



RCHCA SPRING MEETING
THURSDAY MAY 5TH, 7:30-9:00

RchCA

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

9501 Old Spring Road
Kensington, MD 20895

Spring Meeting

Thursday, May 5

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
Spring 2011

Message from the Board

This is the first newsletter from your new Board. First, and most important, is to thank Joe Rosenberg for his many years of diligent service as our president. The job was undoubtedly more time consuming than one might anticipate due to a number of difficult issues over the last several years, all of which were satisfactorily resolved on his watch. The Board would also like to thank Mike Baker for his service as Secretary and Lyle Farmer for his service as the social chairman. Marilyn Emery has graciously agreed to assume many of Lyle's responsibilities and our thanks for her work on the Winterfest and the upcoming Mothers Day activities. There have been numerous volunteers for the welcoming committee and a decision will be made shortly.

This meeting's program will briefly address neighborhood watch and security issues, including a presentation by a uniformed officer. There has been a notable increase in the number of break-ins over the last several months. While no violence has been involved, these appear mostly to be crimes of opportunity when windows and doors are unlocked and the owner is absent. While this warning may seem gratuitous, for the time being, our neighborhood does not appear to be as secure as it normally is.

The balance of our program centers on the revised draft Kensington Sector Plan that is now before the Planning Board and will include a presentation by Fred Boyd of the Planning Board staff. We will also provide an update on the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan that is being worked on by the Planning Board Staff. A summary of the planning process to date, the principal issues involved in both plans, and where to access the relevant materials on the Planning Board

website are provided in the program section.

At its meeting in March, your Board concluded that Rock Creek Hills should not take a formal position on either the Kensington or the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plans. While both plans are likely to affect our community to varying degrees, we do not live in either place, nor is the character of our community likely to be directly affected except for traffic impacts. The latter are a universal issue, but other issues, such as height and massing, are primarily the concern of the community to which the master plan applies. For example, none of us actually vote in the town of Kensington. However, the meeting is an opportunity to discuss a wide range of land use issues so that our members can draw their own conclusions and act accordingly by contacting the Planning Board or the County Council. We look forward to seeing you and having a lively discussion on the urbanizing trends in the County.

<i>President</i>	John Robinson
<i>Vice President</i>	Sam Statland
<i>Treasurer</i>	David Hall
<i>Secretary</i>	Ken Sanford

Next Meeting

The RCHCA Spring Meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, May 5th, 2011. It will be held at Grace Episcopal Day School, 9411 Connecticut Ave, in the multipurpose room.

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

Babysitting will be provided.

Agenda items include:

- Treasurer's Report
- Speakers on local land use planning issues:
Kensington Sector Plan
Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan
- Reminder of Upcoming Mother's Day concert in the park.
- County Police Officer Denise Gill to Speak on Crime in Rock Creek Hills and Neighborhood Watch Program

Speakers on Update of Chevy Chase Sector Plan-Rezoning Proposal

This meeting's program addresses land use planning issues with particular focus on the revised draft Kensington Sector Plan now before the Planning Board for hearing, final action, and transmittal to the County Council and the Executive. Fred Boyd of the Planning Board staff will make a presentation and two members of the Kensington Town government will be present, Peter Fosselman, the Mayor, and Lydia Sullivan, a member of the Town Council. There will also be an update on the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan, although this will not involve a presentation by the Planning Board Staff or the Chevy Chase Land Company. Marilyn Emery has been following these matters and will be one of the principal speakers and participants at our meeting based on her observations of various town meetings.

The Kensington Sector Plan is in its second round at the Planning Board after being remanded by the County Council. The main issue on remand was to develop a land use zone more suitable to Kensington and other smaller communities than the commercial-residential (CR) zone developed during the White Flint Master Plan. After much discussion, the Planning Board has transmitted to the County Council two proposed zones, the CRN (Neighborhood) and CRT (Town) zones, which have lower maximum heights and a narrower range of uses than the CR Zone. The CRT Zone would apply to properties along Connecticut Avenue, Metropolitan Avenue, and Howard Avenues. The maximum height would be 75 feet on the Hardware City site, the Safeway site, and the east side of Connecticut between the railroad tracks and Plyers Mill Road. The height would be 60 feet on most parts of Metropolitan Avenue and upper Connecticut Avenue except for those portions of Metropolitan directly adjoining single family residences, which would have a 45 foot height. The height in the Antique District is 50 feet with the Johnson's area being 55. The Plan would add a substantial apartment based residential component to the Kensington, which might exceed the current single family residences at build out, and contains various measures designed to mitigate the increased traffic flow that will result. These include narrower lanes, additional secondary streets on the West side of Connecticut north of the railroad, and a more extensive tree lined network of wider sidewalks. Structured parking might be used on the larger parcels.

