



Over the Fence

News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association

Fall 2007 Edition

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim Gill asked me to prepare the President's Message since he is on a business trip. Another summer has come and gone, and another Arlington County Fair. During the fair, the neighborhood organized two successful fundraisers: a lemonade stand, and a fair booth sponsored by Merrifield Garden Center. We raised \$2,085 through these efforts and with donations of money and labor by AHCA members. The executive committee voted to use some of these funds for social events, but most will be used as matching funds for a Park Enhancement Grant application. If awarded in full, the new park area at TJ will have a water source, an information kiosk/park sign for posting neighborhood news, and two benches installed along the new asphalt path installed in August.

Over the course of the summer, other neighborhoods have joined AHCA efforts to bring attention to needs at TJ, by joining to support master planning of the Thomas Jefferson grounds. Alcova Heights, Douglas Park, and Penrose have all provided formal support. Efforts to bring additional neighborhoods into the fold will continue.

School and county staff are working together to formalize a process for collaboration for major capital improvements at these joint-use facilities. In the meantime, the Building Level Planning Committees for TJMS, Wakefield HS and the Career Center have been suspended. Due to budget constraints, the School Board will select which of these projects to fund first. Experience with the Yorktown BLPC has shown that earlier contribution from the county on school projects could be very beneficial. Specifically, the Yorktown project did not include underground or tiered parking, and the neighborhood has had to cope with increased parking on neighborhood streets as a result. AHCA will continue to watch developments.

Please join us for our **next meeting on Tuesday, October 9, at 7 p.m.**, in the Patrick Henry Elementary School library (agenda is below). There are also a number of interesting events the weekend of Oct. 20-21. On October 21st, we will hold a neighborhood **Halloween Parade** and Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization is sponsoring its first **Taste of the Pike**. Additionally there will be a **community volunteer beautification project** on October 20th to remove invasive plants (Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, etc.) at TJ. Please see details for these events in "Upcoming Events".

AHCA has made many strides this year thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of our volunteers. Thank you, everyone!

Juliet Hiznay, First Vice-President

COME TO OUR HALLOWEEN PARADE on Oct. 21st, starting at 4 p.m. at the 500 block of S. Garfield St. *cul de sac*, featuring:

- **Prizes for best child & dog costumes (leashed & child friendly pooches only)**
- **Drawing for gift certificates from local businesses (see details in Upcoming Events)**
- **Face Painting**
- **Free Cider and Holiday Cookies**

The parade route will begin on the sidewalk of S. Garfield and 6th St., travel down 6th St. to Irving, Irving to 3rd St., 3rd St. to Ivy, Ivy to 5th and back to 6th St., ending at S. Garfield St. in the *cul de sac*.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 9, 2007, 7 p.m. -- AHCA Meeting -- Patrick Henry Elementary School Library

Please join us for our fall AHCA meeting. Included on this meeting's agenda will be: (1) Planning for the 2008 County Fair – what went right, and what needs to be improved; (2) AHCA Finances – Setting 2008 Dues; (3) Speeding on Second St. S.; (4) Columbia Pike Development and changes to the Form Based Code; (5) County and School Capital Improvements Planning and Master Planning for Joint Use Sites; (6) Neighborhood Conservation Report & Vote on Project Priority; (7) Bylaws Amendment Committee; (8) Nominations Committee – 2008 Officer Elections.

Saturday, October 20, 2007, 9-12 a.m. – Invasive Plants Removal at Thomas Jefferson

*Sponsored by Arlington County Invasive Species Program
& Juliet Hiznay*

Coffee and donuts served at 9 a.m.! Come help us make TJ look great so we can put in better looking trees along the Arlington Blvd. fence. Volunteers will assist by removing invasive plants – volunteers with experience identifying invasive plants will be available for consultation. Program staff estimates that we can finish the project in a single morning if we have 20 volunteers. You do not need to commit for the entire morning. If you cannot make it as early as 9, that's also fine. We will meet in the northeast field at TJ (bordered by Arlington Boulevard and S. Irving Street). *Please bring work gloves and clippers if you have them; long pants and boots are recommended.* Contact Juliet Hiznay at 202-352-8982 or at strangefruitblues@yahoo.com with any questions.

Sunday, October 21, 2007, 12-7 p.m. – Taste of the Pike Sponsored by the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization

Come celebrate our community at the first annual Taste of the Pike on October 21st, 2007 organized by the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization!! Columbia Pike is home to one of the most ethnically diverse communities in America. An international festival featuring culturally diverse food, music and dance performances, arts and crafts, and health/wellness screenings, is the perfect way to highlight what is so unique and wonderful about the Pike. This outdoor, family-friendly festival will take place at the Arlington Mill Community Center from 12:00-7:00 pm at the intersection of Columbia Pike and S. Dinwiddie St. Admission is free. See http://www.columbiapikepartnership.com/UPCOMING/index_E.html for more information. To volunteer for the set-up or clean-up crews, please contact Pamela Holcomb of CPRO at 703-892-2776 or pholcomb@columbiapike.org.

