

Your Neighborhood News & Information



APRIL 2019

rchca.org

RCH SPRING PARTY!! SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019, 4:30–7:30 PM, KENSINGTON CABIN PARK
Food, drinks, games and time to catch up with neighbors! We will be catering the party this year, but would also love to have some of your great apps (last name A-L) and desserts (M-Z).

RCHCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING • WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 2019 • 7:30 PM
SILVER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL • 3701 SAUL ROAD

The Spring meeting of the Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association will be held on Wednesday, May 22, at 7:30 PM, in the Cafeteria and Stage foyer on the ground floor of Silver Creek Middle School. Doors will be open at 7:00 pm so that people can come early to check in and pay any outstanding dues (\$40 per household) for 2019. The agenda will include the minutes of the last meeting, the treasurer's report, and items listed below.

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

In the short time that I have served as RCHCA President, our neighborhood has been facing pressures of actual and potential change in many areas of our daily lives. Silver Creek Middle School is now serving students in the 6th – 8th grades for the first time. So far, the impact of the new school on the neighborhood has been less than many feared. Yet, significant expansion of the Middle School population is under discussion, and a redistricting of Montgomery County Schools is being considered by School Board.

Traffic calming measures and the possible building sidewalks to deal with the new pattern of school commuting were raised at the last meeting, then and tabled as long as our streets are being torn open to replace the neighborhood's water mains. The Purple Line is under construction just down the street from us and is generating major development on Connecticut Avenue where the track passes through North Chevy Chase.

At the same time, expansion of the Beltway is being studied and planned, and a new salt and road crew facility is being constructed on the southern boundary of our neighborhood to service the existing needs of that transportation hub. And we know the main business district of Kensington is also undergoing substantial new development and renovation.

In light of these developments, a significant challenge we face is determining what we should and can do as a community to identify and minimize any negative impacts from this accelerating change within the greater Kensington area, and what impact it will have on the special character of the neighborhood we all call home. While I and the rest of the Board of RCHCA understand that our Civic Association must help this community to address those challenges, the breadth of the issues facing this community is too expansive for a small group of association officers to handle on a voluntary and part-time basis.

I am asking each of you to think about what issues currently facing this neighborhood are important to you, what you can do to help us make sure that the

Rock Creek Hills community is aware of important developments and equipped to protect our shared interests in preserving the quality of life that attracted us here.

I invite you to share your ideas with the Board and me at your earliest convenience, whether that be before, at, or after our upcoming Spring meeting.

Yours truly,
Peter W. Chatfield
President, RCHCA

Agenda Items

1. Rules of Order

In order to ensure the orderly discussion of issues and that as many different voices can be heard as possible, we will begin the meeting by going over the basic rules of order. Remember that, in order to vote on any issue for which a vote is called, 2019 dues for the household being represented must be paid.

2. Treasurer's Report and Dues for this Calendar Year

As of publication, the RCHCA checking account has a balance of \$4,281.57 and the savings account has a balance of \$945. Thus total funds for operations are \$5,226.57. All invoices are paid. Dues for the current calendar year (2019) are \$40, and if not yet paid should be sent to John Robinson at 9616 Old Spring Road, Kensington, MD 20895 (a mailing envelope is included for your convenience). Additional contributions are always welcome and sincerely appreciated.

3. Covenants update

Based on a review of all the covenants that apply to RCH properties, there is an opportunity that permits the residents of each "Block" of Rock Creek Hills sharing the same covenants to remove unlawfully discriminatory covenants. This provides owners of those properties a way to demonstrate that such covenants no longer represent the values

of their neighborhood, and that the owners of the block in question agree that they may be stricken without regard to the time frame in which they would be enforced.

4. Spring Party Report

Summary of event held Sunday, May 5th at Kensington Cabin Park

5. Villages of Kensington Presentation

Donna Savage, President, and Suzanne Bowler

6. Area Development Issues that RCH Should Seek to Address as a Community

School Redistricting

Beltway Expansion

Kensington Re-Development

7. Community Roads/Infrastructure

Update on Current Plan of Action Regarding Water System Replacement, Traffic Control, Sidewalk Survey

Reminder to join the RCHCA email network

The Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association e-mail network, rchcanet, is for families of Rock Creek Hills. We urge everyone with email access to sign up for this, as it allows information about the neighborhood, planned events, etc. to be easily disseminated in a timely manner. This forum is not intended to replace any other communications. The instructions on how to join are posted on the RCHCA website, rchca.org, under the communications tab at the top of the website.