealed the court ordered settlement to Lord and Taylor and has filed an appeal. The appeal will most likely go to trial in the fall. Demolition of White Flint Mall continues but no development will commence on the site until sometime after the court case is settled. In the jury trial, Lord and Taylor was awarded \$31 million dollars from the Learners.

Community Day will be held on the Saturday, October 1, 2016 so please mark your calendars. The 5K will be a part of the Community Day. We hope to have the Brazilian BBQ this year as we did last year and the mounted police.

Montrose Townhomes

104 units will be constructed. Latest plans will be provided to the RCA Board this fall/winter. The townhouses are over a year away from ground breaking. There are some permits that need to be obtained and some school issues at the Middle School level for all the new students.

(continued on p. 15)

RCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes May 5, 2016 Veirs Mill Activity Building

By Colby Prevost

President – Matt Tifford
Vice President 1 – Diane LaGrega Bertocchi
Vice President 2 – Chad Salganik
Director – Brian Hooker
Director – Mark Nensel
Secretary – Colby Prevost

1. Call to Order – Matthew Tifford

2. Old Business

Wheaton tour update

The Wheaton High School tour is scheduled for May 23rd at 7pm. Several families have RSVP'd. Families interested in a tour are welcome to attend. If folks can RSVP it would be appreciated so we can give the principle of Wheaton High School a head count of those who are interested in a tour.

3. New Business

Echo 2016-2017

We are working to balance the number of Echo's produced and distributed with the advertising revenue. Currently the Echo costs more to produce and distribute than we take in for advertising. Currently it costs \$980 to produce and distribute each Echo publication. The Board is trying to get the books to balance so the revenue for advertising will pay the full cost of the Echo. Dropping down from 8 issues to 7 (combining the months of March/April) might put the Board in the black financially. Going back to the mailing house and have the Echo mailed by USPS might be a more efficient and less burdensome to the Board but may cost more.

Possibly do a bi-monthly Echo (6 Echo's per year) might be an option but the September and October Echo's are important to keep so 7 might be the right number for the year.

The 7 Echo's per year will be published for the following months:

- 1) January/February
- 2) March/April
- 3) May
- 4) June/July/August
- 5) September
- 6) October
- 7) November/December

The Board has proposed to use the mailing house this year for the production and distribution of the Echo. The Board agrees.

Matt proposes to combine the March/April editions of the Echo and drop the number of Echos a year to 7 issues.

Chris seconds. Motion passes.

Volunteers social event-budget item

Matt proposes that he would like ideas to thank the volunteers who help the RCA with our all its social events, etc. The Board currently thanks its volunteers during its annual Music Fest with a Volunteer of the Year award presentation. Matt was looking for a specific event or time where volunteers would be invited and thanked for their service to RCA. Anyone with ideas of how to thank those that volunteer and when to thank our volunteers will be appreciated.

General Meeting Food Budget

There are 4 general meetings a year and Matt suggested having some catered food at the meetings. He suggested finding someone local in the neighborhood that could provide this service to the general meetings. Several board members could be in favor of the idea if the budget was reasonable. Others were not convinced that this was a good use of RCA resources as the meetings were after the dinnertime hour. If the general meetings were at the dinnertime hour then there may be more interest to hosting a small catered event at the general meetings. Board members who have brought food to the meetings say that they end up taking most of the food home. More thought on the subject is needed.

RCF contribution

Matt raised the issue of possibly contributing funds to RCF if they are short on funds. The RCF have done well with fundraising in past years when there was a push to renovate signs in RCA land but the donations have tapered off. Any donations from RCA would be to help RCF balance their budget. Matt wanted to bring this up to the Board in case the RCF needed funds, although the RCF seems financially secure at this time.

A few Board members expressed an interest in helping RCF if needed but it would depend on the financial situation of the RCA at the time when the RCF may need assistance. The RCF currently owes RCA \$500 for their spot in the Echo but the RCA may be able to contribute some funds to RCF if RCA has funds available. The RCF legally needs to write RCA a check for the \$500 they owe but afterwards the RCA could see if a donation to the RCF may be possible. If the RCF needs funds then they will need to make an official request to the RCA. RCF is currently using its funds for spring planting, sign beautification, etc.

The yard sale in May will be at Loehmann's Plaza. The event will be a larger event in which Loehmann's Plaza will have a free bounce house and face painting for the children to thank the residents for their support of merchants at Loehmann's Plaza.

(continued on p. 15)

Beware the Woodchucks!

