

9411 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD
Grace Episcopal Day School

Thursday, October 8, 7:30-9:00

Fall Meeting

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

THA

Sunday, November 1, 2009 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

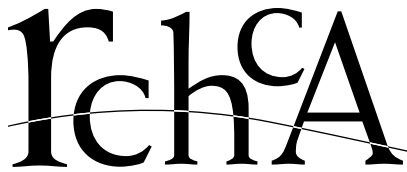
Contact Lyle Farmer
at 301.585.6989 or
michael.farmer@thomson
reuters.com for details
or to volunteer.

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

Your Neighborhood
News and Information

Fall 2009

Message from the Board

We hope that everyone had a good summer and that back-to-school/back-to-work transitions haven't been too painful. Unfortunately, at the time this is being written, a number of our residents have been victims of recent car break-ins, and have asked whether we can obtain stepped up police presence. Equally unfortunate is the fact that Rock Creek Hills is not alone in seeing an upsurge in this type of crime since the end of summer. Information is presented elsewhere in this newsletter on how to prevent this type of crime and how to observe crime concentrations by type in different areas of the county.

In response to the expressed preference of our listserv members among three alternative topics for the October 8 General Meeting, we have invited a speaker on the WSSC Bi-County Water Tunnel Project and how it will impact our community. Recall that in January, WSSC Public Affairs Coordinator Mike McGill gave a presentation at our lightly-attended Annual Meeting. Now that the blasting is imminent, and that we can expect some level of neighborhood impact for the next four years, residents have expressed a desire to know more about how this project will affect them. This will be a great opportunity for concerned residents to ask Mr. McGill and his two Project Managers all relevant questions.

Also upcoming is our annual Halloween Parade and Potluck, scheduled for Sunday, November 1. Organizing this again is Lyle Farmer, our Special Events Chairperson. Lyle was quite successful in appeasing the rain gods for our Mother's Day "Concert (and Barbeque) in-the-Park" back in May, and we trust that he arranged the same tranquility for the Halloween event. I'm sure that Lyle would appreciate volunteers to help him setting up and managing this event, so please contact him. (See article elsewhere in newsletter).

We are always looking for new volunteers to help out on our various committees. It is also a great way to get to know your neighbors better. By strengthening our association, we will remain in a good position to speak with a larger voice than can be done by individuals when issues arise that warrant being addressed by our elected public officials. Please check out our committees and all association matters at www.rchca.org.

We look forward to seeing you on October 8.
Babysitting will be provided.

<i>President</i>	Joe Rosenberg
<i>Vice President</i>	Bill Casson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Karyl Kramer
<i>Secretary</i>	Mike Baker
<i>Communications</i>	Jed Dinger

Next Meeting

The RCHCA Fall Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday evening**, October 8, 2009. It will be held at Grace Episcopal Day School, 9411 Connecticut Ave, in the multipurpose room. The meeting will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. **Babysitting will be provided.**

Agenda items include:

- Treasurer's Report
- WSSC Bi-County Water Tunnel Project and impacts on Rock Creek Hills. Speakers will include Mike McGill, Public Affairs Coordinator, along with Project Managers John Mitchell and Steve Pinault. This will offer a great opportunity for Q&A, following their presentation.
- Joe Rosenberg will provide an update on car break-in issue, based on whatever information can be obtained from conversations with the County Police.
- 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.

Car Break-In Issue

Since the end of summer, Rock Creek Hills, along with many other neighborhoods in this part of the county, has experienced an upsurge in the crime of car break-ins. As RCHCA President, I felt it my responsibility to follow up with two Police District 2 officials: the District 2 County Police Community Services Officer, Dana Matthis, and District 2 Officer Denise Gill. Some of you may remember Officer Gill, who spoke at RCHCA meetings on crime prevention twice over the last five or six years.

Among the things that I learned, mainly from Officer Gill, were these facts: (a) Over 50 people have been arrested for car thefts and break-ins in the Second District since the first of the year; (b) many of those arrested are repeat offenders, and most are 25 years of age or under; (c) 14 break-ins have occurred in Rock Creek Hills area since September 1; and **(d) that Kensington/Rock Creek Hills has had a stepped up police presence since the beginning of September.**

Officer Gill asked me to emphasize that **theft from cars is a "crime of opportunity", and leaving electronic items or other valuables visible is the surest way to becoming a victim. It is critical to be vigilant and to report all suspicious activity, not just to report crimes after the fact.** Unfortunately, one further aspect of budget cuts, here and elsewhere, is that non-violent offenders are increasingly being released, which contributes to the repeat offender problem. Letting public officials know that releasing offenders with more than "three strikes" is another potential avenue for protest, but obviously people may have different views on this subject.

Two resources that people can refer to at this time:

- County brochure on how to prevent theft from cars. Although it largely offers common sense advice, it does offer some useful ideas:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/Pol/media/pdf/preventveh.pdf>

- Crime reports website, with graphical representation of crimes on a map by type, and centered by zipcode, here by 20895:

www.crimereports.com/map?search=20895

One can see how concentrated or dispersed such crime is in different areas. One can hold the cursor down on the map and drag it to show how much similar crimes occur in areas neighboring our zipcode, or else one can just type in other zipcodes for comparison.

