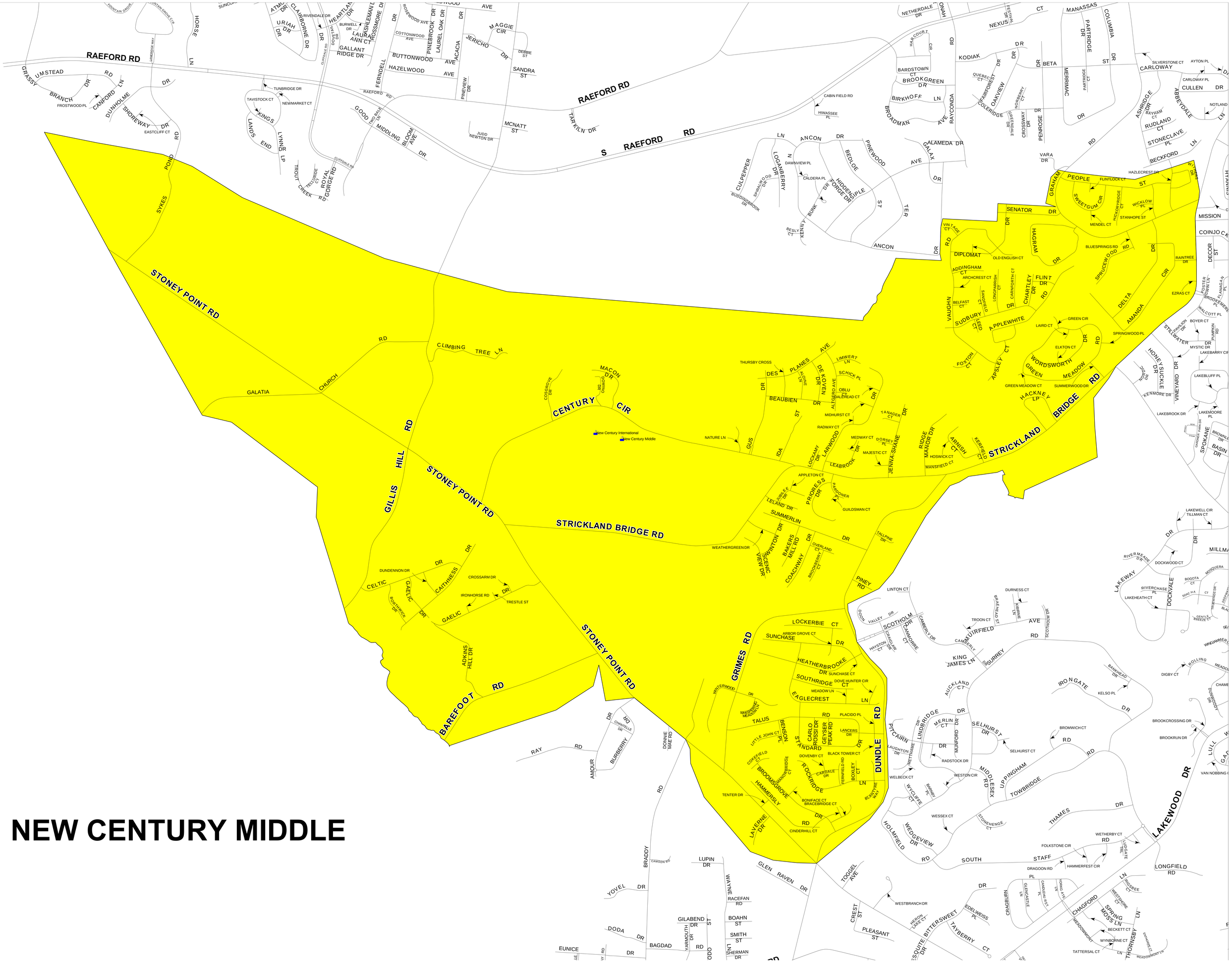NEW CENTURY MIDDLE