



Over the Fence

News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association
Fall 2010

Visit our website: www.ahca.info

Join our yahoo group: ahca-subscribe@vahoogroups.com

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

We are fortunate to live in a vibrant neighborhood, with tremendous resources and engaged citizens. While we have many things to be grateful for in our little corner of the world it does not mean we cannot work to make things even better.

As many of you know Arlington Heights has issues with motorists speeding down our streets creating a health and safety issue for us all. Arlington County has worked with us over the years to slow the pace on our neighborhood streets and this fall they are rolling out a pilot program in our community to continue the work to reduce speeds and keep us safe.

On page 7, there is a description of this program. I invite all of you to attend our Tuesday, October 12 Civic Association meeting where the project will be discussed in detail. I look forward to seeing you then!

Stacey Whyte
AHCA President

Arlington Heights Civic Association Fall Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2010
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Patrick Henry Elementary School's
Library
701 South Highland Street

Arlington Heights Needs You!!!!

We are inviting all residents of Arlington Heights to join the AH Civic Association. According to our bylaws, if you own or rent within our boundaries, you are eligible to join the AHCA. There are family/household memberships (no more than four adults per household) and business memberships. With the membership you receive voting rights on issues presented to the association. The dues help with costs that support the neighborhood activities. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Bongardt (treasurer) at Lisabergenty@hotmail.com or Stacey Whyte (president) at kandswhyte@gmail.com

This is an annual membership, so please remember to renew each year.

Please fill out the application below and mail it with a check made payable to AHCA to Lisa Bongardt, 319 South Irving Street, Arlington, VA, 22204.

Thank you for supporting AHCA!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Please check one:

Individual/Family Membership: \$20.00 _____

____ new membership _____renewing membership

Business Membership: \$25.00 _____

Added Donation: _____

Would you like to volunteer? Please check all that apply.

___ volunteer to assist with park and sign area

___ beautification

___ Newsletter

___ Events: i.e. Neighborhood Picnic, County Fair,

Halloween Parade, other

Come and join the fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Graphic:www.designedtoat.com

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Artisphere to open in Arlington

Arlington County is very excited about the opening of Artisphere on 10/10/10! The Artisphere - an art space for everyone - features four performance venues, a Wi-Fi café, three visual art galleries and a 4,000 square foot Ballroom that will bring regional, national and international cultural offerings to the area! **The grand opening weekend is full of festivities, including:**

Preview Formal Gala on Friday, October 8 that 8pm
Kickoff Bash put on by Pinkline Project on Saturday, October 9 that 8pm
Grand Opening on Sunday, October 10th from 10am-11pm
Open House on Monday, October 11th from 11am-11pm

Visit www.Artisphere.com for more details.

Artisphere is located in Rosslyn at 1101 Wilson Boulevard, just two blocks from the Rosslyn Metro. Free parking is available on evenings and weekend

AHCA Calendar

Every Sunday 9:00-1:00 Columbia Pike Farmer's Market
Pike Park

Sun. October 3 The Hispanic Heritage Bicentennial 2-5 @ Jefferson

Sat. October 16 E-Care Recycling Day 8:30-3:00 @ Jefferson

Sun., October 25 Marine Corp Marathon

Sat. October 30 2:00 p.m. Halloween Parade
Patrick Henry's Ball Field

Sat. Oct. 29 - Nov. 7 Children's Theater (Encore)

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Nov. 13 Columbia Pike Artist Gala

Dec. 1 Deadline for Winter Newsletter
(articles and ads)



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In the Garden ... - Juanita Zientara

Thirty-four Years and Counting

Summer has come to an end and autumn's first leaves are starting to fall. This was a season of occasional heavy rain and long stretches of extreme heat. In past years, summer months were spent setting fences, digging up borders, and replacing aging bushes. Most recently my primary challenge was just keeping everything alive! That meant water, water and more water. We are in a long conversation...the garden and I. Thirty years plus since my spade first hit the ground and we remain friends, enjoying each other's company and keeping small secrets. Here's a bit of what I've learned. Sh-h-h...just between us.

Too much ambition can wear a person out. As a newlywed, my young husband and I dug about a third of our backyard up...to plant beans! Crazy, but true! What came of this early venture were very few beans and a patch of uneven ground. And we weren't even rabid bean fans! What were we thinking? But it was the 70's and hope sprang eternal. A few years later dreaming of pies and homemade ice cream, we planted a peach tree. Of course, I had no clue that the care fruit trees require is hardly optional; it's mandatory. I was raising a family, teaching full time and going to school. After a few seasons of inedible, mushy peaches the little tree had to go.

About twenty-five years ago I finally sat down and drew a diagram, taking into account children and playtime, a shed, veggie and flowerbeds, and trees. Oh, trees. Another lesson. The two small dogwoods gracing our front yard in 1976 began to decline after several years. What was I doing wrong? I shared my concern with arborists during the County Fair one summer and learned that I'd done nothing in error. My little trees were simply quite old. Sadly, we cut them down. Eventually, a tiny niger river birch was purchased at Hechinger's and planted in a wee island of periwinkle out front. Now every year, the birch must be trimmed to control its growth. So nature takes her course. What we plant can flourish for one season or many. But a harsh winter, soggy spring or simply time will stake its claim. Better to shed a tear, move on and start fresh.