A Message from our 2nd District Community Service Officers

by PO3 Oliver Janney and Ofcr. Dana Stroman,
Montgomery County Police

Police call them "woodchucks," men and women who cruise the older neighborhoods looking for senior citizens living alone who can be conned or manipulated or intimidated into paying ridiculous sums for little or no work.

Door-to-door scams are among the most common crimes against senior citizens. Why so? Retirement-age folks are more likely to be home to answer the door during the day. Usually raised to be polite, they're less likely to slam the door. And when scammed, they're less likely to report it to police or other authorities.

The scammers drive through more established neighborhoods, ones with big trees, fewer children and maybe more slightly declining houses. They look for older sedans, with handicapped license plates or hang tags. No child seats.

It starts with trimming a tree. Then maybe a gutter needs fixing, driveway repair or a chimney repairing. And within weeks, more than \$100,000 is gone. It's often hard for police to document what work was done, and elderly homeowners can't climb a roof to confirm work, or can't remember what was agreed to and what wasn't. Checks are sometimes made out to different people, and sometimes the woodchucks drive the victim to the bank and cash checks for the scammers. Many don't report the crime, out of embarrassment or fear.

Before home repairs are made, do your homework, ask friends and families for references. Call Consumer Protection, consult outside resources like Angie's List and similar sites. There is a three day right of refusal on all contracts, so if two days later you decide that the deal might not be the best, you can back out. Just because there is a contract doesn't mean that it is legitimate. If you are suspicious of the repair person, call Police immediately 301-279-8000 and give descriptions of the person and vehicle.

WARNING SIGNS:

- * The repair person drives an unmarked truck or van with an out-of-state license.
- * You are offered a "special price" if you sign today.
- * The worker wants upfront cost or fees, or accepts only cash.
- * No written estimates or contracts are provided.
- * The worker wants to start immediately.
- * The offer sounds "too good to be true"
- * The worker cannot provide a MHIC (Maryland Home Improvement Commission) card for home improvement.
- * The worker wants the check made out to him/her instead of company.

Although the crews can make big money fast, they can

spend it just as fast on drugs, creating a need to go back to victims for more money.

So don't be a victim. Keep an eye out for these common forms of front-door fraud, such as driveway resurfacing, door-to-door soliciting and phony utility workers. These scammers tend to target the elderly.

A couple of additional thoughts: although the majority of the woodchucks are men, women are often used to get the contract. If the contractors want to start immediately that might be a clue that it is a scam. If it is a company but the person wants the check written out to him personally, it's probably illegal. If they are doing home improvements, a contractor carries a MHIC card on him; if the card can't be produced upon demand don't use the service.

Help Us Prevent Thefts From Vehicles!

In an effort to reduce thefts from automobiles, the Montgomery County Police Department is asking that in the future, please lock your doors and remove all valuables from your vehicle or secure your personal property out of sight in the glove compartment, console or trunk.

What's In Your Car?

Laptop? Key Fob? Cell Phone? Phone Charger?
Briefcase? Purse? iPod? Gym Bag? GPS System?
Wallet? Money? Camera? Garage Opener? CD's?

The 2nd District is increasing police presence in communities, asking citizens to call the police immediately if they see something suspicious occurring, lock their vehicles, remove valuables from their vehicles, leave exterior lights on to enhance community lighting. Neighbors should look out for one another.

If you SEE Something, SAY Something.

We can all help keep our communities safe by paying attention to our surroundings and reporting suspicious activity to local law enforcement.

We all play a role in keeping our community safe.

To report suspicious activity, contact your local law enforcement agency. Describe specifically what you observed, including:

- ✓ Who or what you saw;
- ✓ When you saw it;
- ✓ Where it occurred; and
- ✓ Why it's suspicious.

Non-emergency, call 301-279-8000

If there is an emergency, **CALL 9-1-1.**



Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police
2ND DISTRICT
7359 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE



Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 301-279-8000
2nd District 240-773-6700
Crime Tip Line... 240-773-TIPS (8477)
County Resource Line 311

7359 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814
www.mymcpnews.com

2015/2016 Randolph Civic Association Membership

Listed below are the donors to the RCA 2015/2016 membership/fundraising-drive (organized by contribution level).

Thank you SO VERY MUCH to the 320 households who contributed this past year to sustain and keep the Randolph Civic Association, the Randolph Civic Foundation and the Echo alive!

We are in this effort together to keep our community strong, unified, and forceful in the local issues that engage and affect us. An active and vibrant civic association can make a positive difference in all of our lives, and our region. So, again, thank you for taking part in -- and taking responsibility for -- this all-volunteer effort.

