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Spring General Meeting
Wednesday, May 11th
7:30-9:00pm

Grace Episcopal Day School
9411 Connecticut Avenue
Kensington, MD

Rch^{CA}

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

9711 E. Bexhill Drive
Kensington, MD 20895

New to the Neighborhood?

Please be sure to contact our welcoming committee chairperson, Shannon Hamm 301-933-5264 or shannonhamm@comcast.net, so that she may provide you with information about the neighborhood, a community directory, a dues form and more.

Mark your calendar:

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Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
rchca.org

Neighborhood News and Information

Spring 2005

Message From The Board

Spring is a time of renewal, and our newly-elected Board has just held its first planning meeting. Although some of us are Board veterans but in new positions, our new Treasurer, Bob MacDowall, is a first-time Board member. We want to thank his predecessor, Deanna Marcum, for her many years of dedicated service in that position.

In our planning meeting, the Board discussed a wide range of issues, such as:

- budget and finances;
- association policies, procedures, and record keeping (somewhat boring but necessary);
- traffic in our neighborhoods;
- covenants enforcement;
- the WSSC and its "Big Dig" (see article in newsletter);
- neighborhood beautification: whether and how this is to be encouraged via project cost and responsibility sharing with local residents; and
- when we should update our community directory (answer: next year).

RCHCA is the association that represents your community. The Board wants to know what is important to you. Last meeting, a request was made to have a traffic survey of Rock Creek Hills by the county, and so we have requested one in a recent letter. People have asked about the impact of the "Big Dig" (i.e., tunneling in our neighborhood to link water mains), so we lined up a speaker for our next meeting.

Volunteers for our standing committees are essential to operate as we have come to expect. For new residents, this is an excellent way to get to know your neighbors, and find out what's happening that can affect you. Please contact any association officer for more information, and plan on attending our next meeting on May 11. Hope to see you there!

President, Joe Rosenberg
Vice President, Shannon Hamm
Treasurer, Bob MacDowall
Secretary, Mike Baker
Past President, David Hall

WSSC To Attend May Meeting to Discuss Bi-County Water Supply Main Study

WSSC spokesperson, John Mitchell, will attend the May 11 meeting to update our residents on the study and impact it will have on RCHCA.

WSSC has set up a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to get input on how this project will impact citizens. Unfortunately, RCHCA has not been represented on the CAC during its previous meetings. Shannon Hamm is now our representative to their Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and will attend future meetings. She will want to make sure the Associations' voice is heard. Up to this point, the CAC met to look at the various options presented on whether to dig or to tunnel various pipes between the water main at the intersection of I-270 and Tuckerman Lane and the water main at Stoneybrook and Beach Drive. From the CAC's review, residents chose to save the trees over keeping down costs by

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WSSC's proposed water main dig at Stoneybrook and Beach Drive.



Stay informed by joining RCHANET

Did you know that by becoming a member of our electronic bulletin board, RCHANET, you can receive regular updates by e-mail? It's free, and takes a few minutes to sign up. You'll be able to access a forum for posting and viewing general information and planned events. Prior to publishing this issue, I was contacted by a few neighbors about classified advertising in this newsletter. While we don't currently take advertising, posting an ad on our bulletin board is available to all members. If you have something you're looking to buy or sell, it's a great tool. I've even seen a few members sharing information about contractor referrals.

To join rchanet, you can go to rchca.org, click on the link and register from there, or contact Sam Hoxie via email at samhoxie@comcast.net. Be sure to include your name and address if you would like to join so that we may verify your connection to the neighborhood.

Jed Dinger

*RCHCA Communications Chair
jdinger9@comcast.net*

Traffic Triangle Beautification: Community Improvement Update

At the May 12, 2004 RCHCA meeting, the Community Improvement Committee presented a proposal to beautify four traffic triangles within Rock Creek Hills. After much discussion, including the concept of cost-sharing where there is demonstrable neighborhood interest, a revised motion was passed, to wit: "RCHCA shall fund the cost of hardscaping, landscaping, and maintenance of the triangle at Littledale and Havershill up to \$1,500."

