

Winter Meeting and Pot-Luck

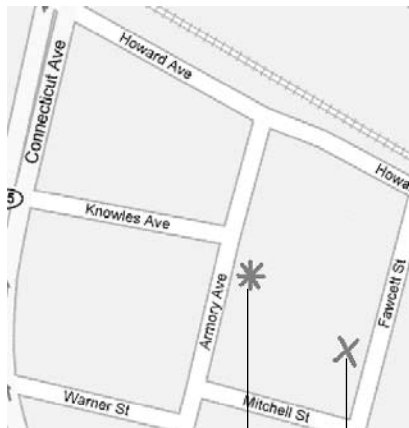
Saturday, January 26th
Potluck 6:30 Meeting 7:30-9:00
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington

Annual Dues Envelope Enclosed

RCHCA
Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
9909 East Bexhill Drive
Kensington, MD 20895

Location for Winter Meeting and Pot-Luck

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
10401 Armory Avenue,
Kensington

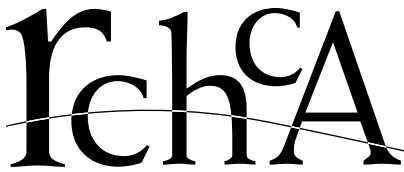


Parking

Entrance



2007 Halloween Parade Leaders Celia McCarty(L) and Sara Durbin(R) proudly carried the RCHCA banner



Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
rchca.org

Message from the Board

Seasons Greetings to Rock Creek Hills residents. We hope that the post-holiday season has left enough “afterglow” to help people ride out the cabin fever that starts to set in this time of year.

As a brief re-cap, during 2007, Rock Creek Hills saw the fulfillment of our democratically decided (albeit controversial) solution to traffic safety concerns: Consent from our association allowed polling of residents adjacent to the street locations in question to make the final determination. As a result, speed humps were approved on a section of Kensington Parkway, but insufficiently supported (< 80%) on a section of Saul Road.

Also during the year, we had thoughtful presentations with Q&A at General Meetings by Kensington Mayor Peter Fosselman on matters such as pedestrian safety, and Police Officer Denise Gill on crime prevention and how Rock Creek Hills fares statistically relative to other areas in the county. Rock Creek Hills also joined with other community associations to address issues of common interest to a number of our residents. Most recently, we were one of nine associations writing a letter to County Executive Leggett requesting more aggressive police action to counter the rising problem of car break-ins. We also re-launched the joint effort by seven associations to obtain train noise relief after a prior-approved solution fell through.

We also continued our tradition of having a successful and well attended Halloween Parade and Potluck afternoon. We thank Laura Cihra for volunteering to be organizer and doing a great job to boot. Unfortunately, we didn't have our Concert in the Park in 2007, lacking such a volunteer organizer. Now, however, Laura has agreed to be RCHCA's Special Events Chair for 2008, which would cover both events and anything else she'd like to plan for. Her willingness to fill this longtime vacancy leads to

my final set of remarks. Laura is a mother of four, and has lived in Rock Creek Hills for five years. As a volunteer organization, we rely on members to get directly involved as leaders and participants. For the first time in several years, we are having significant turnover in our Executive Committee. Vice President (and former President) Shannon Hamm is stepping down, as is our Treasurer Bob MacDowall. We thank them both for their many years of combined service.

Thanks for our nominating committee of Cathy Ball and Susan Gerech, we have found candidates who are willing to stand for election to replace them: Bill Casson for Vice President, and Karyl Kramer for Treasurer. Bill has lived in Rock Creek Hills for 25 years. He is a retired engineer, having worked in NASA and Voice of America for many years. Bill is a widower, with two daughters and six grandchildren that keep him quite busy. Karyl has lived in Rock Creek Hills 18 years with her husband and two children, one now in college and the other at BCC. She has been a professional city planner in California, and currently is a substitute teacher for Montgomery County Public Schools.

Election of all four officer positions will occur at our January 26 Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor for any of the elected positions are of course welcome.

Please remember, the Annual Meeting is preceded by a Potluck Dinner at 6:30 pm. See “Next Meeting” section for details. We look forward to seeing you then.

<i>President</i>	Joe Rosenberg
<i>Vice President</i>	Shannon Hamm
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob MacDowall
<i>Secretary</i>	Alexa Freeman
<i>Past President</i>	David Hall

Scenes from Halloween Parade and Potluck 2007



Next Meeting

The RCHCA Potluck Dinner and Winter Annual Meeting are scheduled for Saturday Evening, January 26, 2008.

The Potluck Dinner begins at 6:30 pm and the Annual Meeting 7:30 pm.