\$1000+	Sponsors:			
Denise Szczur	Andrew Abdeslem	Maria & Jose Correia	Rodolfo Ghirlando	Denise Lane
	Valerie & Shawn Ackley	Frank & Cam Costantino	Joe & Pat Goheen	Scott Lanman
\$500+	Edith Allison	Phillipe Cote-Colisson	Racine Gooding	Manuel & Etelvina Laranjeira
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(continued on p. 14)

RANDOLPH HILLS {reinvented}



BEFORE

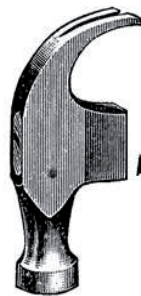
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Pool it Safely *(continued from p.1)*

of water. As a parent, these facts are hard to hear and the stories of loss are soul wrenching.

So what is a parent or caregiver to do?

Safe Kids Worldwide has tips for families, whether at the pool, the beach, or in the little plastic pool in the front yard. These are my favorites:

- Give children all of your attention when they are in or near water: Young children should be within an arm's reach from an adult at all times. Older children should swim with a partner every time.
- Teach children how to swim. Every child is different, so enroll children in swim lessons when they are ready. Consider their age, development and how often they are around water.
- Make sure kids know the 5 basic water safety skills:
 - Step or jump into water over their head;
 - Return to the surface and float or tread water for one minute;
 - Turn around in a full circle and find an exit;
 - Swim 25 yards to exit the water; and
 - Exit from the water without using the pool ladder

For more tips on keeping kids safe around pools, visit www.safekids.org/poolsafety. And look at the graphic on page 9.



*Above: the newly renovated Wheaton High School;
below, wide-angle view of Wheaton High School's new auditorium*



Wheaton High School *(continued from p.1)*

Then the new Edison will be built, taking about two more years, on the north end of the campus. Lastly, the old Edison is to be demolished and the year of site work will commence with final grading and completion of athletic fields.

The RCA was involved with community input as well as the Glenmont Civic Association and adjacent neighboring residents. The RCA arranged a recent tour of the new facility that was mentioned in the May Echo and attended by board members on May23d as a supplement to the May board meeting.

There were about 20 attendees and they were graciously treated to a couple hours of informative dialog, including questions and answers, on the current programs including the academy offerings, magnet opportunities, the project-based learning initiative, and concluding with a comprehensive tour of the new building interior.

Our host for the evening was the school's principal, Dr. Debra Mugge and attendees saw first-hand the engineering and biotech labs, outfitted with computer stations and other modern lab support equipment. There is an acoustically-designed music studio and auditorium, along with a shiny new gym and weight room for the athletes. All classrooms along Randolph Road have sound proof windows and no traffic can be heard. There is a dance studio, early child care room, power tool lab for projects, and a state-of-the-art cafeteria. The building will be meeting a LEED energy rating and has several "green" courts through the facility.

This new environment for students was a long time in waiting and will hopefully be a further bolster to student performance in addition to the programs and wonderful staff. Wheaton is already a school of great pride, so the new building will only embellish that.

The new Wheaton High School should also bring pride to the community and should be the beginning of what we hope to fuel additional revitalization of the Wheaton business district. WHS services most of the RCA and our children should look forward to going there.

For anyone interested in seeing the school or learning about program, please contact Dr. Mugge or her staff and they will be glad to accommodate.

Information can be found on the school website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/>.

The Facts about Kids and the Danger of Drowning

THE PROBLEM

Almost 800 children
drown in the U.S.
every year.

800

Two thirds of these
deaths occur during
May – August.

Drowning Risk Varies by Age


<1 year olds are **more likely**
to drown at home


1-4 year olds are **more**
likely to drown in a pool


5-17 year olds are **more likely** to
drown in natural water



More than half of all child
drowning deaths are among
children ages 0 to 4.

PARENTS' MISCONCEPTIONS



MISCONCEPTION 1
Nearly half of parents surveyed
think that if a child was drowning
nearby, they would hear it.

Reality
Drowning is silent.
There can be very little
splashing, waving or
screaming.



MISCONCEPTION 2
1 out of 3 parents have
left a child alone in a pool
for two or more minutes.

Reality
Drowning is quick.
Once a child begins to
struggle, you may have less
than a minute to react.



MISCONCEPTION 3
More than half of parents surveyed
think that when present, a lifeguard is
the primary person responsible for
their child's supervision at the pool.

Reality
Watching your child in the
water is **your** responsibility.
A lifeguard's job is to enforce
rules, scan, rescue and
resuscitate.



MISCONCEPTION 4
60 percent of parents surveyed
would not worry as much about
drowning if their child has had
swim lessons.

