

RchCA

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

9501 Old Spring Road
Kensington, MD 20895

Fall Meeting

Tuesday, September 20
Meeting 7:30-9:00

Grace Episcopal Day School
9411 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD

Note: Due to the fact that some people have allergies to nuts, please do not bring any food dishes or desserts that contain nuts of any kind.

A-L: desserts
M-Z: sides or salads
For purposes of the pot-luck, families are asked to bring the following:

Contact Marilyn Emery
at asksoftb@verizon.net for details or
to volunteer.

The starting point for the Halloween
Parade is at Rock Creek Hills local
Park. The picnic location is at the
corner of Saul Rd. and East Bexhill.

Sunday, October 30, 2011 12:00 Noon - 3:00pm

C'mon Rock Creek Hills!

It's the Halloween Parade and Pot-Luck!

cotton candy

hamburgers

hot dogs

may rides

arts & crafts

beverages

popcorn

moon bounce



Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
rchca.org

Your Neighborhood
News and Information
Fall 2011

Message from the Board

Our September 20 meeting will address two topics. The first is the current situation with crime in and around our community and the increased need for a neighborhood watch. The second and a distinctly time sensitive issue is what position to take on the middle school feasibility study that is underway by the Montgomery County Board of Education. There will be no final staff proposal at the time this newsletter goes to press; that should be decided at a meeting on September 8 at 7 p.m. at Westland Middle School. At present there appear to be two competing proposals. Both are three to four storey proposals that would require separate entrances for the students arriving by car and those arriving by bus. The bus driveway would not be in front of anyone's house and both parking lots would be somewhat screened. One proposal would have greater green space because all playing fields would be located north of the current drive into our local park. The second would have less green space because the tennis and basketball courts would be located more to the south, but would have fewer retaining walls and an interior court yard. However both proposals would not meet the minimum standards for car parking and would have constrained athletic facilities. The plans are for about 830 students, but it is unlikely that either proposal could be expanded to 1200 students if this were needed. All proposals are posted at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/construction/projects/bms2.shtm>.

We will be presenting the preferred option that is selected by the Staff at the September 20 meeting and hope to have some of the Staff there to explain the selection.

In the meantime, we are proceeding with litigation on several fronts, but have yet to hear anything. RCHCA has made

three pleadings arguing that this community has standing to bring the litigation, that the hearing process did not conform to the Board of Education's own protocols and was generally unfair, and that the site selection process was arbitrary and imprudent. There is no required deadline for the State Education Board to respond to the pleadings. We hope to hear on the complaint Sam Statland filed under the Open Meetings Act before the meeting, and will provide you with an update on both at that time. At the meeting we will vote on whether to continue to oppose the location of a new middle school on the Rock Creek Hills Local Park site, and if still in opposition, our concerns about the selected option. The results of the meeting will be submitted to the Superintendent, the Board of Education, and the County Council.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Robinson

<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 Fall Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 20th, 2011. It will be held at Grace Episcopal Day School, 9411 Connecticut Ave, in the multi-purpose room.

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

Babysitting will be provided.

Agenda items include:

- Treasurer's Report
- Neighborhood Watch
Speaker: Paul Tiao
- Board of Education
Proposal review
- vote for proposed middle school location

IF YOU WISH TO VOTE ON THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE ISSUE, YOUR HOUSEHOLD MUST BE A PAID UP DUES MEMBER OF THE RCHCA. CHECKS FOR \$35 SHOULD BE SENT TO DAVID HALL AT 3103 KENT STREET, KENSINGTON, MD 20895.

Speaker on RCHCA Neighborhood Watch: Program Up and Running

At our next meeting, Paul Tiao, RCHCA Neighborhood Watch (NW) program Co-Coordinator, will update everyone on the status of our NW program, which got started this summer. Over the last year or so, it seems that there has been an overall increase in neighborhood crimes, including car break-ins as well as home break-ins. During the recent period from early May through July 18, the following nearby crimes have been reported to police:

Theft from vehicle	July 18	10100 block of Frederick Avenue
Theft	July 10	10000 block of Capitol View Avenue
Theft from vehicle	June 22	9700 block of Old Spring Road
Breaking and Entering	June 21	9900 block of Old Spring Road
Theft	June 10	3500 block of Kent Street
Theft from vehicle	June 7	1 block of Campbell Court
Theft from vehicle	June 3	3400 block of Wake Drive
Theft of vehicle	June 1	10000 block of Frederick Avenue
Theft from vehicle	May 23	9600 block of Hillridge Drive
Theft from vehicle	May 21	3500 block of Raymoor Road
Theft from vehicle	May 16	9800 block of Campbell Drive
Theft from vehicle	May 16	10100 block of Capitol View
Theft	May 13	10300 block of Kensington Parkway
Disorderly conduct	May 15	9900 block of Stoneybrook
Sex offense	May 7	10200 block of Frederick Avenue
Theft from vehicle	May 4	9700 block of Stoneybrook Drive

In order for a Neighborhood Watch program to be successful, it requires local organization and communications through the efforts of volunteer Street Captains working with alert residents. While there is no formal list of duties as such, the key responsibilities of Street Captains are as follows:

- Identify the 10-12 homes on your street that you wish to be responsible for, and contact residents in each home, explaining the purpose of Neighborhood Watch, and signing up residents who wish to participate.
- Provide timely information to your NW participants about recent crimes in the neighborhood, crime statistics, suspicious activity and crime prevention tips.
- Encourage all participants to sign up for the RCHCA list-serve, and encourage them to report suspicious activity on the list-serve, e.g. unauthorized door-to-door sales persons.
- Contact new residents to get them involved.
- Participate in occasional meetings of NW Street Captains in order to stay informed about neighborhood crime and recent developments. Encourage neighbors to watch out for each other during power outages, snow storms, heat waves, and other emergency situations.
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Neighborhood Watch, cont.

In July, a first training session for Street Captains was held to help everyone get started and become familiar with their responsibilities. However, in order to be successful and expand coverage throughout Rock Creek Hills, many more Street Captain volunteers are needed. Please come to the RCHCA General Meeting to hear more about our Neighborhood Watch program. If you are unable to attend, but want to learn more about the program, please call Paul Tiao at (301) 949-4939 / paultiao@aol.com or Eden Durbin (Wake) at (301) 802-5985 / edendurbin@verizon.net.

**Rock Creek Hills
Citizens Association
Balance Sheet
As of August 29, 2011**

Assets

M&T Money Mkt	\$11,507.21
M&T Checking	\$11,257.19
Total Assets	\$22,764.40

Liabilities and Equity

Equity Opening Bal Equity	\$30,106.00
Retained Earnings	-\$9,409.00
Net Income	\$2066.90
Total Equity	\$22,763.91
Total Liabilities and Equity:	\$22,763.91