

9411 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD

Grace Episcopal Day School

Wednesday, October 11th, 7:30-9:00

Fall Meeting

RchCA

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
rchca.org

Your Neighborhood
News and Information

Fall 2006

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
9909 East Bexhill Drive
Kensington, MD 20895

RchCA

Message from the Board

After a long hot summer, we hope that everyone is enjoying the relative coolness of the new fall season.

At this time of year, we like to remind residents of reasons why RCHCA exists as an organization.

Most of us believe Rock Creek Hills is a great community to live in. As part of a voluntary citizens association, residents can find a structured way to address issues of common local interest. Whether it is addressing traffic safety issues in our streets, noise from the beltway or train horns, lack of trashcans in our parks, or just staying informed about neighborhood construction, crime or other issues, RCHCA is there to improve community awareness and, on occasion, provide a forum for resolving issues by majority rule.

To this end, the Board is urging more Rock Creek Hills residents to become active Association participants. We invite you to contribute your energy and imagination within the Association as a volunteer on a committee of interest to you.

We have 6 standing committees to choose from. Please explore joining one of interest to you in whatever capacity you wish:

- BUILDING AND COVENANTS
- COMMUNICATIONS
- LEGISLATIVE, PLANNING & ZONING
- HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- TRANSPORTATION

We also have special purpose task forces in addition to our regular committees. Some of our residents have taken the opportunity of our upcoming fall meeting to seek like-minded residents to start a new "Beltway Barrier Task Force" (see newsletter article).

We also sponsor a few fun events to enjoy with our neighbors. By the time you read this, we will have just held our annual Concert in the Park, and shortly will be holding our annual Halloween Potluck and Parade (scheduled for October 29, see back of newsletter).

Please come to the October 11 General Meeting, and begin your participation! Babysitting will be provided. Among the issues that will be discussed is the county's special Traffic Survey of Rock Creek Hills, which will be addressed directly via a separate meeting on that issue alone, to be held on Thursday, October 26 at 7:30 pm. At the October 26 meeting, we anticipate a vote to determine whether or not to pursue any of the traffic calming measures that the County may offer. Any traffic calming measure that the County offers and RCHCA decides to pursue must be approved by the residents most impacted, as defined by the County.

We look forward to seeing you on both October 11 and, if you are interested on Traffic Safety, again on October 26.

<i>President</i>	Joe Rosenberg
<i>Vice President</i>	Shannon Hamm
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob MacDowall
<i>Secretary</i>	Alexa Freeman

C'Mon Rock Creek Hills!
It's the Halloween Parade and Pot-Luck!

This increasingly popular event takes place **Sunday, October 29.** The parade begins at noon. Families should gather at Rock Creek Hills Park (aka, Circle Park, Saul Road Park, Soccer Park, etc....) at 11:45 am. The Kensington Volunteer Fire Department will lead a parade through the neighborhood (assuming they're not busy), ending at the corner of Saul and East Bexhill around 12:30.

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

Contact Eden Fisher Durbin for details or to volunteer
(edendurbin@comcast.net).

Next Meeting

The RCHCA Fall Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 2006 at Grace Episcopal Day School, 9411 Connecticut Ave.

The meeting will run from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. Babysitting will be provided.

Agenda items include:

- Treasurer's Report
- Traffic Survey: What will be covered at the October 26 special meeting on this topic.
- Traffic Triangle Renovation: An update on the first renovation project at the Haverhill Drive and Littledale Drive triangle.
- Proposal to start a Beltway Barrier Task Force
- Train Noise Update
- Street Patching and Paving

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

Traffic Committee Report

Mike Baker, chair of Traffic Committee

Special RCHCA Meeting to Discuss Results of County Traffic Study – October 26, 2006

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At the last meeting (May 17, 2006), RCHCA approved a motion to ask the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) to conduct a traffic survey of the locations listed below to determine if they qualify for the Residential Traffic Calming Program.

