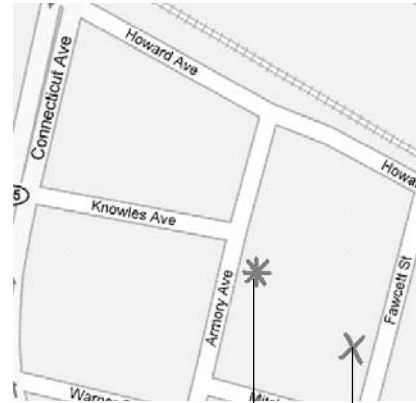


New Location for Spring General Meeting

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
10401 Armory Avenue,
Kensington



Parking

Entrance



RchCA

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

9909 East Bexhill Drive
Kensington, MD 20895

Spring Meeting

Wednesday, May 9th, 7:30-9:00

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
Spring 2007

Message from the Board

After fits and starts though mid-April, we hope that by the time you read this, Spring will have finally sprung.

We'd like to announce that our Executive Committee has a new member. Vince De Cain, a longtime Rock Creek Hills resident, has graciously accepted the position of Covenants Chair. Now Shannon Hamm only has to wear one hat in our association.

At our May 9 general meeting, we will have as a special guest, Mr. Peter Fosselman, Mayor of the Town of Kensington. He will speak to us about pedestrian safety, which has become an unfortunately prominent issue of late, as well as giving us an update on the new Safeway project. He will also be available to answer other questions of community interest.

Other topics to be covered include (a) a review of our Traffic Triangle beautification policy, possibly with a vote whether to fund any new triangle projects; (b) a covenants update by our new Covenants Chair; and (c) a discussion of whether and how RCHCA should respond to the county following resident requests for street repaving.

We urge more Rock Creek Hills residents to become active Association participants, and invite you to contribute your energy and imagination 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 that you wish:

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

Please note that as with our Winter meeting, **we are now holding all RCHCA meetings at the multi-purpose room in St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 10401 Armory Ave. in Kensington.** The multi-purpose room may be entered directly from Fawcett Street. A short blurb on our new location is located on the backside of our newsletter. **Please join us on May 9 at 7:30 pm at our next General Meeting. Babysitting will be provided.**

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

Renovation of Rock Creek Hills Triangles

The Board approved a request to improve the triangle at Haverhill Drive and Littledale Drive. The triangle cost the Association approximately \$1900.

The triangle improvement requests should be made to Shannon Hamm and consist of at least 3 landscaper bids. The Board will review each bid and present them to the Association for a vote at the next upcoming meeting. In considering whether to propose a renovation, the Board expects the residents near the triangle to provide maintenance by weeding the triangle. The Board will support maintenance of mulching, new plants, etc on a 3-5 year basis, but not to exceed \$500.

The Board will prioritize requests for renovations both by the order of their requests as well as the commitment from nearby residents on continued upkeep for the triangles. This is consistent with how the request for renovation on Haverhill and Littledale is being handled. Each new request for

another triangle renovation will be presented to the Association for a vote. To send in new requests, please contact Shannon Hamm at shannon@hammonline.net.

There are seven (7) triangles in our boundaries. The triangles include:

- McNeely triangle at Saul and Elrod
- Saul and Haverhill
- Haverhill and Littledale
(1st in renovation queue)
- East Bexhill and Hawick Ct
- Elrod and Hawick Ct
- Elrod and Old Spring
- Kent and East Bexhill

The Board understands the importance of improving these amenities, and would like the support of the citizens' association.

Next Meeting

The RCHCA Spring 2007 General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9 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 at the multi purpose room at **St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 10401 Armory Ave. in Kensington.** The multi-purpose room may be entered directly from Fawcett Street. The entrance to the multi-purpose room is marked by an X on the map (back of newsletter).

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 an asterisk on the map shown on the back of this newsletter.

Babysitting will be provided.

Among the Agenda items are:

- Treasurer's Report
- Covenants update
- Traffic Calming Update
- Kensington Mayor Pete Fosselman, speaking on pedestrian safety and new Safeway update. Also available for Q & A on topics of community interest
- Street repaving request

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.

Two Rock Creek Hills Parks?

Most residents of Rock Creek Hills are familiar with the Rock Creek Hills Park located at the intersection of Saul Road and Haverhill Drive. Rock Creek Hills Park is actually comprised of “two parcels - the recreation opportunities are located at the parcel on Saul Road. The second parcel is located between the Capital Beltway and Campbell Drive and is undeveloped woodland.” http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/park_of_the_day/apr/parkday_apr25.shtm

The park property between the Beltway and Campbell Drive is about ½ the size of the park at the intersection of Saul Road and Haverhill Drive. This parkland slopes down from Campbell Drive to the Beltway.