Reality
Swim lessons are essential,
but skill level varies.
A review of children who
drowned in a pool revealed that
47 percent of 10 – 17 year olds
reportedly knew how to swim.

WATER SURVIVAL SKILLS

5 Survival Skills That Could Save Your Life in the Water



Step or jump
into water over
your head and
return to the
surface.



Float or tread
water for one
minute.



Turn around
in a full circle
and find an
exit from the
water.

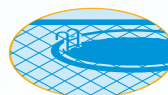


Swim 25 yards
to the exit.



Exit from the
water. If in a
pool, be able to
exit without
using the ladder.

WATER SAFETY TIPS



- ◆ Watch your kids when they are in and around water, without distraction.
- ◆ Teach children to swim and the 5 Water Survival Skills.
- ◆ Learn CPR and basic rescue skills.
- ◆ Make sure pools have four-sided fencing at least 4 feet high.

The RCA Hotline

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



**Calls Received April 24, 2016
through June 17, 2016.**

General Note: The RCA gets a lot of calls about code violations (untagged cars, tall grass, etc). Please note that phone numbers for agencies that handle such matters are published on the website. You don't have to leave your name or phone number. The RCA reserves the right to not publish any calls that could be viewed as solicitations, personal attacks against neighbors or calls longer than 1.5 minutes due to the time it takes to transcribe and cost to publish. You can always email the RCA at info@randolphcivic.org or submit an article for publication to the Echo editor.

May 24 (Tues) 10:05AM; Not Anonymous: Good morning. My name ****. I'm calling you off of 11xxx Ashley Drive. I'm just calling to let you know that I have just contacted 311 Montgomery County in regards of that big bump. You could call it that way. I mean the big curve in the middle of the road on Schuylkill Road right in front of the home of 11312 Schuylkill Road, basically I call them and explain to them that this is a very lame job, and somebody shouldn't have taken money to repair that and they need to come and pay attention to that and fix it. So if anybody else has had the issue to hit their car on that big bump I encourage you to give them a call or maybe give me a call. I'll give you the service request number, so this way you know the county can come and actually do something productive other than just putting lame curbs all over the place. Thank you. Have a good day.

June 7 (Tues) 7:55AM; Anonymous: Good morning. This is a neighbor in the Randolph Civic Association, and I just wanted to ask if the stop sign on the corner of Randolph and Schuylkill can be cleaned and I know it sounds like an interesting request but I was coming home last night around 8:30 and you could hardly see the stop sign. There's a lot of dirt and that's growing on it. So I don't know if it's a possibility for the community to help. I'm not tall enough to do it, otherwise I would do it myself. Also there is a vine growing, it's hanging down covering part of it. Maybe just the vine can be removed. And the other thing I just wanted to mention was I noticed that the quality of Beach Drive--the road has a lot of potholes in it. When I call 311 they're wonderful and they fix it, but the road itself needs to be repaved and it's in pretty bad disrepair. So if anybody else would like to call 311 to let them know, it takes about 3 to 4 minutes of any neighbors time and 311 is exceptionally helpful, and they are very proactive in following through with any requests. So maybe other neighbors can call about the quality of the road on Beach Drive between Schuylkill Road and Knowles Road, and also ask if it's possibility for it to be repaved. Thank you so much and have a wonderful day.

RCA Response: Happy to help, please call back with more details about the dirty sign and its location.

June 14 (Tues) 11:47AM; Anonymous: Yes, I've lived in this neighborhood a long time, I mean a long time- over 50 years. I was wondering when are they going to resurface our roads in the neighborhood. They've resurfaced all the roads all around. Over in the Palisades all that stuff a couple years ago, but they haven't resurfaced our roads. So what are we

paying taxes for? Why can't we get our roads repaved and when are we going to get them repaved or resurfaced? There's a lot of potholes. You know Ashley Drive, Schuylkill Road. We need these roads taken care of, and we need something done with our tax money instead of people just sucking it up. Bye.

RCA Response: We have voiced these same concerns to MCDOT and will continue to pursue the issue.

June 17 (Fri) 3:46PM; Anonymous: Hi, I'm a walking neighbor. I walk around the neighborhood- and this house on the corner of Creek Shore Drive and Ashley with shrubs along the sidewalk. The shrubs are highly overgrown and coming into the sidewalk. It's against the law and they need to maintain that. Something needs to be done about this please. Thank you.

