

Grace Episcopal Day School
9411 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD

Thursday, October 16, 7:30-9:00

Fall Meeting

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

THA

Sunday, November 2, 2008 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

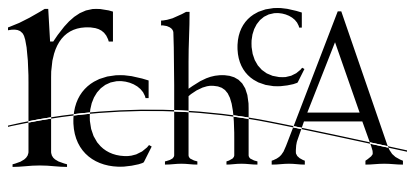
Contact Lyle Farmer
at 301.585.6989 or
michael.farmer@thomson
reuters.com for details
or to volunteer.

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.



Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association
rchca.org

Message from the Board

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer, and that when you read this, the A/C will be turned off for good.

The Board is happy to report that after missing one year, we were able to successfully hold our Concert in the Park back in May. Despite the driving rain, thanks to the valiant efforts of Laura Cihra, Lyle Farmer and many others, and especially to the spirit of everyone who showed up (with or without raincoats) we had a great band, food, tents and even a heater. We are sorry that Laura and her family are leaving Maryland, but wish to thank her again for her service as Special Events Chair. Lyle Farmer has graciously volunteered to take over this important position, which also is responsible for organizing the Halloween Parade and Potluck. That event will be held this year on Sunday, November 2.

We also want to thank our former Treasurer, Bob MacDowall, for volunteering to fill the long-vacant position of chairing the Health, Safety and Environment Committee. His committee is responsible for addressing community interests in these areas, including but not limited to all matters related to police, fire and sanitation services.

We will also be losing a volunteer after this year. Alexa Freeman will step down as Secretary of RCHCA after December, and we thank her for her service for the last three years. We cannot exist without a Secretary to take minutes at our meetings and record our association's official decisions. Please ask around, or consider taking a turn yourself, in filling this vital position for 2009.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of all successful community associations, and being so involved provides a great way get to know your neighbors better. In addition to needing a volunteer as Secretary, volunteers are also needed and

welcome to join any of our standing committees, which include the following (with Chairpersons):

- Transportation (Mike Baker)
- Special Events (Lyle Farmer)
- Communications (Jed Dinger)
- Building and Covenants (Vince De Cain)
- Health Safety and Environment (Bob MacDowall)
- Legislative, Planning and Zoning (vacant)

At most RCHCA meetings, we try to have a knowledgeable person come to speak about a topic of interest to our community. At our spring meeting, we had a County Planning Department official tell us about the status of the Purple Line Project, a future light rail facility that will run near Rock Creek Hills. At our upcoming fall meeting, we will have a Pepco spokesman tell us about the near-term outlook for electricity costs as well as conservation measures that offer the best pay-back on your investments. We are always looking for topics that may be of current interest to our members, so please let one of your Executive Board members know which topics you'd like to have covered at future meetings.

We hope that you will join us at 7:30 pm at Grace Episcopal Day School on Thursday, October 16.

<i>President</i>	Joe Rosenberg
<i>Vice President</i>	Bill Casson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Karyl Kramer
<i>Secretary</i>	Alexa Freeman

Next Meeting

The RCHCA Fall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2008 at Grace Episcopal Day School, 9411 Connecticut Ave, in the multipurpose room.

Please note the meeting location, which will remain at Grace Episcopal for the foreseeable future. The meeting will run from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. Babysitting will be provided.

Agenda items include:

- Treasurer's Report
- Guest Speaker from Pepco on electricity rates, home conservation measures, and utility plans
- Discussion of street lighting and related safety issues
- Update on proposal to fund and install Rock Creek Hills signage
- Update on train horn noise issue

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.

Speaker from Pepco

A guest Speaker from Pepco will provide a talk on current and future electric power needs and plans. Included will be estimates of user costs of electricity over the next few years and further into the future, and discussions of various energy efficiency improvements, especially "green" investments that homeowners can make, and their payback. Peak load problems, which recently are often occurring during extreme summer temperatures, will be discussed, and the need for new or expanded high voltage transmission lines. Plans for new or expanded power plants, and coal, gas, nuclear, and wind technologies will be considered. Time allowing, an estimate will be attempted of how long it might be before we can generate all U.S. electricity without depending on foreign resources for fuel.