I think planning and patience have paid off more than unfettered energy. Having mentors helps as well. Early on, my dear neighbor, Lyda, taught me that lovely gardens begin with good soil. Over the years tons of topsoil, peat moss, manure and compost have been added to our little yard, one wheel barrel at a time. Spending hours up to elbows in dirt with a good friend remains a joy. Last fall my wonderful neighbor, Dora Sue, and I decided to rework the borders of our shared fence. We raided a local garden center buying trays of discounted winter pansies and perennials. Come October we'll be planting together once again.

I've come to respect good intentions and inevitable misjudgments. I dream big but it's small, steady effort that yields the most delight. After all, Rome wasn't built in a day.

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Market Trends in Northern Virginia The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on July 2010 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton. A total of 1,663 homes sold in July 2010, a decrease of 19% below July 2009 home sales of 2,053. Active listings again increased by about 2% this month compared to last year, with 7,568 active listings in July, compared with 7,439 homes available in July 2009. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in July 2010 decreased by about 23% to 48 days, compared with 62 days in July 2009. Sales prices rose by about 11% compared with last year. The average sales price this July was \$511,309, compared with last July's average of \$460,807. The median price of homes sold in Northern Virginia in July was \$450,000, which is an increase of around 10% compared with July 2009's median price of \$410,000. Pending home sales in July decreased by about 23% with 1,738 sales pending compared to 2,266 in July 2009. The Economy in Northern Virginia Despite what's going on in

the nation the economy is very strong in Northern Virginia with a gain of 22,900 jobs from February to May in 2010 which has helped sustain consumer confidence in the housing market. Funds from the federal government have helped to make Northern Virginia more recession-proof than most other areas. Fairfax County receives more money from the feds through contracts than any other county in the United States. In the 2008 fiscal year, government contracts awarded more than \$17 billion to Fairfax County. Loudon and Fairfax counties also take the top two spots on the nation's richest counties, both touting six-figure median incomes. Today, the area continues to entice companies looking for a piece of the government pie. Companies such as Northrop-Grumman, Hilton Worldwide, and Volkswagen of America have moved their offices to Fairfax in recent years.



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Halloween Parade/Food Drive

Come out on Saturday, October 30, 2010 and join the fun for the annual Arlington Heights Halloween Parade and Food Drive. We will meet at the Patrick Henry Elementary School softball field at 2:00 PM. The parade will wind through the Arlington Heights neighborhood and will end at the elementary school playground area. Please join us afterwards to socialize, enjoy light refreshments, and possibly partake in a game or two.

In keeping with our Arlington Heights Halloween Parade tradition, we are asking participants to bring canned food to benefit Arlington residents in need. As was done last year, parade participants may drop off their non-perishable food donations at the beginning of the parade route, and parade watchers may donate non-perishable food in the collection wagon that will be at the end of the parade. Your food donations will be distributed to Arlington individuals and families in need through the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Last year parade participants and watchers came with grocery bags full of food and our donations were greatly appreciated by AFAC. By donating food to AFAC, we can help ensure that all eligible Arlington families have groceries. (Please see page 7 for more details on AFAC and their current food needs.)

Our AHCA goal for Halloween 2010 is 300 pounds of food.

To achieve this goal, we are asking each parade participant to bring 2 cans of food and for each family to bring 1 box of low sugar cereal.

This event has a little something for everyone. This is a chance to show off those Halloween costumes, meet your neighbors, participate in the food drive, enjoy a snack, play a game, and/or win a gift certificate to a local business. We look forward to seeing you there!

Parade Route: Leave Patrick Henry Elementary, cross 7th Street, continue down South Garfield, turn left on 6th Street South, turn right on South Irving, left on 3rd Street South, left on South Ivy Street, right on 5th Street South, left on South Jackson Street, left on 6th Street South, right on South Highland Street.



Neighborhood Conservation Update

(by Juliet Hiznay, Neighborhood Conservation Representative for Arlington Heights)

We have excellent news on the Neighborhood Conservation front. The sidewalk project on South Fenwick (Arlington Blvd. to Second Street South) is almost complete! New sidewalk, curb and gutter has been installed, the street has been fully resurfaced, and utility poles that needed to be moved have been moved, with the few remaining pieces of concrete poured in September. We are just waiting for streetlight installation and landscaping. The streetlights on Fenwick will be the first streetlights in our neighborhood to have Carlyle style pedestrian lights with energy efficient LED lights! Congratulations to our Fenwick Street neighbors, and especially to Brian Foley, the block captain, who did a great job as resident/staff liaison for this project. Thank you, Brian!