Since then, this allocation of funds has not been utilized, and no expressions of interest in pursuing this project have come forth. Assuming that this remains the case, the Association will entertain a motion to reallocate these funds at the next RCHCA meeting on May 11, 2005. If this motion passes, application details will be discussed then, and submissions for alternative projects will be accepted up to August 31, 2005. The board will meet within thirty days of this deadline to review all submissions and propose to award the reallocated funds at the October 12, 2005 meeting. That award, like the previous one, will be subject to a final vote on October 12 for Association approval.



The board has established the following preliminary guidelines for allocating funds toward a specific traffic triangle beautification project:

- a) Plans, drawings and budgets must be submitted to either the President or Vice President of RCHCA by August 31.
- b) The funds are to be utilized for hardscaping on RCHCA triangles only, plantings must be funded by the applicant and/or neighbors.
- c) All plantings and hardscaping must be purchased and installation completed by December 31, 2005.
- d) Receipts and balance (if any) to be returned to the Treasurer at this time.
- e) Note to middle school students, high school students and their parents: RCHCA believes that student participation in this community beautification project will qualify for Student Service Learning (SSL) credit. RCHCA will work to get SSL approval for students interested in performing community service in the neighborhood.

Finally, all worthy projects submitted but not selected for this initial reallocation of funds will be considered and, if appropriate, submitted to an Association vote for subsequent funding next year, budgetary consideration permitting. It is the Board's view that Association members will feel more comfortable with co-sponsoring additional projects after we have some experience with the concept of a beautification project based on neighborhood participation in sharing cost and maintenance responsibilities.

Covenant Update: Proposed RCHCI Signs for Approved Projects

The Covenants Board is considering making more transparent to all residents which construction/renovation projects on the exterior of the property have been approved by the Rock Creek Hills Covenant Inc. (RCHCI). The option we are considering is to have signs developed that would be posted near the permit signs that indicate RCHCI approval. We would like to hear from our residents about this proposal at the May 11 meeting.

RCHCA is covered by covenants, although there are some exceptions, most notably the homes on Hill, LaDuke, and to the east of Stoneybrook. (Most of the homes on the Campbells have covenants covered by a separate organization.) However, residents may not be aware of the covenants that apply to their property, as they may not have received them at closing. The Board wants to empower residents to know that covenants apply to all structural changes to the exterior of the house or property. In the past, we have posted the approved projects in our newsletters. However, as they are printed quarterly, some projects may get started in between newsletters. As all projects must have County permit signs posted, it could be helpful for neighbors to know that the property owner had sought and received approval from RCHCI.

The Board will devote time to discuss the options of posting signs, with a vote approval at the May 11 meeting. Please be sure to come to the May 11 meeting and join in the discussion of this proposal.

Train Noise Update:

We remain in contact with Councilmember Silverman, whose office is prodding the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) to study and report on the Quiet Zone initiative. The wheels of bureaucracy do grind slowly, but they are at least in motion. The following e-mail from DPWT Deputy Director Michael Hoyt to the Councilmember's assistant, dated April 12, reads as follows:

It took some time to respond to your e-mail below as a result of some procurement process problems with organizing the contractual vehicle with the consultant who will be carrying out the quiet zone study. Emil Wolanin advises that those issues are now resolved and the consultant has just today been given the formal Notice to Proceed. I expect the draft report from the consultant in about 2-3 months.

MCH.

WSSC To Attend May Meeting cont.

opting for tunneling a 7-foot wide pipe between the water mains over the next 5 years.

WSSC is now set to study the various tunneling options, which cut through our neighborhood. Please visit the WSSC website (<http://www.wssc.dst.md.us/projects/bicountywater/index.html>) to view the map of various tunneling options (T1, T2, and T4).

Please plan on attending our May 11 meeting to hear what is going to happen in our neighborhood over the next 5 years. You will be able to influence the alignment of where the tunneling occurs. If you have questions, please contact Shannon Hamm (301) 933-5264 or email at shannonhamm@comcast.net.

Association Membership Dues for 2005

Enclosed in this newsletter is a return envelope for payment of RCHCA membership dues for 2005. The dues of \$35 per household are used for summer and fall social events, for newsletters and other communications, for website and database maintenance, and for a reserve fund. This is the first dues request of the year, because of the transition to a new treasurer.

We thank Deanna Marcum for her many years of service in that position.