

Fall Meeting
 Wednesday, October 10, 7:30pm-9:00pm
 St. Paul's United Methodist Church,
 10401 Armory Ave. in Kensington

NOTE: NEW LOCATION
 SEE REVERSE FOR MAP

rchca

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
 rchca.org

Your Neighborhood
 News and Information
 Fall 2007

Message from the Board

URGENT NEED FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Ordinarily, our message is one of seasonal greetings and notes on what is happening that affects our neighborhood and what RCHCA is doing. This time, we need to sound an urgent call for new Board members. Stepping down in 2008 is Shannon Hamm as Vice President after 8 years on our Board, and Bob MacDowall as Treasurer after 3 years on our Board.

In the last several years, your RCHCA Board has worked hard to provide our residents with various services, events and a strong voice in addressing with public officials issues of community concern.

Among the more notable successes in recent years include:

- Providing for traffic safety measures via what most observers agreed was a fair, thoughtful forum for discussion and voting;
- County funding for renovation of Rock Creek Park, including a new pavilion and water fountain;
- Restoring trash cans in neighborhood parks, which is only done by the county selectively and upon organized request;
- Maintaining covenants enforcement while promoting a good neighbor policy of keeping adjacent residents informed on home improvement projects;
- Obtaining public official support to provide train noise relief, also following a thoughtful forum for discussion and voting;
- Various informational and viewpoint exchange sessions, such as for "WSSC Big Dig", County sidewalk installation policy and procedures for approval, and the Safeway expansion;
- Traffic Triangle beautification (one project voted upon and done; process in place for others with commitment to maintain);

- Holding our annual Halloween Parade and Potluck, with participation of the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department;
- Concert in the Park (held annually until this year, due to lack of an organizer or Special Events Chairperson).

As most of you know, it's often the same people who do most of the volunteer work across organizations. In the last few years, perhaps by complacency or lack of high-profile issues, RCHCA has suffered from a lack of new volunteers. Now that we are faced with two critical openings on our Board, we must let everyone know that if new candidates for Vice President and Treasurer do not come forth, the very existence of our association may be in jeopardy. Descriptions of the duties of those positions are covered in a separate article in this newsletter.

Although someone has just volunteered to be chairperson of a nominating committee, we are seeking (a) additional volunteers to be on the nominating committee to find such prospective candidates; (b) volunteers to run as a candidate for any of the Board positions, and especially for the specific vacancies now anticipated for 2008; and (c) volunteers to be on any of our standing committees. Volunteers are requested to get in touch ASAP with Joe Rosenberg at jrosenberg@comcast.net or 301-495-9821.

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

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

rchca

Sunday, October 28, 2007 12:00 Noon - 3:00pm

C'mon Rock Creek Hills!
It's the Halloween Parade and Pot-luck!

hamburgers
 hot dogs
 cotton candy
 hay rides
 arts & crafts
 beverages
 moon bounce
 popcorn

Contact Laura Cihra at 301-949-9477 or leihra@comcast.net for details or to volunteer.

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

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.

Next Meeting

The RCHCA Fall 2007 General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10 at 7:30 pm.

Please note: As with the Winter meeting, the location has changed. We are no longer at Grace Episcopal Day School. We are now meeting in the Octagon room at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 10401 Armory Ave. in Kensington. The main entrance is located on Armory Ave.

Parking: On street parking is available on Armory Avenue, Fawcett Street, and Mitchell Street. Off street parking is available in the church parking lot, which is marked by a red asterisk on the map shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

Babysitting will be provided.

Among the Agenda items are:

- Treasurer's Report
- Montgomery Police Officer Denise Gill, speaking on crime prevention and the level and types of crime experienced in Rock Creek Hills
- Traffic Calming Update
- Train Noise Update
- Nominating Committee and prospective candidates for new officers
- Request for RCHCA to fund \$2,000 toward new playground at Rosemary Hills Primary School, followed by vote

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 Calming Update

By the time you receive this newsletter, traffic calming devices (speed humps) should have been installed on Kensington Parkway between Franklin Street and Bexhill Drive. Installation of the speed humps on this section of Kensington Parkway was supported by 87.50% of the residences identified by the County.

Speed humps will not be installed on Saul Road between Kensington Parkway and Old Spring Road. Installation of speed humps on this section of Saul was supported by 69.23% of the residences identified by the County. At least 80% of the residences must support the installation of speed humps for the County to proceed.

Open Positions on Executive Board for 2008

Note: We are an association of volunteers. We cannot provide the services expected by our members without residents willing to accept positions of some responsibility. Please consider taking a turn in office.

Vice President:

This job requires an individual who can provide assistance to the President and counsel on issues presented to the Executive Board. The VP may need to provide leadership on any unfilled Committee job or initiative that the Association feels is of highest priority. This position affords the opportunity to network with citizens, other Organizations on issues that may need to be brought to the attention of the President and the Association. The Vice President will fill in for the President when the President can not preside over a Citizens' Association meeting or a Board meeting.

Treasurer:

This job requires an individual to perform four basic functions: (a) prepare annual dues request mailings to residents of Rock Creek Hills, including the collection and timely processing of payments; (b) maintain financial accounts and records of the association; (c) disburse payments with the authorization of the Executive Committee; and (d) file an annual tax return with the state, without which our legal status to enforce covenants is forfeited. In addition, the Treasurer may be asked to assist with other matters involving association finances. The position does not require a background in accounting or bookkeeping.

