

9411 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD  
Grace Episcopal Day School

Spring Meeting  
Thursday, May 14  
Meeting 7:30-9:00

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

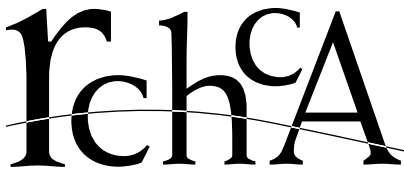
RCHCA

## **2009 RCHCA Community Directory is about to be Delivered!!!**

Your Executive Committee and webmaster Sam Hoxie have been busily at work producing our triennial Rock Creek Hills 2009 Community Directory. Among the features it will contain that residents have come to rely on are:

- Residential listings, alphabetical by last name (and other surname) and also by street address;
- Information on RCHCA as an organization (officers & committee chairs, constitution and bylaws, ways for people to get involved, special events, services, boundaries, and history);
- Useful phone numbers (county offices, emergency, hospitals, hotlines, local public schools, and utilities);
- Covenants, Home Construction and Improvement Approval Checklist, and Neighborhood Notification form
- Listing of local advertisers (who help make publication possible)

Look for this in your mail around the end of May!



Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association  
rchca.org

Your Neighborhood  
News and Information  
Spring 2009

## Message from the Board

By the time you read this newsletter, spring weather (and hopefully not summer weather) should be fully in bloom.

This spring, we are undertaking one of RCHCA's most valued efforts according to many of our residents: Producing the 2009 Rock Creek Hills Community Directory. Typically, new directories are published every three years. Not only do our directories tell how to get in touch with our neighbors but they also provide a complete record of who lives where, organized both by last name and by street address. Directories also contain much useful information, such as the history and boundaries of Rock Creek Hills, how our association functions, what services and events we sponsor, and a list of useful phone numbers.

Special thanks to Sam Hoxie for assuming the lion's share of directory production efforts, as well as thanks to Bob MacDowall for tracking down an updated record of current residents, to Jed Dinger for designing the cover pages and coordinating with the printer, to Mike Baker for updating the useful phone listings, and, if I may say, to yours truly for obtaining and working with local advertisers to help defray production costs. Since we expect to update the RCHCA Constitution and Bylaws at our May 14 General Meeting, the Directory is expected to be finalized immediately afterwards and should be in residents' hands around the end of May. For more details, please see the blurb on our new directory elsewhere in this newsletter.

Regarding the Constitution and Bylaws, the issue was raised at the Annual Meeting in January that some of its articles were out of date in terms of RCHCA current practices, including trends of member participation required to enact business. A summary of the proposed changes is included elsewhere in this newsletter. The full Constitution and Bylaws as proposed to be amended is accessible on our website at [www.rchca.org](http://www.rchca.org).

I'd also like to acknowledge the addition of a formal new position, that of RCHCA Representative to Coalition of

Kensington Communities (CKC). Donna Tisdale has been ably performing this as an informal role (previously with Jessica Hughes), but it has become time to make this position official and list it on our website so people with related questions will know whom to contact and how. On May 14, Donna will discuss what the CKC is, and various items that should be of interest to our members, including the Kensington Sector Plan, the impact of county budget cuts, and various transportation issues. Donna's talk will be followed by a Q & A session. Please see her article in this newsletter for more details.

Shortly after you receive this newsletter but before the Spring General Meeting, we expect to hold our Concert on the Park on Mother's Day for the second year in a row, on May 10. Giving moms a break from cooking seems to be a popular idea that we should stick with. Based on last year's turnout under "slightly damp" skies, we feel confident that our intrepid residents will be undeterred from coming out and partying no matter what. Please see the article in this newsletter for details.

Finally, I'd like to remind residents that as of a few months ago, we have a new, smart-looking, easy to use, and more informative website ([www.rchca.org](http://www.rchca.org)), thanks to the efforts of our talented webmeister, Sam Hoxie. Please check it out.

We look forward to seeing you on May 14. 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 Spring Meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, May 14, 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
- Proposed changes to RCHCA Constitution and Bylaws: Presentation of each substantive change with reasons for being proposed, discussion as needed, and voting to approve or disapprove proposed changes.
- Speaker Donna Tisdale, RCHCA Representative to Coalition of Kensington Communities (CKC): Donna will explain what CKC is, and among other things, discuss potential impacts on Rock Creek Hills of the Kensington Sector Plan, expected county budget cuts, and state and local transportation plans. A Q&A session will follow her presentation.
- 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](mailto:jrosenberg@comcast.net) if you are interested in helping.

## PLEASE COME TO MAY 14 MEETING AND VOTE ON RCHCA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES;

### 20 PERSON QUORUM REQUIRED!!!

#### Summary of RCHCA Constitution and Bylaw Changes:

Four substantive changes to RCHCA's Constitution and Bylaws are described and explained here, including the Articles and Sections affected and the reasons for change. Members are encouraged to read both the revised Constitution and Bylaws and the markup document available on our website, with the two versions labeled either "... track changes accepted" or "...track changes on".

**Voting to approve the proposed changes will be held at our May 14 General Meeting. Distribution of this notice via the RCHCA spring newsletter fulfills the existing Constitution and Bylaws requirement for a 10-day minimum notification period prior to holding such a vote.**

Non-substantive changes are mostly wording corrections or language clarifications. Please note that all proposed changes have been concurred in unanimously by the Executive Committee of RCHCA (officers and standing committee chairs).