At the May RCHCA meeting, the Board proposes a discussion of potential recreational uses of this parkland to enhance the neighborhood

Traffic Calming Status Update

As this process continues, the County provided a speed hump location plan, and Official Resident Speed Hump Concurrence Forms for traffic calming on Saul Road on the day of the deadline for submissions to the newsletter. These will be presented to the residences identified by the County.

We hope to receive the speed hump location plan, and Official Resident Speed Hump Concurrence Forms for traffic calming on Kensington Parkway prior to the meeting on May 9th.

Neighborhood Road Condition after Resurfacing

A number of residents have complained about the condition of the road surfaces in the neighborhood following the resurfacing. The streets that were resurfaced in Rock Creek Hills were resurfaced in a two step process.

The first step involves spraying a layer of liquid asphalt (tar) on the road surface, then immediately spreading a layer of stone chips (aggregate) over it, using a special machine. The surface is then rolled to press the aggregate into the liquid asphalt. The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) web site calls this process “chip seal”.

The second step is an application of a thin asphalt overlay/sealer that will fill in slight imperfections and give the street a uniform color and texture. Most importantly it seals the street, thus preventing the infiltration of water, which is the most frequent cause of pavement failure. There is a residue (sandy grit) that remains loose on the finished surface, but it dissipates in a short time. The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) web site calls this process “micro seal”.

Several County resources and letters from County officials indicate that following the “chip seal” and “micro seal” process the new surface will be coarser than the previous surface, but will gradually become smoother under traffic.

The County uses the “chip seal” and “micro seal” process to resurface streets instead of using a hot mix asphalt to reduce the cost of road maintenance. Hot mix asphalt will generally provide a smooth surface, but is estimated to cost six times as much as the “chip seal” and “micro seal” process.

The Board would like to discuss what steps, if any, Rock Creek Hills Citizens Association should take to address the conditions of the neighborhood streets following the resurfacing.

Train Noise Update

The bureaucratic logjam appears to be slowly lifting. To refresh: A request was made last October by the State Highway Administration (SHA) to CSX Transportation requesting the latter's cooperation and use of its right of way to install and utilize a Wayside Horn. Although not a Quiet Zone, this cost-effective, compromise solution, which SHA offered to fund, is based on a site-mounted horn that affects a much smaller area than train mounted horns. The Wayside Horn also is required to be blown at a lower decibel level than train-mounted horns.

After 6 months of no response from CSX, a phone call was made by your President to SHA, informing them that a letter writing campaign would recommence to get public officials involved once again if this initiative were to languish indefinitely. We were finally informed that CSX has agreed in principal to cooperate with the proposed solution, although some issues remain to be worked out. Vigilance will be employed to see this effort through to fruition.

Covenants Update

In our continuing efforts to better inform residents about our covenants, these are some of the key Do's and Don'ts. Please feel free to contact Vince De Cain, Chair of the Covenants committee with questions, or Shannon Reid Hamm. Vince's number is (301) 946-5129.

Do's:

1. Know your covenants – if you need a copy call Vince or Shannon. Look in your Rock Creek Hills Directory for the main ones.
2. Before you plan any outside construction projects, contact your neighbors to discuss. This includes fences.
3. All fences must have permits and have approval by the Rock Creek Hills Executive Board.
4. Know your property lines. Get a survey.
5. Be courteous to your neighbors when speaking to them and when construction noise may be of concern. Talk with your neighbors during construction to see if there are any concerns.

Don'ts:

1. Don't wait until the last minute to talk to your neighbor about a major construction project.
2. Chain link fences are prohibited. Wrought Iron fences are not approved. The Covenants Inc. will enforce this policy.
3. Don't assume you know your property line.
4. Don't wait until the last minute to present your plans to the Rock Creek Hills Executive Committee. While we do try to be timely, all of us hold jobs and are subject to other emergencies. Minimum time for approval is 2 weeks.

RCHCA End of Summer Concert in the Park

The Board wants to continue our new tradition of concerts in the park in September. If you would like to help coordinate this event, please contact Shannon Hamm at Shannon@hammonline.net.

Invitation

If any other RCHCA member is interested in getting together a group to talk about how we in the neighborhood can take steps to protect our piece of the planet and slow climate change, please email me by May 5th. Karla Dobinski. (kdobinski@mind-spring.com)

RCHCA Treasurer's Report (1/1/2007-3/31/2007)

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

Income
138.20

Expenses
1,400.34

Balance (3/31/2007)
\$24,236.23

The Treasurer regrets that RCHCA dues payments received from Jan. 2007 through mid-April 2007 have not been processed. The checks should be deposited by the end of April 2007.