I will be getting another update on this issue to report on at the October 8 RCHCA General Meeting. Meantime, please stay vigilant and report anything suspicious and all crimes.

Joe Rosenberg

Unnecessarily Unlighted – the Street Lights of RCH

Many streets of Rock Creek Hills are darker than necessary because of dim, flickering, or completely dark street lights. A recent survey of several streets found two lights out on Littledale, 2 out and one turning on and off on Kent, and four out on Stoneybrook. To improve security, residents should report malfunctioning street lights on any of the wooden poles in Rock Creek Hills to PEPSCO at 1-877-PEPCO62 (1-877-737-2662) or online at www.pepco.com (click on Street Light Problems). Provide the address OR the pole number (of form 123456-7890). You may also use Montgomery County's web page <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/trstmpl.asp?url=/content/DOT/traffic/Streetlight-mtc.asp> with maps to locate poles. The latter might be faster for you, but seems to omit a number of the light poles in Rock Creek Hills. Finally, feel free to call (240-472-1170) or email (bmacdowall@gmail.com) the Health and Safety Committee Chair (Bob MacDowall) if you need assistance reporting a malfunctioning street light.

Speaker from WSSC on Bi-County Water Tunnel Project Presentation with time to Answer all Questions:

Reprising his role from our January meeting, WSSC Public Affairs Coordinator Mike McGill said he'd return when project activity was about to begin. Given that blasting will be beginning very soon, Mr. McGill was invited to come again to our October meeting. Although some of the project overview materials were covered at the January meeting, attendance was light, and RCHCA residents expressed a strong interest in having this topic over others considered to be presented again. Along with his two Project Managers, John Mitchell and Steve Pinault, the WSSC team will provide a review of the project itself, followed by a Q&A session to try and address all residents' concerns.

This project will include a huge underground pipe (twelve feet in diameter) that runs from the water works at the Potomac River, across Montgomery County, and finally to Prince George's County. The project is expected to take another four years from now until completion, with a significant amount of work performed in the Rock Creek Hills area. Given that much of the local impact will come from blasting and truck removal of dirt and stone, with activity happening day and night, we believe that residents will want to ask a number of questions regarding exactly what and when they should expect different activities to occur, and how any issues or concerns will be addressed by WSSC.

Train Noise Update

The formal process of creating a Quiet Zone at Forest Glen-Linden Lane rail crossing has begun. Lane separators which prevent cars from driving around the extended gate arms at the tracks were installed at the end of July. In mid-August, certified letters were sent out providing notification of intent to create a Quiet Zone to all relevant parties. After a 60-day comment period, a formal application to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will be submitted, explaining how any issues raised during the comment period will be resolved. The FRA then has another 60 days to respond to the application. Assuming there are no impediments, notification of establishment letters will go out with an effective date around the end of January or early February. So far, one issue has arisen about pedestrian safety near the tracks, since the lane separators prevent cars from driving around pedestrians who are walking on the road. The county Transportation Dept. is committed to resolve this issue by trying to install sidewalks on both sides of the tracks. Stay tuned for further developments.

Annual Halloween Parade and Potluck

Sunday, November 1, 2009, 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 kids in costumes and bond with their wonderful neighbors.

The Rock Creek Hills Halloween Parade will begin at 12 Noon on Sunday, November 1 at the Rock Creeks Hills Park (aka, Circle Park, Saul Road Park, Soccer Park, etc.) Meet at 11:45am to line up. 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: If your last name begins with A-L: Bring Desserts; M-Z: Bring 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.

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.

Doggie Mutt Mitts and Park Amenities - Volunteers Welcomed

As many of you know RCHCA supports funding the Mutt Mitts at the Park and along Kingston Drive. This is a wonderful service. So far, I have been filling the dispensers and know with more volunteers we can keep the dispensers filled all of the time. So please email me, Shannon.r.hamm@aphis.usda.gov, if you can help keeping the dog dispensers filled at the park and at the dispenser at Kingston and Saul Road.

Thanks.

Shannon Hamm
9805 East Bexhill Dr.

Treasurer's Report

(As of 9/1/09)

Income (4/1/09 - 9/1/09):
\$ 2,045.00

Expenses
(4/1/09 - 9/1/09):
\$8,586.82

Account Balance
(As of 4/1/09): \$40,348.12

Account Balance
(As of 9/1/09): \$33,813.43

If you have not yet paid your \$35.00 annual dues for the 2009 calendar year, please send your payment to:

Karyl Kramer,
RCHCA Treasurer
9524 W. Stanhope Rd.
Kensington, MD 20895

Your dues payment of \$35.00 permits RCHCA to organize the Halloween picnic and other social events, publish triannual newsletters and the community directory, rehabilitate traffic triangles, and pay other expenses.

Thank you for supporting your community.