Resolution of Traffic Triangle (or Traffic Circle) Improvement Policy

In the spring newsletter, a detailed history was provided covering the issue and policies (past and proposed) of RCHCA support for Traffic Triangle (or Traffic Circle) Improvement. The issue of cost sharing has been one of the more contentious areas in what people felt would make for a fair policy.

To paraphrase the discussion, people felt that it would be burdensome to have residents go around and collect the contributions from those in closest proximity to each location that has been approved for RCHCA support. Instead, a motion was passed in which the additional 50% of annual maintenance costs would be raised by adding language in the dues mailings as follows: "Residents interested in supporting annual costs of traffic triangle project maintenance are encouraged to do so by including an additional amount above the recommended \$35 in their annual dues payment." If this proves to obtain the required revenue, the issue is over; if not, the Board reserves the right to reopen the matter for future consideration.

Progress in Kensington Sector Plan

On Monday, September 15, planners will present to the Planning Board a draft scope of work for the Town of Kensington and Vicinity Sector Plan, which will amend the 1978 version. Planners recommend a comprehensive study of the area's land uses and zoning that would cover the town as well as the West Howard Antiques District and the commercial area at Connecticut Avenue and University Boulevard.

Revitalization would take place while preserving Kensington's rich history and residential neighborhood. Possibilities highlighted in the scope of work are strategies to enliven the town center with well-designed streets and gathering spaces; strengthen sustainable concepts such as energy efficiency, water conservation and reduced carbon emissions through environmental guidelines; and connect neighborhoods to the town center with a network of sidewalks, paths and bike trails.

Planners propose to work closely with town officials throughout the process and involve members of the Coalition of Kensington Communities, an umbrella civic association, in developing recommendations. Planners have held two community meetings to identify residents' land use concerns and gather ideas and will continue to seek input from the community as they ink the plan.

The current (1978) Kensington Sector Plan is available on the internet at: http://www.mc-mncppc.org/community/plan_areas/georgia_avenue/master_plans/kensington/toc_kensington.shtm. Reviewing the 1978 plan can provide an idea of the potential impact of the new sector plan.

Annual Halloween Parade and Potluck

Sunday, November 2, 2008 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 Sunday, November 2 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.

Please consider volunteering to help! (see details below).

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 Lyle Farmer at 301.585.6989 or michael.farmer@thomsonreuters.com for details or to volunteer.

Train Horn Noise Update

Upon request by all of our elected officials and many community associations, the County's DPWT Traffic Safety Division has commissioned another study on this topic, focusing more directly upon the low-cost, mountable median barrier solution that has already been approved by the Federal Railroad Administration. That study is now about 90% completed. The Traffic Safety Chief informs me that a decision based on the study's findings is very likely to be made before year end. Stay tuned.

Street Lighting Concerns

It has been suggested to the RCHCA Board that the following request be sent to MNPPC, if approved by vote at the next RCHCA meeting:

Given the complete lack of street lighting along Beach Drive near Connecticut Avenue and the concurrent reduced level of personal security, the membership of the Rock Creek Hills Citizens Association requests that MNPPC consider placing street lights along Beach Drive from Connecticut Avenue to Stonybrook Drive.

Any anecdotes that would argue for (or against) street lights on Beach Drive are welcome.

Another safety issue that has been raised is street lights throughout Rock Creek Hills that are burn out or malfunctioning.

It only takes a couple of minutes to copy the 10-digit number on the light pole and to call PEPCO at 202-833-7500

(7 AM - 8 PM M-F) to get the light repaired. Please feel free to email or call Bob MacDowall, chair of the Health, Safety, and Environment Committee, if you have RCH safety or related issues that need attention (bmacdowall@gmail.com; 301-942-5845).

RCHCA Treasurer's Report

(As of 9/15/08)

Income from dues

(4/01/08 -9/15/08)

\$5,345.00

Expenses

(4/01/08- 9/15/08)

\$6,150.47

Account Balance

(As of 3/31/08)

\$34,499.09

Account Balance

(As of 9/15/08)

\$33,743.33