RCA Response: According to Montgomery County's 311 website (montgomerycountymd.gov/311, then type 'overgrown' into the search box), Section 26-9(b)(5) of Chapter 26, Housing and Building and Maintenance Standards says "the property owner is responsible for maintaining bushes and shrubbery so that they do not grow over sidewalks and roadways which might cause a danger to the public." To file a complaint, go to the 'Housing Complaints' link on the site and create a service request, in which you'll provide your own phone number and address, as well as the exact street address of the alleged violation, and a brief description of the problem. Inspections are typically conducted within five business days, but the ultimate resolution "can take many weeks and even longer for cases that must be referred to court".

RCA Prez Message (continued from p.2)

past year, remember to send it in this Autumn for inclusion in next years list!

I'll end with a common theme. We have a great team of volunteers, but we are ALWAYS in need of more. If you think you might be interested in helping out, please let us know. Running the RCA has a few big jobs, and a lot of very small ones--but when one volunteer ends up with too many of the small jobs, it starts to feel like a very large job. If you think you might be able to contribute as little as 20-30 minutes every month or two, we could use your help. Pardon the obligatory cliché: "many hands make light work." But better a tired cliché than a tired volunteer. Have a great summer!



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Troop 1083 News

by Ben Pitkin

In April, the Troop took part in the annual Bridging Ceremony, which brings new Scouts into the Troop as they “bridge over” from their final year as Cub Scouts. For decades now, Troop 1083 has welcomed the “graduating class” of Webelos II Scouts from RCA-Land’s Pack 1081; in recent years, other nearby Packs also sent new Scouts to the Troop, which led to historically large Troop rosters!

The newly expanded Troop went on its first post-bridging campout on the weekend of May 20-22. The Troop set up camp Friday night at Washington Monument State Park in Middletown, Maryland. Bright and early Saturday morning, they headed to nearby Harpers Ferry for a whitewater rafting trip on the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. It all starts tamely enough, with a leisurely put-in a few miles upstream from the Harper’s Ferry National Historical Park. The rafters paddle down the lazy river for a while, then stop on a shady spot of the riverbank for a fried-chicken lunch. Then the trip resumes, with some class 3 (and, in years with heavy spring runoff, class 4) rapids to navigate. In the calmer stretches between the rapids, raft-to-raft splash wars have been known to break out. There’s good reason this is always one of the most popular trips of the year!

On May 28th, current and former Scouts, friends, and family gathered at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Derwood to honor and celebrate Matthew Kimball for reaching the Eagle Scout rank. The Court of Honor took place on Memorial Day weekend—fittingly, because Matthew’s Eagle service project had involved contacting members of the armed services currently deployed in Afghanistan, polling them as to what sorts of items they would most like to receive from stateside donors, collecting donations of those items here in Maryland, and shipping the care packages to dozens of those service-members. The list of honors and accomplishments that Matthew has accumulated in his first 18 years, both in Scouting and beyond, is long and impressive; yet because he is also very humble and never draws attention to himself, most of those accomplishments were previously unknown to many of his guests. It was a moving and memorable day!

Throughout April and May, Cameron Lett conducted his own Eagle Scout service project. Cameron came up with a very patriotic and original project: he set out to collect worn, tattered, and faded U.S. flags in order to provide a proper retirement ceremony. On behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who endorsed his efforts, he put out word of his unique project at school, at church, and through the Scouts. Through those communication networks, Cameron collected 198 such flags—including

RCF Board of Directors for 2016-2017

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Ryan Roberts

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

www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org - Phone: 240-389-4723

one that had flown over a U.S. Army base in Vietnam until 1970, when the base had to be abruptly evacuated. In the past, when most flags were made of natural fibers, retiring the colors traditionally ended with a ceremonial cutting of the flag into strips, and the solemn placement of the strips onto a fire. However, for many years now, most flags have been made with synthetic fibers, which can emit dangerous fumes when burned. For that reason, and for conservation purposes, recycling is now not only accepted but encouraged as a formal retirement option. Although few facilities recycle synthetic fibers, Cameron searched until he found one locally whose owner gladly agreed to duly process the retired flags.

On June 13th, the Troop held its summer Court of Honor to recognize all the rank advancements and merit badges the Scouts earned since February. The Scouts are always excited at the June Court of Honor because it marks the end of the Scouting year’s regular weekly Troop meetings and the beginning of the fun summer activities. Such as ... the annual beach campout at Pocomoke River and Assateague Island State Parks, with its trip to the go-cart track, a day at the beach, and a night on the Ocean City boardwalk. It all happens on the first weekend after the school year ends. How’s that for a way to kick off summer vacation! Then, in late July, many of the Scouts will attend week-long summer camp at Camp Rodney on the upper Chesapeake Bay. Check back in the September Echo for a recap on how it all went. There will also be news about several of the Troop’s Eagle Scout candidates, as some important milestones are already scheduled for the summer ahead. Stay tuned!