Annual Halloween Parade and Potluck

Sunday, October 28, 2007 12:00 Noon - 3:00pm

Great News!! It is time for our annual Halloween Get-Together. It is a great time for families to come out from behind closed doors, dress their kids up in marvelous costumes that don't ever really fit or stay together and bond with their wonderful neighbors. The Rock Creek Hills Halloween Parade will begin at Noon on October 28th at the Rock Creeks Hills Park (aka, Circle Park, Saul Road Park, Soccer Park, etc.) at 11:45am. The Kensington Volunteer Fire Department will lead a parade through the neighborhood ending at the corner of Saul and East Bexhill around 12:30pm. For purposes of the potluck, families are asked to bring the following:

A-L: Sides or Salads; M-Z: Desserts

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.

Rock Creek Hills Citizens Association will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages. There will be an inflatable slide, cotton candy, popcorn and arts and crafts.

Contact Laura Cihra at 301-949-9477 or lcihra@comcast.net for details or to volunteer.

Train Noise Update

A quick recap: Early in 2006, the County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) completed a study of this issue at Forest Glen crossing. It described two alternative solutions; (a) a Quiet Zone, with a 4-quadrant gate system that fully substitutes for audible train horns, and (b) a Wayside Horn, a site-mounted horn with a lower required decibel measure and a much smaller area "soundprint". The State Highway Administration (SHA) agreed to fund the Wayside Horn as the most cost-effective solution. In late 2006, SHA wrote CSX to gain permission for a Wayside Horn installation on CSX's right-of-way, and requested CSX's participation in implementing this solution.

After no response for 5 months, we prodded SHA to write a second letter, to which CSX finally responded. While it agreed in principal to allow the Wayside Horn, it also kept raising various issues. By late summer, SHA admitted that no progress was being made, and that CSX was waiting for the issue to die. At this point, 1 ½ years after the DPWT study, it became obvious that neither SHA nor CSX would see this effort through without external pressure. To this end, another letter was written to various public officials and distributed to other interested parties. Since then, at least two additional citizens' groups have agreed to join us in writing letters to public officials. In early September, Rep. Van Hollen's office called to ask how they could help. State Senator Madaleno and Delegate Lawton also offered to help. Our position is that if there is no way to compel CSX to accept the Wayside Horn solution, we want to have the area designated as a Quiet Zone under Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) rules. In a Quiet Zone, once approved supplemental safety measures are implemented, CSX can be compelled to cease blowing its horns except under extraordinary circumstances. An update on subsequent progress will be given at the October 10 General Meeting.

Rosemary Hills Primary School Is Building a New Playground

Rosemary Hills Primary School (RHPS) is the public school for children in grades K – 2 who live in Rock Creek Hills. The "Rainbow School," as it is called, has a rich history and evokes fond memories for many Rock Creek Hills residents. It is located just off of East-West Highway in Silver Spring.

Last spring, the PTA at RHPS decided to do something about the sad state of the playground equipment at the school. As a result of generous donations by families, area businesses and several homeowners' associations in Chevy Chase, enough money was raised to purchase Phase 1 of a beautiful set of state-of-the-art playground equipment. The Phase 1 equipment has been installed and is being enjoyed by our children.

The fundraising continues, however, because more equipment is still needed. In addition, the PTA would like to add some necessary accessories such as benches, a water fountain, and picnic/art activity tables.

As a resident of Rock Creek Hills and a parent at Rosemary Hills, I respectfully put forth a motion that the Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association make a \$2,000 donation to the RHPS playground campaign. It would be an investment on behalf of the many children in our neighborhood who currently or in the future will attend RHPS.

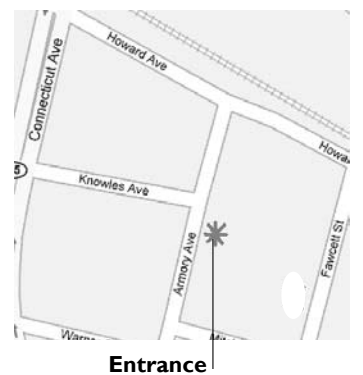
You will have an opportunity to vote on this motion at the October 10, 2007 RCHCA meeting. Thank you in advance for your consideration and if you have any questions about the playground campaign, feel free to contact me. Janice Pliner, 9505 Barroll Lane 301-962-6190, janicepliner@yahoo.com

Location for the October 2007 RCHCA Meeting

The October 10, 2007 meeting will be held at 7:30 PM in the Octagon room at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. St Paul's is on the northeast corner of the intersection of Armory Avenue and Mitchell Street.

Address: St. Paul's address is 10401 Armory Avenue. The Octagon room is on your right as you enter St. Paul's from Armory Avenue.

Parking: On street parking is available on Armory Avenue, Fawcett Street, and Mitchell Street. Off street parking is available in the church parking lot on Armory Avenue.



RCHCA Treasurer's Report

(1/1/2007-8/31/2007)

Balance (1/1/2007)
\$25,498.37

Income
5970.19

Expenses
3188.17

Balance (8/31/2007)
\$28,280.39

The Treasurer has processed and deposited all dues payments received at the time of this mailing. Please contact the Treasurer at 240-472-1170 with any questions or concerns.