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Potluck Dinner Saturday, February 5th

Rch^{CA}

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

9711 E. Bexhill Drive
Kensington, MD 20895

Winter General Meeting and
Potluck Dinner Saturday, February 5th



Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
rchca.org

Neighborhood News and Information

Winter 2005

Message from Association Officers

The past few months have been marked by two very pleasant social activities: The Concert in the Park and the Halloween Parade and Pot Luck BBQ. Sally Chatfield took the lead for Concert in the Park, while Eden Fisher Durbin, Ann Statland and Sam Statland spearheaded the Halloween Parade and Pot Luck BBQ. The organizers were in turn helped by many neighbors acting as 'worker bees' performing cooking, set-up, take-down and activities for children. We thank everyone for these lovely events.

2004 has been a very quiet year with regard to issues facing the association. Many new families have arrived in the neighborhood.

For newcomers to Rock Creek Hills, our association holds three business meetings per year, which usually take place on the second Wednesday in January, May and October. As has happened in the past several years, our January meeting takes place later in the month to accomodate an annual pot-luck along with our general meeting. **However, this year we will meet on Saturday, February 5.** See the newsletter's section called 'Next Meeting' for details.

As usual, volunteers are always needed to keep our association afloat, especially when it comes to committees. Please take a look at our website, www.rchca.org, to get a feel for our committee activity. Contact any association officer or committee chair if you want additional information.

Thanks for reading.

*President David Hall,
Vice President Joe Rosenberg,
Treasurer Deanna Marcum,
Secretary Mike Baker,
Past President Marty Durbin*

Next Meeting

RCHCA's winter general meeting and potluck dinner have been scheduled for Sat, Feb. 5th, in the All Purpose Room at Grace Episcopal Day School. The school is located at 9411 Connecticut Avenue in Kensington.

The potluck dinner and babysitting portions of the meeting are a bit "iffy" at this point because we don't have someone from RCHCA membership to spearhead these two activities. Should a volunteer come forward, the potluck dinner begins at 6:30pm with the general meeting beginning at 7:30pm. Please check our website frequently (www.rchca.org) for updates on the winter meeting. Updates on the meeting will also be announced by email.

Please ensure that you have joined rchcanet by sending an email to Sam Hoxie at samhoxie@comcast.net.

The general meeting will include election of officers for 2005.

New to the Neighborhood?

Please be sure to contact our welcoming committee chairperson, Shannon Hamm 301-933-5264 or shannonhamm@comcast.net, so that she may provide you with information about the neighborhood, a community directory, a dues form and more.

Update on Association Officer Search

Shannon Hamm, chair of the Nominating Committee for the upcoming election of officers, has reported partial success in finding RCHCA residents willing to run for office at the association's general meeting to be held on Sat, Feb 5th, 2005. Her job over the past few months has been to assemble a slate of qualified candidates from within the Association who will run for elected office. The slate could include incumbent officers.

As of this writing there are no candidates for the offices of President or Treasurer. Our current Vice President, Joe Rosenberg, and Secretary, Mike Baker, have agreed to run for their respective offices in 2005.

Regardless of Shannon's success, additional nominations for any association office may be made by members from the floor at the upcoming general meeting.



One of the easiest ways to make living in our neighborhood more interesting is by becoming a member of our electronic bulletin board, RCHANET. It's free, and your news couldn't be any more local. You'll be able to access a forum for posting and viewing general information and planned events. There are many of us who are so busy it's hard to meet neighbors, especially in the winter when we're all inside. It's a great way to feel more connected to the people who live around you.

To join rchanet, you can go to rhca.org and click on the RCHCANET link and register from there, or contact Sam Hoxie via email at samhoxie@comcast.net. Be sure to include your name and address if you would like to join so that we may verify your connection to the neighborhood.

As your new communications chair, I welcome any suggestions you have about the newsletter. I hope to see lots of new neighbors at our general meeting this February. I've only been here three years and have already seen an unprecedented turnover in homes. It's a great time to bring new energy into this association.

