



Election Day!
Cast your vote for our new RCHCA Board President.
Please join us in congratulating Joe Rosenberg for
nine years of service to RCHCA,
and Mike Baker for his many years of
guidance and support.

RchCA

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

3103 Kent Street
Kensington, MD 20895

Winter Meeting and Potluck
Sunday January 30
Potluck 6:30 Meeting 7:30-9:00

Grace Episcopal Day School
9411 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD



Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
rchca.org

Your Neighborhood
News and Information
Winter 2011

Message from the Board

As 2011 begins, we've at least been spared the first snowstorm of the east coast over Christmas weekend. By the time you get this newsletter, things may look different, but for now our shovels are dry.

Leadership in a volunteer organization such as ours requires periodic replenishment through a changing of the guard. As many of you know, I will be stepping down after (hard to believe) six years as RCHCA President, and three years as Vice President prior to that. In addition to my "retirement", our Secretary, Mike Baker, will also be stepping down after an even longer period of service to RCHCA in various capacities. In addition to his formal positions, Mike has been the institutional expert in "all things considered by and for Rock Creek Hills" (apologies to NPR). I'd like to personally thank Mike for his long term of service and guidance on the many issues that we've dealt with together.

I'd also like to thank each member of our Nominating Committee, which has been active in seeking out new officers. Chaired by Cathy Ball, and supported by Hill Carter, Meg Baker, and Suzanne Mintz, volunteers have been identified for these vacancies and all positions on the Board. As always, each Board position will be open to additional nominations from the floor before being voting upon, which will be done at our Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday evening, January 30, 2011, at 7:30 pm. Preceding the meeting at 6:30 pm will be our traditional potluck dinner. RCHCA will provide pizza, chicken and drinks, and members should bring whatever side dishes, salads or desserts that they wish (except please leave nuts out of all dishes to avoid issues for people with food allergies).

Besides the election, on the agenda for our next meeting will be two presentations related to the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan. Although technically this plan's location will directly affect areas outside of Rock Creek Hills, some indirect impacts on our community may be expected. (Please see the brief article in this newsletter for more details).

As a reminder, on February 12 at Coffield Recreation Center, we will be holding our second (and now annual) winter event, the "Rock Creek Hills Winterfest". As last year, this is an opportunity to shake off the winter blues, mingle with your hibernating neighbors, and dance to music unencumbered by children (sorry kids, but it's parents' night off). (Please see the brief article in this newsletter for details).

We look forward to seeing you on January 30. Babysitting will be provided.

<i>President</i>	Joe Rosenberg
<i>Vice President</i>	Ken Sanford
<i>Treasurer</i>	David Hall
<i>Secretary</i>	Mike Baker

Next Meeting

The RCHCA Annual/Winter Meeting is scheduled for Sunday evening, January 30, 2011. It will be held at Grace Episcopal Day School, 9411 Connecticut Ave, in the multi-purpose room.

In keeping with tradition, we will have a Potluck Dinner preceding our Annual Meeting.

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.

Annual Meeting: The Annual meeting will follow, and runs from 7:30 – 9:00 pm.

Babysitting will be provided.

Agenda items include:

- Treasurer's Report
- Nomination and Election of Officers of the Board
- Speakers on Update of Chevy Chase Sector Plan - Rezoning Proposal
- Reminder of Upcoming RCH Winterfest

We welcome volunteers to help in set-up and clean-up of the event. Please contact Joe Rosenberg at 301-495-9821 or jrosenberg123@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Speakers on Update of Chevy Chase Sector Plan-Rezoning Proposal

Following the RCHCA elections, there will be two speakers on the agenda who will be available to answer questions following their brief prepared remarks. One speaker will be Pat Baptiste, a Board member of Chevy Chase Village, a two term member of the County Planning Board, and a member of the Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee (CACC), a group that represents 23 separate municipalities, citizens' and civic associations interested in this issue. The other speaker will be David Smith, President of the Chevy Chase Land Company and a resident of Rock Creek Hills.

The following Fact Sheet provides some background on this issue: Fact Sheet: Chevy Chase Lake Rezoning

At the request of the County Council, the County Planning Board is updating the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan. This review will likely result in major changes in permitted residential and commercial density as well as traffic.

Current Zoning Conditions: Under the current zoning plan adopted in 1990, there is a potential for 780,449 sq feet of commercial development (office, retail & other) with 518,551 sq feet of that currently built. Similarly, there is a potential for 2,332 dwelling units (single family detached, attached and multi-family) with 1,319 currently built.

Potential Changes: In their review, planners will examine both commercial and residential zoning density. It is likely that significant changes will be made to the 1990 plan including far greater densities, taller buildings, and a complete change in the type of retail services offered. Traffic congestion will increase, possibly leading to pressure to widen Connecticut Avenue and other roads.

There are many factors the planners will look at in their review. Some of them include:

- Impact of the Purple Line
- Changes in the type of retail provided
- Increase in types of housing choices
- Need for community open space and other community facilities
- Road widening and other improvements to accommodate BRAC traffic
- Access to the CC Lake area from surrounding communities
- Existing and future congestion on Connecticut Avenue which already has some of the most congested intersections in the County

The planners will be looking at 'smart growth' principles and new urban zoning approaches to support significant and far-reaching changes to this area.

Timing: This effort is on a fast track. Staff will be making recommendations to the Planning Board in the next several months (March-April 2011). The official website for this project is: <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/chevychaselake>. You can reach the planning staff directly at MCP-CCLake@mncppc-mc.org.

Upcoming Meetings: Two meetings have been scheduled for the public. The first was held on January 10, 2011 to hear presentations from the Chevy Chase Land Company, the Howard Hughes Institute, and the Housing Opportunities Commission. The second is on Feb 2, 2011 for 'visioning presentations' by the greater Chevy Chase Lake community. Both are set for 7:00 p.m. at 8787 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD.

2nd ANNUAL RCH WINTERFEST

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Same time: 8:00 – 11:00 pm

Same place: Gwendolyn Coffield Recreation Center

So what's new? This year RCHCA will foot the bill for all paid up members*** of Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association!

You will only need to bring your own beverage (beer and wine permitted)

This is an ADULTS ONLY party, so line up your babysitters. This promises to be an evening of great food, great music, and great company!

If we have your e-mail address, an e-vite will be forthcoming in early January.

Otherwise you may RSVP directly by e-mail to rchevents@gmail.com.

We will need a head count to plan for food.

***To join RCHCA, send a check for \$35 payable to RCHCA to our treasurer, David Hall, at 3103 Kent Street, Kensington, MD 20895

Rock Creek Hills Citizens Association Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2010

Assets

M&T Money Market	\$11,507
M&T Checking	\$9,216
Total Assets	\$20,724

Liabilities and Equity

Equity

Opening Bal Equity	\$30,106
Net Income	-\$9,383
Total Equity	\$20,723

Liabilities \$0

Total Liabilities and Equity \$20,723

Corrections to 2010 Dues Paid list in October newsletter

The names of two residents were accidentally omitted from the 2010 Dues Paid list enclosed with the October newsletter. Knippen at 9707 Hillridge Drive and Fulton at 10005 E. Bexhill Drive are paid for 2010.