A summary of the four substantive changes is shown below:

#### **1. Membership in Good Standing is Made Explicit, Article III, Sec. 2.**

Membership in "good standing" for having one's vote count is being made explicit, meaning that household dues have been paid in full. Each adult in a "good standing" household remains eligible to vote.

#### **2. Change in required number of nominating committee members from five to at least two, Article VI, Sec. 1.**

This change reflects two things: That having a larger number of mandatory members is often difficult to obtain, and that there is no need for a "tie-breaker" if we only have two members. The fact is that (a) there's never been a tie, and (b) there is no need for a single slate of candidates to be nominated. The job of the nominating committee is simply to find qualified candidates who are willing to serve. In the event of more than one candidate for the same office, then the members at large would actually have a choice! (What a novel concept for an election!)

#### **3. Flexibility in scheduling meetings, Article VI, Sections 1 & 3, and Article VII, Sec. 1.**

Flexibility on choice of day of the week for holding our General Meetings, by simply referencing the fact that they will be held in May and October meeting, and that the Annual Meeting will be held in either late January or early February. Residents are advised to check both the current newsletter and our website, both of which will have the exact date and location at least seven days in advance. This flexibility recognizes the fact that to accommodate our host facility, we have had to switch from our traditional meeting day of the week now mentioned in the Constitution, and still occasionally get bumped to different days by more steady customers for the meeting site that we use.

#### **4. Changing the required membership in attendance for a quorum to transact business, from 20 to 12, Article VII, Sec. 3.**

The proposal to reduce the quorum requirement is necessary to avoid invalidating all business transacted at many of our meetings when attendance is sparse. As a matter of practice, any business that requires substantial expenditures of funds is always announced at least a week to 10 days in advance, by RCHCA newsletter, by our listserv RCHCAnet, and by our website, RCHCA.org.

## Annual Concert in the Park: Mother's Day May 10th

Our Annual Concert in the Park is on again this year! For those who braved the monsoon at last year's event, the RCHCA board has made a special appeal and we are assured of fair weather! Our format of having this event on or near Mother's Day was so well received we will plan to keep this format going forward. Once again this year, the concert has two unique features that will make it special and fun for the entire family.

The headline act will be The RTT's! see <http://cdbaby.com/cd/rttp>. The RTT's are a local group described as: "This wholesome, rootsy and americana-styled [album] charts the fine balance between an album that's fun, catchy, kid-friendly and yet classic, respectable and considerate of grown-ups. This is no less than kid's music with adult integrity." (emphasis added). The Washington Post. Friday, May 14, 2004; Page WE07. The RTT's "grown up side" are the Rhodes Tavern Troubadours! The Washington Post writes: The quartet pays homage to the past by playing roots rock, country, swing and R&B with more flair than any band in town. They can strut through a Ray Price shuffle, break your heart on the soul standard "The Dark End of the Street" or get your feet moving with originals that sound like tracks from a long-lost NRBQ record. see <http://cdbaby.com/cd/rtrtroubadours>.

Once again the second feature of this year's event is that a picnic style dinner will be provided compliments of RCHCA! The menu will feature traditional Barbecue fair with vegetarian and children's options. Bring your own Dessert! PLEASE RSVP and indicate how many adults (13 and over) and how many kids. Tell mom to relax, bring a blanket and enjoy a great concert and dinner on us! Glass containers and alcoholic beverages are not permitted on MCP property.

Where: Rock Creek Hills Park: Saul & Haverhill

When: May 10 4-7 pm. Dinner served at 5.

RSVP: Please reply by Sunday, May 3 with the number of adults and kids for dinner only, via email (no attachments please); Subject: Concert RSVP to [kathleenlyle@verizon.net](mailto:kathleenlyle@verizon.net)

## Train Noise Update

The County Dept. of Transportation is moving ahead on two key steps: (a) installing the lane separators, signage, and pavement marking upgrades that were identified as necessary in its 2008 study for establishing a Quiet Zone at Forest Glen-Linden Lane; and (b) working with a consultant to prepare the formal application to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to establish a Quiet Zone, which also entails state review for safety concerns.

These two items will be pursued more or less in parallel. The installations are expected to be implemented more quickly, and we are told this should be done before spring is over. The Quiet Zone application and approval process time frame is less clear, but it will begin prior to completing installation of the upgraded safety features. Silencing of the routine blowing of train horns except on an "as needed" basis requires both steps to be completed. We will remain vigilant throughout this entire process.

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## CKC Happenings

The Coalition of Kensington Communities (CKC) represents 10 citizens associations in the greater Kensington area; our purpose is to enhance the quality of life in our community.

At present the CKC has been active in many areas; the development of the Kensington Sector Plan, learning about the projected county's budget cuts and the possible impact to our neighborhoods, listening to county council regarding the annual growth policy, meeting with SHA representative regarding transportation needs and realistic tasks to support, and the upcoming vote on the rapid bus transit system for Montgomery County.

All of the above issues will affect Kensington and surrounding areas. The CKC has put forth recommendations to the sector plan and has been involved in the process.

I will share more detailed information and updates as possible on these areas at the May RCHCA meeting. The CKC website, [www.ckckensington.net](http://www.ckckensington.net), has documents regarding the sector plan and the annual growth policy.

Donna Tisdale  
*CKC representative –  
Rock Creek Hills*

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## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

(As of 4/1/09)

Income (1/25/09 - 4/1/09):  
\$8,003.00

Expenses (1/25/09 – 4/1/09):  
\$1,709.46

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

Account Balance (As of  
1/25/09):\$34,054.58