Sunday, October 21, 2007, 4-5 p.m. – Neighborhood Halloween Parade/Neighborhood Party

*Sponsored by the Arlington Heights Civic Association
& AHCA Volunteers*

Neighborhood volunteers are reviving our tradition of the Halloween Parade. It will be held on Sunday, October 21 and will meet and end at the 500 block of S. Garfield St. (*cul de sac*). Arrangements are being made to have an Arlington County fire truck lead the parade, and it seems likely we will have one. Some neighborhood streets will be blocked off for the parade. Free holiday snacks and drinks will be available for all participants. A drawing of names will take place after the parade, with prizes from local businesses. To be eligible for the drawing, you must purchase a new 2007 paid membership *or* pre-pay your 2008 membership *or* make a donation of \$20 or more to the civic association. If you do all three, you can enter three times. You must be present to claim your prize if your name is drawn. Contact Social Committee Chair, RJ Thacher, with any questions, at rj.thacher@verizon.net.

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PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION – JOIN FOR 2007

SEND TO: AHCA, c/o Jason Torchinsky, Treasurer, 3109 S. 7th St., Arlington, VA 22204

Name(s): _____

Address: _____, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Enclosed is \$12.00 for a 2007 Family Membership Membership Enclosed is \$25.00 for a 2007 Business Membership
 Enclosed is an additional donation of \$ _____

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

- AHCA is an all-volunteer organization that depends on member dues (currently we have 54 paid memberships out of 900+ households). You can pay for your membership by mail or online at www.ahca.info/about/join.
- Your street may be eligible for permit parking. If interested, see details online at www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/parking/EnvironmentalServicesZone.aspx
- You can contact Arlington County online to report a problem with your sidewalks, streets, streetlights, and many other problems, at www.arlingtonva.us/portals/Topics/TopicsProblem.aspx
- Our county Park Area Manager, Kurt Louis, can be reached at 703-228-7754 to report any problems.

Free Your Trees; Cut Down the Ivy

Contributed by Mary Ann Lawler of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Arlington County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources has published a brochure called "Invaders in Our Backyards—Help Save Arlington's Parks from Invasive Vines." It describes several invasive exotic species of vines, which are taking over many of the natural areas in parks throughout the county. The brochure says that English ivy is the worst problem for parks, because it "can take over and destroy wildflowers, shrubs, and native groundcover in its path. It eventually kills the trees it climbs."

Ivy is detrimental to trees for several reasons. It can pull down small trees. Vines climbing up tree trunks spread out and surround branches and twigs, preventing most of the sunlight from reaching the leaves of the host tree. They keep the bark damp and make trees vulnerable to fungus and insect pests. The added weight of vines makes infested trees susceptible to blow-over during storms. Loss of host tree vigor becomes evident within a few years and is followed by death a few years later. English ivy also serves as a reservoir for bacterial leaf scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*), a plant pathogen that is harmful to native trees such as elms, oaks, and maples. Furthermore, once ivy climbs trees, it produces dark blue berries, which fall or are eaten by birds further spreading the vines.

To prevent its spread and to save your own trees, cut ivy at about eye-level and pull it away from the trunk. The ivy above eye level will die and fall off. After cutting, you can also paint the lower portions of the stems and foliage with an herbicide that contains the active ingredient triclopyr without wetting the tree bark. Follow label directions carefully. Because English ivy is an evergreen vine, and remains active during the winter, herbicide applications can be made to it any time of year as long as temperatures are above 55 or 60 degrees Fahrenheit for a few days. Fall and winter applications will avoid or minimize impacts to many native plant species. Repeat herbicidal treatments are likely to be needed.

The County brochure is posted on our yahoo group at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/AHCA/files>. Additional information is also available online at <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html>

Please join volunteers on October 20, 2007, 9-12, at TJ to help remove invasive plants. See details in "upcoming events."

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION REPORT

Updated NC Plan

The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee approved the updated Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan on September 13. Review of the Plan by the Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled for December 3, 2007. Review by the Arlington County Board is expected in January of 2008. County staff from a number of departments has already responded to our updated Neighborhood Conservation Plan with concrete improvements in the neighborhood.

- One of the most visible improvements is the zebra striping/painting of crosswalks along Second St. S. and on streets that border Arlington Blvd. (Dept. of Environmental Services)
- The most significant improvement is the planned refurbishment of the pedestrian bridge across Arlington Blvd. County staff is planning to sand and paint the structure, make maintenance improvements, add lighting, and replace the walking surface with a skid resistant surface. From a practical standpoint, this will likely mean the bridge will be unusable for a period, tentatively in the winter/spring of 2008 while work is underway. (Bridge Program)
- We have also seen the replacement of a number of the trash receptacles at TJ, as well as the replacement of a number of lights along the running path at TJ. (Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources)

Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan

The Executive Committee also completed a project list for the Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP). Data for the NIP has been requested of all Arlington County neighborhoods so that the County Manager can understand the scope of infrastructure needs in the neighborhoods. AHCA has requested input through the yahoo group, and in our newsletter. The final list, which is essentially a “wish list,” is posted on the yahoo group in files. The list is not binding upon the neighborhood, nor does it indicate priorities of any kind.

Garfield St. Project

Neighborhood Conservation staff anticipate that the Garfield St. sidewalk, curb, gutter and streetlight project, which has been languishing for years, will be funded in the December funding round of NCAC. The project will mean a major improvement for Garfield St. between Arlington Blvd. and Second St. S.

Arlington Heights Civic Association -- 2007 Officers

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Please join us in welcoming RJ Thacher as our new Social Committee Chair! You can reach RJ at rj.thacher@verizon.net if you have any ideas for social events or would like to volunteer.