Location: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 10401 Armory Ave. in Kensington. The main entrance is located on Fawcett Street. We are in the Octagon Room, immediately to the right.

Parking: On street parking is available on Armory Avenue, Fawcett Street, and Mitchell Street. Off street parking is available in the church parking lot, which is marked by an asterisk on the map shown on the back of this newsletter.

Potluck Dinner: This annual event, commencing at 6:30 pm, gives an opportunity to see and/or meet some of your neighbors who may have been hibernating. The Association provides pizza, chicken and drinks. Members are requested to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

Babysitting will be provided.

Among the Agenda items are:

- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers of the Board
- **Special Guests to discuss how to address issues of common concern across boundaries:**
 - **Sheldon Fishman**, Vice Chair of Mid-County Citizens' Advisory Board
 - **Adam Pagnucco** of Forest Estates Community Association, Chair of Crossing Georgia Committee (and initiator of multi-association letter to County Executive Leggett to address rising car-theft issue)
 - **Catherine Bocskor**, President of Forest Glen Station Homeowners' Association
- Train Noise Update
- Rock Creek Hills neighborhood entry point signage proposal. Funding will be put forth for a vote.

We welcome volunteers to help in set-up and clean-up of the event. Please contact Joe Rosenberg at 301-495-9821 or jrosenberg@comcast.net if you are interested in helping.

Train Noise Update

From the time of the March 2006 study by the County's Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) until summer of 2007, momentum was building toward a solution that had been agreed to by DPWT, the State Highway Administration (SHA) and CSX, that of the Wayside Horn. To keep matters brief, CSX finally changed its mind and said it would not participate with this solution. A new letter writing campaign then began, involving 7 different citizens associations, plus the Kensington Town Council and the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board. Offers of support came from these public officials: Rep. Van Hollen, Senator Madaleno, Delegate Lawton (now sadly deceased), and County Councilmembers Floreen and Ervin.

Train Noise continued

Councilmember Nancy Floreen, Chair of the Council's Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee, took the lead and has now scheduled a meeting for January 24. In attendance will be officials of DPWT, SHA, CSX, and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The most promising solution to be considered is having median barriers alone, an FRA-approved safety measure that can substitute for audible train horns. It achieves this by blocking cars that otherwise would switch lanes and simply drive around the existing single-lane gates in an attempt to "beat the train".

Installed median barriers cost around \$25K alone. However, in the 2006 DPWT study, the cost of this solution was reported to run about \$500K, due to the idea that road widening and existing gate relocation also would be necessary. By asking the engineers to reconsider the need for road widening and its related expenses, it now appears that the low cost solution of median barriers alone should suffice. Given our county's current budget woes, it is unclear how even this low cost solution will be received. An update on the Jan. 24 T&E Committee meeting will be provided at our Jan. 26 Annual Meeting.

RCHCA Treasurer's 2007 Report

In 2007, 348 RCHCA households paid dues comprising most of the association's income. The largest expenses were for printing and mailing the three newsletters, the Halloween picnic, and the donation to Rosemary Hills Elementary School.

Starting balance:	\$24,835.13
Total income:	12,983.04
Total expenses:	7,990.00
Ending balance:	\$29,828.17

Please use the envelope provided with this mailing to make your 2008 dues payment of \$35. If the envelope is missing, the payment may be mailed to:

RCHCA Treasurer/Bob MacDowall
9909 E. Bexhill Dr.
Kensington, MD 20895

Volunteer Tutor Opportunities in Montgomery County

300 students are on our waiting list looking for your help

Who we are: Founded in 1963, the Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to helping adults in Montgomery County learn to speak, read, write and understand English.

What We Do: We train volunteers to tutor one-on-one or with small groups of students who live or work in Montgomery County. LCMC provides Basic Literacy (read and write) and English as a Second Language training programs (read, write and speak).

Tutor Role: Meet with student/students twice a week for one hour. Set your schedule and location with your students allowing total flexibility.

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tutor volunteers continued

Qualifications:

Prospective tutors do not need to have any prior experience in education. You only need to be fluent in English yourself and have the desire to assist an adult to read and write in English.

Training: Start by attending our one and a half-hour orientation during which we will introduce you to our organization and training methodology. Our training workshops are usually spread over two Saturdays and last a total of 12 hours.

Commitment:

Six months.

Your Impact: Provide your student/students with skills for life.

Contact: For more information please call 301-610-0030 or email asoka@literacycouncilmcmd.org

Website: <http://www.literacycouncilmcmd.org/Volunteer.htm>