Jed Dinger

*RCHCA Communications Chair
jdinger9@comcast.net*

Scenes from Halloween '04

Fantastic weather, a record turnout and a huge selection of homemade dishes. Not to mention, some great costumes.



Train Noise Issue Update

Some progress has finally been made on this long stalled effort. To recap, Councilmember Steve Silverman wrote a letter in March of 2003 to the Director of Montgomery County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT). In it, he asked the Director to investigate the feasibility and costs of establishing a Quiet Zone at Forest Glen crossing, as provided for under Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Final Rules published in December of 2003. Shortly afterward the March letter was sent, the DPWT Director resigned. After an additional inquiry by Councilmember Silverman this fall, the Deputy Director of DPWT, Michael Hoyt, enjoined a consultant to study of the issue. Mr. Hoyt has just submitted preliminary materials from the consultant for Councilmember Silverman to review. Mr. Hoyt expressed concern to Mr. Silverman that, although meeting the requirements for one Quiet Zone might be economically feasible, costs could escalate if other communities in the county with similar noise issues at rail grade crossings might wish to request the same consideration.

At the same time, I have been in contact with "Quick Kurb" a company that makes median barriers that are perhaps the most cost-effective supplemental safety measure that has been approved by the FRA for use in Quiet Zones elsewhere in the US. (These barriers are of the type that we have on Connecticut Ave., allowing southbound traffic to turn east on Howard Ave. in front of Safeway while protecting cars from northbound traffic). The idea of having such barriers at rail grade crossings is to prevent cars from driving around the standard two-quadrant gates when the gates are down, and then crossing the tracks. For less than \$12,000, this measure could provide 200 feet of such lane-switching prevention barriers on the road leading to the track from both sides (100 feet on each side of the crossing). I made this information available to Councilmember Silverman's office, so that he is in the best position to consider possible costs and benefits.

For anyone wishing to learn more about this issue, please contact Joe Rosenberg at jrosenberg@comcast.net.

Treasurer's Report

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
Financial Report
December 31, 2004

Balance, October 31, 2004	\$22,611.45
Dues collected	245.00
Total Income	22,856.45
Expenses:	
WSSC	11.55
Newsletter copying and mailing	1,178.98
Halloween Party	1,558.95
Labor Day Parade booth	35.00
Concert in the Park	500.00
Legal Fees	450.00
Total Expenses	3,734.48
Balance, December 31, 2004	\$19,127.97

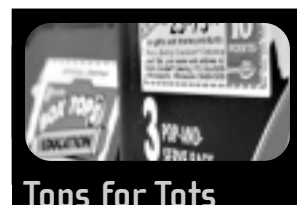
Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Marcum, Treasurer

Get Involved in your Neighborhood Association!

At the upcoming meeting in February, RCHCA elects a Board. We are seeking residents who to volunteer for any position on the Board. The current President, David Hall, is stepping down. We also are seeking a Treasurer, as Deanna Marcum is also stepping down.

We thank both of them for the time and energy they have devoted to the Association.

Please contact Shannon Hamm (shannonhamm@comcast.net or 301-933-5264) if you are interested in any of the positions.



The local public elementary schools that serve Rock Creek Hills (Rosemary Hills and North Chevy Chase) participate in the Boxtop\$ for Education fundraiser. These coupons can be found on General Mills cereals, Progresso soups, Betty Crocker baking items, and Pillsbury frozen foods, to name a few. Each Boxtop\$ for Education coupon is worth 10 cents to the school, if clipped and properly submitted through the school. As the Boxtop\$ coordinator for North Chevy Chase Elementary School, I would appreciate your clipping any Boxtop\$ coupons you may come across. I would be happy to pick them up from you at your home. Simply call me at 301-929-6122, or e-mail me at msgerecht@star-power.net. Alternatively, you may bring them to the next Rock Creek Hills meeting, or just drop them in my mail slot at 9808 Hillridge Drive.

Thank you for your support.
Susan Gerecht