The design for our most recently funded project, South Irving Street/Arlington Blvd. Phase I (south of access road to Second Street South) is mostly complete, and the 100% design meeting is expected to be scheduled in September or October.

Equally important news comes regarding our first priority proposed (unfunded) project: South Irving Street/Arlington Blvd Phase II. The initial design for this project was voted down by residents at our July 13, 2010 civic association meeting (33 nay to 5 yea). The concerns raised by residents dealt mostly with parking concerns and worries about the impact on traffic flow near and on the access roads between Irving and Hudson as well as Fenwick and Fillmore. County staff is now proposing a new design that will preserve parking, and will permit traffic on both access roads. The revised design would place a "Do Not Enter" sign at the access road at Fillmore, to address motorist hazards, and would build new sidewalk on the north side of the Fillmore access road. No private driveways would be built at Irving or Fillmore, and the access roads would have "Shared Lanes" for bicycles and cars, with ramps at either end. The presentation and vote on this new design will be on October 12, 2010 meeting, at our regularly scheduled civic association meeting (Patrick Henry Elementary School Library, starting at 7 p.m.).

The petitioning process for our second priority project, the consolidated streetlight project (Ivy, Highland, 9th St., and part of Irving St.) is almost complete. Please contact Sara Snow if you are interested in assisting with the project, and/or you want to sign the petition, at ahca.sara@gmail.com.

As for future proposed projects, there still remains the streetlight project on Fifth Street, and a number of neighbors have also expressed interest in a park project to address the aging tot lot at Thomas Jefferson Park.

Do you have questions about the Neighborhood Conservation Program? More information is available on the county website at:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/ons/conservation/CPHDonsConservationWhyParticipate.aspx>

Thank yous go to:

Everyone who helped with the park and sign gardens over the summer. Your time and effort made our community beautiful.

Thank you to all who helped deliver the newsletters to our community.

Thank you to the AHCA officers for representing us at all of the county meetings.

Thank you to Matthew and Meredith Beck for loaning us their yard for our County Fair beverage stand. We raised \$300.00. If you have more thank yous, please consider placing them on the listserv.

Arlington Heights Traffic Calming Presentation at AHCA's October 12 Civic Association Meeting

Beginning this fall, **Arlington Heights** will be the focus of a new traffic safety campaign called Neighborhood 25. The public awareness campaign is designed to remind motorists to slow down in neighborhoods where children play and walk to school. **Arlington Heights** was one of three Arlington County neighborhoods selected to pilot the program because of its high traffic speeds and because it is located near an elementary school.

Four street segments in each neighborhood were identified for research purposes. Baseline traffic volume and speed data were collected in early fall, prior to the program's launch. After the initial data collection period, volunteers living on targeted streets will post "Keep Kids Alive – Drive 25" yard signs near the street for seven to 14 days. The Arlington Police and Sheriff's Departments will also place speed trailers and other electronic displays in the neighborhoods to let drivers know whether they are speeding. After the campaign period ends, the signs will be removed, and new traffic data will be collected and compared against the baseline data to see whether the awareness campaign had any effect on traffic speeds. If the campaign is successful, it will be moved to three more neighborhoods in spring 2011.

Similar awareness campaigns in other states have produced favorable results. In Oceanside, California, the first completed pre/post study citing effectiveness of "Keep Kids Alive – Drive 25" yard signs demonstrated a 16 percent decrease in average speed (6mph). The average speed in **Oro Valley, Arizona** **dropped more than 13 percent** after "Keep Kids Alive – Drive 25" yard signs were applied to all residential trash cans in a neighborhood of 1000 homes. The average speed dropped from **29 mph to less than 25 mph**.

The Neighborhood 25 initiative ties in with Arlington County's [Street Smart](#) awareness and enforcement campaign, sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB). The campaign was launched in 2002 in an effort to change driver and pedestrian behavior in the region. Over the years [Street Smart](#) has grown into a multi-faceted safety campaign educating motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and the general public about safely sharing the roads.

Helping Solve Hunger in Arlington County AHCA will be collecting food at our Halloween Parade, October 30th

Hunger is a growing problem in Arlington. Many individuals and families simply cannot make ends meet. AFAC addresses this problem by distributing groceries such as, milk, eggs, bread, canned goods, produce, and other foods to Arlington families and individuals in need. By relieving the food budget of their clients, AFAC helps prevent homelessness and allows their clients to make other necessary purchases without sacrificing their health, housing, or nutritional needs.

AFAC is an incorporated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing supplemental groceries to Arlington residents who cannot afford to purchase sufficient food to meet their basic needs. AFAC currently distributes approximately 1700 bags of groceries each week to over 1200 families. Nearly half of those served are children. AFAC is in need of the following non-perishable items:

GENERAL NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS:

low-sugar cereals (cold or hot), rice, pastas and sauces, canned fruits and vegetables, beans (all varieties), canned soups, stews and chilis (all varieties), canned proteins (tuna, salmon, chicken), peanut butter, baking products

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