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, or call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933- 0048. Check out the troop web page at www.troop1083.org.

RCF President's Message - Summer 2016

by Ashley Salganik

Our Spaghetti Dinner in June was a great success!! Vignola Gourmet graciously donated the whole spread for our fantastic community gathering. Thank you, Vignola Gourmet! Following dinner, and the magic show for the kids featuring our favorite magician Matt Neufeld, the RCF held elections during our Annual Meeting. It was then that we said goodbye to Michelle Canick and Bob Walker. Thank you for your service, Michelle and Bob! We also welcome two new Directors, Ryan Roberts and Kate Bueno - it's always great to have new people join the Board to bring in fresh ideas. Our former Director, Alison Dewey, has shifted to the Vice President position.

You should be seeing a lot of colorful flowers popping up at our neighborhood signs throughout RCA-land. We have several volunteers who have donated their time planting the flowers, in addition to keeping the flowers watered all summer long. In addition to the volunteers donating their time, we received a generous donation from Denise Szczur, our local Long and Foster Realtor, which helped us purchase these flowers this summer.



Venture Crew 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin

Did you attend the RCA Spring Bazaar at Loehmann's Plaza on May 7? Venture Crew 1083 now sponsors that semiannual event, and provides the food and beverage sales for hungry and thirsty bazaar goers. Perhaps you saw the Crew there, and made a purchase to support their efforts. The Crew thanks you! The proceeds support the Crew's High Adventure component, and as the dozens of young men and women who have been able to trek the New Mexico wilderness in recent years will attest, it is truly the trip of a lifetime. Every bit you do to help—and enjoying a burger and a soda helps—is most appreciated.

The next RCA Bazaar will be in October. Remember to check the Echo, or the RCA Yahoo group, towards the end of summer to get the exact date (more often than not it falls around Columbus Day weekend).

The Crew's current High Adventure group will be going to New Mexico—specifically, to the Philmont Scout Ranch—in July 2017. In preparation for next summer's big trip, the 2017 Philmont contingent will have a week-long High Adventure tune-up this summer on the High Knoll Trail at the Blue Ridge Mountains Council's Scout reservation in Virginia. Last year, the Crew-in-training trekked the Lenhok'sin High Adventure Trail at Goshen Virginia. This time, they'll broaden their experience by hiking High Knoll, in rugged high-altitude terrain in the

Neighbors convened at the RCF's annual meeting and spaghetti dinner June 2, 2016. Magician Matt Neufeld entertained both kids and parents alike and a fun time was had by all.



Jefferson National Forest, southwest of Roanoke. It's sure to be a memorable trek!

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 20. Because its members are a little older, Crew activities are more self-directed, and typically more advanced, than those of Boy Scout and Girl Scout units. The Crew meets at 7:30 pm every Monday night that schools are open during the school year, at Viers Mill ES. Why not join us? Bring a like-minded friend so you'll already know someone else at the meeting! For more information, contact crew advisor GregSkolnik at 301-942- 3755.