- Elrod Road
- Hillridge Drive, between Kent Street and Saul Road
- Kensington Parkway, between Saul Road and Beach Drive
- Old Spring Road, between Saul Road and Old Spring Road
- Saul Road, between Kensington Parkway and Old Spring Road
- Stoneybrook Drive, between the CSX bridge and LaDuke Drive

The traffic survey focused on 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM for all road segments except Saul Road. The traffic survey on Saul road focused on 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

The DPWT will present the results of the traffic study at a special RCHCA Meeting. The meeting agenda will be:

- Brief opening remarks to introduce the County's traffic calming program.
- Viewing a brief video describing the traffic calming program
- Results of the traffic study, and proposed traffic calming measures, if there are any proposed traffic calming measures
- Discussion
- RCHCA vote to accept or reject proposed traffic calming measures, if there are any proposed traffic calming measures

Preliminary indications are that the sections of Kensington Parkway and Saul Road that were included in the traffic study will qualify for traffic calming.

Note – If traffic calming measures are proposed by DPWT and RCHCA votes to accept the DPWT proposed traffic calming measures, any traffic calming measures must meet the approval of those most impacted, as defined by the County. RCHCA will be responsible for circulating the Resident Concurrence Forms, which the County will provide.

This special RCHCA meeting will be advertised by the County, and will be open to the public. However, voting will be limited to adult members of RCHCA. (Every resident of Rock Creek Hills is eligible for membership, and can become a member of RCHCA by paying their annual household dues.)

Since the meeting will be advertised by the County and open to the public, we may need to check that those casting a vote are members of RCHCA.

RCHCA Treasurer's Report

Initial account balance Jan 1, 2006:	\$23,924.33	As of September 10, 2006, 439 RCHCA households have paid annual association dues. The treasurer will provide an expanded report at the Fall meeting. He may be contacted at 301-942-5845 or bmacdowall@gmail.com
Income (Jan-Aug 2006):	16,135.67	
Expenses (Jan-Aug 2006):	8,812.92	
Final account balance:	31,247.08	

Train Noise Update

The gears of government may churn slowly but progress is being made. During the summer, we have been in touch with Councilmember Silverman's office to express our support for the Wayside Horn solution. Recall that compared with a full Quiet Zone solution, the Wayside Horn offers a much more cost-effective solution. This type of horn is mounted at the intersection, not on the train, and has been tested to reduce the area affected by train noise above the 90 decibel level by 98%! At a cost of \$60-\$70k, this is about 15 % of what the Quiet Zone solution would cost. In July, Councilmember Silverman requested the county to "move forward on this project as quickly as possible", and asked for an estimated timeline and what the next steps are for implementation. More information if available will be provided at the October meeting.

Beautification of the Littledale and Haverhill traffic triangle.

In the May RCHCA meeting a vote to expend funds up to \$2000 was passed on renovating the traffic triangle at the corner of Littledale and Haverhill. The project did not start until August, however, it is now completed and was well under budget. The triangle maintenance will be managed by neighbors. If you want to volunteer to weed, please contact Winnie Holbrook at 301 962-9050.



before

after

Rock Creek Hills Park Renovations

The Association is very pleased with the work that the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission undertook to renovate our park. This park is located at the intersections of Saul Road and Haverhill Drive. This park is heavily utilized for recreational permitted uses.

The Association had requested several years ago that the MNCPPC expend funds to provide more tree shading, water fountain, pavilion, sidewalks and screening for the porta potties.

All projects have been completed, except for the pavilion. This project is to be completed but has been delayed due to the fact that MNCPPC had to let a new contract for this work. The pavilion will be built before the end of the 2006 and will be located close to the tennis courts.

Tired of Hearing the Beltway?

When I first moved into my house on Campbell Place there was some noise in my backyard that slowly became "white noise." Since then, new sound barriers have cropped up at various points near the parts of the beltway that border our backyards but there are huge places with no barriers. These "holes" between the barriers are the places closest to our neighborhoods. These holes trap the sound and have actually increased the noise level from the beltway. Apparently some folks have looked into this in hopes of finishing the barrier "wall" but have not met with success.

I'd like to form a Beltway Barrier Task Force to continue the civic engagement efforts in this endeavor. If you'd like to join me and/or share what you know about this situation please contact me at 301-587-0888 or at kwjaffe@aol.com

It's not over until it's over!

Karen Jaffe
2506 Campbell Place
Kensington, 20895

Get Involved With Neighbors Who Enjoy Making a Difference

Consider participating as much or as little as your time and interest permit: Join or lead one of our 6 standing committees:

- Building & Covenants
- Communications
- Legislative Planning & Zoning
- Health & Environment
- Special Events
- Transportation