The revised draft Kensington Sector Plan is slated for public hearing April 28 at 9797 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. The time will be posted on the Agenda section of the Planning Board website at montgomeryplanningboard.org. The Sector Plan and related materials is at montgomeryplanning.org under the Planning Our Future tab. Under the Kensington link are the staff reports and analyses. Finally, the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan is unlikely to have a staff draft by our meeting. If it does, there will be an update by Marilyn Emery and John Robinson. There is a digest of the meetings, proposals and comments to date at montgomeryplanning.org. Go to the Your Neighbor box and click on the Master Plans link, then on the Areas One Map. Chevy Chase Lake is the third link from the top. Having received the summaries of the March 12 community workshops conducted by M-NCPPC staff, The Chevy Chase Land Company has reserved the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, for the evening of April 27 at 7:00 in order to present its visions and conceptual development plans responsive to the planned Purple Line transit station to be located at Chevy Chase Lake.

County Police Officer Denise Gill to Speak on Crime in Rock Creek Hills and Neighborhood Watch Program

As many of you know, crimes such as car break-ins and home burglaries have affected a number of Rock Creek Hills residents for some time. In order to help ourselves in conjunction with law enforcement authorities, a number of residents plan to start, or re-start, Neighborhood Watch programs.

On May 5, we are pleased and appreciative to have as a speaker, Montgomery County Officer Denise Gill, who has made at least two presentations in years past at RCHCA meetings. Officer Gill will briefly cover recent crime statistics, and go on to explain how the Neighborhood Watch program can help to reduce crime, including answering questions from attendees. Residents who wish to know more about this program, and especially if they wish to participate, should contact Jacquie Borda (jlborda@aol.com, 301-587-0235), Eden Durbin (edendurbin@verizon.net , 301-802-5985) or Joe Rosenberg (jrosenberg123@gmail.com, 301-495-9821).

The crime statistics shown below for Rock Creek Hills neighborhood (a subset of Police District 2) are for 2010 through March 23, 2011. They should be considered “preliminary” as they were obtained from the Crime Analysis Section’s tactical database, which is not the department’s official source of data; totals may differ from later official figures:

Event Type	2010	2011YTD*
Robbery	-	-
Aggravated Assault	-	-
Residential Burglary	9	1
Commercial Burglary	-	-
Construction Theft	-	-
Larceny from Veh./Veh. Part (not tags)	21	8
Auto Theft	1	-
Graffiti	-	-
Controlled Substance (Drugs)	3	1
Sex Offenses	-	-
Total	34	10

Selected Incidents:

Residential burglary: The 2010 burglaries occurred in different months, between May and December. All incidents involved forced entry or attempted forced entry. The burglaries occurred mostly during daytime hours with two others occurring during nighttime hours. Property was reported taken in several of the burglaries. Incidents occurred on Connecticut Avenue, Hawick Court, Old Spring Road, Raymoor Road, LaDuke Dr, Kent St, and Stonybrook Dr. The 2011 break in occurred on Hill St. No information has been received on any arrests.

Theft from Vehicles: In 2010, most vehicles were entered during the overnight hours via unlocked doors, or the method entry was reported as “unknown”. Small items, including cash and GPS units, were most frequently targeted. In 2011, incidents still occurred in the overnight hours, but half of the vehicles were entered by breaking a window. A variety of property was reported taken, to include tools, GPS units, clothing. Five of the eight events occurred on Bexhill Drive or Kensington Parkway. Others occurred on Campbell Dr and Place as well as Hill Street.

Auto Theft: The one stolen vehicle was later recovered. No arrests were made.

Mother’s Day Concert in the Park

Sunday, May 8, 2011

Spring is just around the corner so it must be time for the annual Mothers’ Day picnic in the Park. Mark your calendars for Sunday May 8 from 4-6. The association will provide dinner, soft drinks and music. Please bring a desert to share. This event will happen rain or shine. So that we are sure we will have enough food please rsvp via e-mail to RCHevents@gmail.com.

Rock Creek Hills Citizens Association Balance Sheet As of April 9, 2011

Assets

M&T Money Mkt	\$11,507.00
M&T Checking	\$13,176.00
Total Assets	\$24,683.00

Liabilities and Equity

Equity Opening Bal Equity	\$30,106.00
Retained Earnings	-\$9,409.00
Net Income	\$3986.00
Total Equity	\$24,683.00
Liabilities	\$0.00

Total Liabilities and Equity
\$24,683.00