RCA Membership *(continued from p.6)*

Michael & Lorena Moyer	George & Viola Smith
James & Anna Mae Mulquin	Steve Smith
Medea Namoradze-Ruhadze	Mary & David Sollway
Karena Cooper & Mark Nensel	Patti Rohmiller & Lawrence Souder
Blythe & Chris Neumiller	Fritz & Vicki Souder
Huy Nguyen	Katie & David Stagliano
Larry & Katie Nix	Nicholas & Eva Stamos
Sara Weiser & Dan O'Connor	Nico & Laura Stein
Rachel & Roopesh Ojha	Franklin & Teresa Stephenson
Harry & Louise Osborne	Wes Steschner
Jason & Carolyn Ott	Alice Stevens
Susan Padua	Charles & Marie Stewart
Randee Chafkin &	Lucy Stockslager
John Parascandola	Susan Robinson & Michael Stone
Ms or Mr Pava	Steve Stumpp
Miroslav Pavel	Freeman & Manette Tao
Richard Peppin	Richard Tarello
Neptali & Lucia Perez	William & Dale Teachum
Victoria Perper	Martin Thompson
Anthony & Bridgette Pfeufer	Matthew & Jennifer Tifford
Mark & Haudra Phillips	Robert Tolson
Frances Preston	Carol Toney
Colby & Ravaka Prevost	Larry Tremonti
Garrett & Pam Quinn	Betty Trinquero
Jaime Quiros	Maria & Demetrios Tsangaroulis
Erin & Lucas Radzinski	Philip & Celia Turner
Yoneko Ramsey	Erin Brandt & David Uejio
John & Johnnie Raymond	Jeanne Urciolo
Luis Retana	Aykut Uren
Theresa Greene Reed	Jack & Isabel Uston
Alan Metelko & Marta Rivera	John and Lise Valenta
Mark Rives	Kirk & Debbie VanBrunt
Faith Roberts	Ashley Vargas
Leo & Ruth Robertson	Damianos & Eleanor Veizis
Walter & Jeanne Roesch	Matt Virtue
Deirde Rogers	Herb & Katherine Wahler
Emma Rojas	Kevin & Liz Weaver
Michael & Trini Roosevelt	Brad & Patricia Wertz
Robin Ruddy	Irene West
Patricia Ruiz	Paul & Eileen Whitaker
Mousa & Betty Saah	Jennifer Whitney
Fernando & Otilia Santos	Patricia Jordan-Williams &
Macario & Norma Santos	Mike Williams
Joseph & Maxine Saur	Ruth-Ann Wilson
Ada Scaldaferri	Frank Winfield
Marco Scappa	Nell, Eric & Ava Wisotzky
Mario Scappa	Carol Watts & Cindi Wolff
Jonathan & Meredith Schlaifer	Charles & Theresa Woo
Charles Schlosser	Jerry & Patty Woo
Abraham & Harriet Schwartz	Margaret Wright
Hank & Gayle Scott	Primitivo Yani
Fran, Matt & Josie Shore	Tamar Yehiam
Mark Silver	Jill Zetti
Edward Simpkins	Katie Zhang
Danial Sisan	William & Elizabeth Ziese
Erik & Emil Smith	Norma Zimmerman

Chapman Avenue extension opened

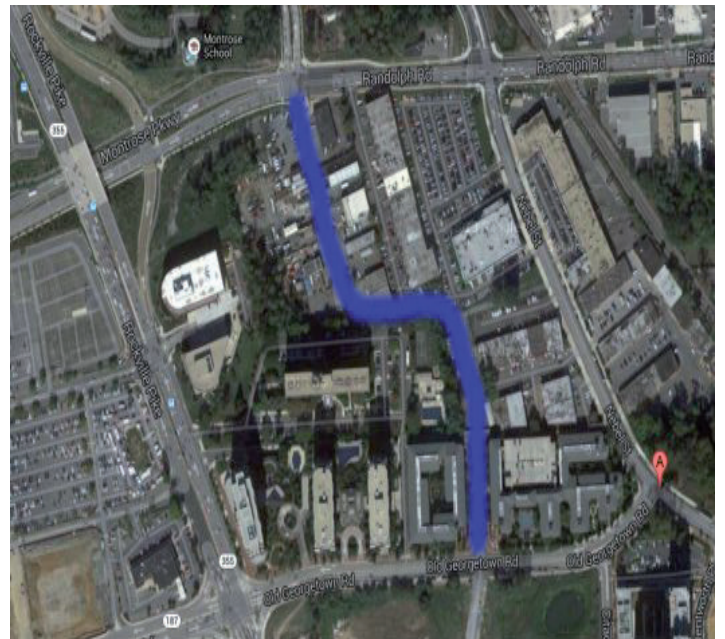
By Amy Ginsburg, Friends of White Flint

The Chapman Avenue Extension is completed! The \$3.3 million new road extends Chapman Avenue from Randolph Road to Old Georgetown Road. The road includes five-foot sidewalks on both sides of the street and a signed/shared bikeway on Chapman Avenue.

As the White Flint area redevelops into a more walkable/bikeable community, Chapman Avenue provides another critical north-south link that is expected to help relieve traffic congestion on MD 355.

"We have envisioned a Smart Growth future for the White Flint area that creates a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly community – one with a street grid that provides easy access to residential, retail and commercial properties," said County Executive Isiah Leggett. "The Chapman Avenue extension is an important element in that plan to enhance safety, relieve congestion and provide better access."

The road was built with future amenities in mind, such as non-standard lighting, shared use walk and bikeways and other accommodations to support a live, work, play community. Utilities were moved underground and conduit installed to accommodate White Flint street lighting that will match later development of the streetscape. Shade trees were installed as part of the landscape treatment. Traffic signals and crosswalk improvements were made at the intersection of Chapman Avenue and Randolph Road. Pocket parking lanes are available for vehicles. The project also includes stormwater management features.



Above, a bird's-eye view of the new Chapman Avenue extension. At the top (north) is Randolph Road; at the bottom is Old Georgetown Road. The eastern point of the S-curve is now the re-opened back entrance to Montrose Shopping Center, allowing easy access to MOM's organic market, Gold's Gym, etc.

June 2 RCA Meeting *(continued from p.3)*

JBG is hoping to get a temporary business to take over the old Safeway store in Loehmann's Plaza.

3. Standard Business and Reports Committee Chair Reports

Safety Chair Report – Kenneth Kopczyk:

Crime is still low. In late April/Early May there was a countywide spike in car break-ins (2 in RCA land). In the RCA Hotline, someone reported that a body found in the Randolph Medical Center. In fact this was a living person in distress. The individual was provided assistance from local emergency services.

Education Chair Report - Lorena Moyer:

Voted in the new PTA Board for Viers Mill Elementary School. Sara Moskowitz is the new PTA president. Next PTA meeting is schedule for July 20, 2016 from 6 - 8:30 pm in the Media Center.

Treasury Chair Report – Mara Greengrass:

The RCA Board has approximately \$11,000 in the bank and another \$600 in PayPal. We concluded the membership drive; we have 320 homes that contributed. We are a neighborhood of 1,300 homes so we hope to get more representation from the community. Most of the Board's money goes into the Echo and we hope to operate within budget by distributing 7 issues a year in the mail, down from 8th. Every house in RCA land gets a copy of the Echo.

The next Executive Board meeting will be in September 2016. The next General meeting will be October 6.

RCA Meeting Adjournment – Brian Hooker makes the motion to adjourn. Mara seconds at 8:42 pm.

May 5 RCA Meeting *(continued from p.4)*

Coachway Sign

RCF wants to confirm that the RCA is no longer claiming ownership of the Coachway sign. This is an old RCA sign at the corner of Ashley Drive and Coachway. The RCF has money to make upgrades to the sign from a RCA resident. A resident has specifically donated a few hundred dollars to renovate the sign. It is not possible to obtain a permit for a new sign at this location.

Slack Demonstration & Discussion

Slack is a messaging app for small groups and large companies. Advantage is that everyone see all communications and there are no emails. Like Facebook or Twitter, where you can see all the messages, there is no need for archiving or deleting emails. Messages are searchable and all the historic messages are available for

all Board members. Slack can be integrated with Google drives.

Brian mentioned that he preferred the use of the Google messaging and its integration with the RCA Google Drive. Matt stated that Slack is a free service that can fully integrate with the RCA Google drive for archiving important messages and documents.

The Board agreed that they will try out Slack to see how it functions. Matt stated will set up the account and sent out emails to everyone. If the Board members decide that this is not the proper platform to use then the Board will go back to using the Google accounts.

4. Standard Business and Reports

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes - Matt Tifford makes a motion to approve the minutes. Mara seconds. Passes.

Committee Chair Reports

Membership and Welcome Committee (Greengrass, Hall, Rumbaugh)

The Boy Scouts worked alongside the community members for the Community Spring Clean up. There was a good turnout and the RCA was very pleased by the good turnout of participants.

RCA Meeting Adjournment – Matt Tifford makes the motion to adjourn. Chad seconds at 9:27pm.



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<u>Address...</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>Subsidy</u>	<u>DOM</u>	<u>Date Settled</u>
4817 Boiling Brook Pkwy	\$359,900	\$380,000	\$0	5	21-Mar-16
4600 Stoneleigh Court	\$447,750	\$447,750	\$0	10	24-Mar-16
5101 Macon Road	\$409,900	\$410,000	\$10,000	38	30-Mar-16
12114 Otis Drive	\$400,000	\$414,000	\$4,500	7	31-Mar-16
11405 Grayling Lane	\$364,500	\$355,000	\$5,000	34	22-Apr-16
4705 Wyaconda Road	\$295,000	\$295,000	\$0	0	25-Apr-16
12006 Ashley Drive	\$395,000	\$392,000	\$10,000	92	6-May-16
11900 Rocking Horse Rd	\$410,000	\$418,000	\$0	6	13-May-16
4713 Oxbow Road	\$429,900	\$430,000	\$5,000	6	16-May-16
11302 Creek Shore Pl	\$399,950	\$402,000	\$0	20	17-May-16
11322 Schuylkill Road	\$407,000	\$420,000	\$0	7	27-May-16
4803 Erfter Drive	\$379,900	\$355,000	\$5,000	24	31-May-16
5103 Macon Road	\$295,000	\$295,000	\$0	3	9-Jun-16

 **Have a safe and happy summer!** 

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