

# OVER THE FENCE

*News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association*



*Autumn 2011*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Neighbors,*

As 2011 draws to a close I would like to extend thanks to everyone in our neighborhood who engaged with our Civic Association this year. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful, diverse, vibrant community here in Arlington Heights and it takes the assistance and participation of all of you to care for our wonderful home.

There are a number of ways you can help support Arlington Heights through the Civic Association and I encourage you to do what you can. Below are just a few ways you can help:

**Become a dues paying member of the Arlington Heights Civic**

**Association.** The current cost is only \$20 for Individual/Family membership. We use those funds to put out this newsletter, to host our annual BBQ in the Spring and our Halloween Parade/Party in the Fall. We also use funds to respond to specific needs

or events like the proposed closing of our neighborhood library just over a year ago. Without money in the bank we could not have turned around in two days time upon learning of the issue and put out over 1000 flyers to notify all neighborhood residents of that impending threat and our impromptu meeting to counter the plan. Don't forget that with your membership you also become eligible to vote at AHCA meetings.

**Attend our quarterly meetings.** The meetings are only two hours four times a year and those eight hours are a terrific investment in your own community. At every meeting we provide a free pizza dinner (thanks to the generous support of our local Papa John's), we hold raffles for \$25.00 gift certificates donated by neighborhood restaurants and with numerous guest speakers we discuss issues of importance to Arlington Heights residents.

**Volunteer.** We can't do it without your help. Consider serving as an officer on the AHCA Executive Committee or in one of the many other helping roles. Annually

### NOTE THE REVISED DATE!

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY 11, 2012  
7 P.M.**

**PATRICK HENRY ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL LIBRARY  
701 S. HIGHLAND ST.**

we need residents to fill positions as the Neighborhood Conservation representative as well as two NC alternate positions and we must fill four Civic Federation Delegate positions as well as four CF alternate delegates. These positions are vital to our neighborhood and all of them can have direct impact on Arlington Heights. We also need a few folks willing to serve as a social committee to help put together our fun neighborhood events and to add some new ones. We could

also use your help working on our newsletter in a variety of capacities. If you are interested in taking on any of these roles for 2012 or for more information about them please email me at [kandswhyte@gmail.com](mailto:kandswhyte@gmail.com) or call 703-271-2681.

**Participate.** Get to know your neighbors. Please join hundreds of your fellow Arlington Heights residents and attend our annual Spring BBQ and our Fall Hal

*continued on page 2*

## AHCA Executive Committee

### *President*

**Stacey Whyte** 703-271-2681  
kandswhyte@gmail.com

### *First Vice President*

**Jay Vennett** 703-920-1832  
vennett3@verizon.net

### *Second Vice President*

**Allison Rosenberg** 703-920-0553  
Allisonrosenberg@hotmail.com

### *Secretary*

**Teresa Jennings** 703-271-5333  
ny2va@earthlink.net

### *Treasurer*

**Sara Snow** 703-979-3487  
AHCA.Sara@gmail.com

## Other Contacts

### *Neighborhood Conservation Rep*

**Juliet Hiznay** 703-685-2596  
strangefruitblues@yahoo.com

### *Alternates*

**Tony Halloin** 202-486-0617  
ahalloin@yahoo.com

**Lisa Hopkins** 703-979-3487  
torylisa@yahoo.com

### *Civic Federation Delegates*

**Carole Lieber** 703-892-0362  
carolelieber@hotmail.com

**Doug Snow** 703-979-3487  
dbsnow@gmail.com

**Keith Whyte** 703-271-2681  
kandswhyte@gmail.com

**Stacey Whyte** 703-271-2681  
kandswhyte@gmail.com

### *Newsletter Editor*

**Rebecca Mashaw** 703-892-3793  
rmashaw@comcast.net

### *Newsletter Distribution*

**Adrienne Wood** 703-685-4303  
adrienne.wood@gmail.com

### *Newsletter Advertising*

**Dora Sue Black** 703-920-4025  
dstblack@msn.com

loween Parade/Party. Come out and play with our own "Fightin' Pineapples" the neighborhood softball team. Not a softball player? Come out anyway and help cheer us on and meet some neighbors in the process. Is reading or knitting more your thing? We have an AHCA book club and a knitting group. Residents have also recently started a mom's group. For more information on any of these events or groups please just email or call me.

**Our neighborhood is what we make of it. Please reach out and join in. We can't do it without you and you may be surprised by how much fun you have!**

**Stacey Whyte**  
**President**

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## Congratulations to the 2012 AHCA Executive Committee

Arlington Heights Civic Association members voted at the October 2011 to elect the following officers:

President – Stacey Whyte  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Jay Vennett  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Allison Rosenberg  
Treasurer – Sara Snow

Many thanks to our outgoing 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Betty Siegal, for her wisdom, guidance and service throughout this past year.

Many thanks as well to Rebecca Mashaw who has been kind enough to take on the role of Newsletter Editor for the AHCA. Welcome, Rebecca!

## ARLINGTON ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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KAY YOUNG, D.V.M. Fax: (703) 685-8860  
AMY R. LAUBINGER, D.V.M. www.myarlingtonvet.com

# Arlington Heights Voters!

## Your Polling Place May Have Changed

Some residents of Arlington Heights were surprised to learn that their polling place will no longer be Thomas Jefferson Community Center, but instead Barcroft Elementary School. On learning of concerns regarding the change in polling location, AHCA contacted the office of the Registrar and, at their suggestion, Del. Patrick Hope.

### According to the Registrar:

Some Arlington Heights voters will have precinct and polling place changes as a result of the General Assembly's 2011 redistricting process. All affected voters should have received new voter cards in early to mid-September.

Voters in the Jefferson Precinct in the 47th House District—mostly those living north of 2nd St. S and west of Glebe Rd—will move to the Barcroft Precinct, voting at Barcroft School, 625 Wakefield Street. For more information you may go to [www.arlingtonva.us/vote](http://www.arlingtonva.us/vote) and click on polling places.

If you've lost or misplaced your card, please contact the Office of Voter Registration at 703-228-3456 or [voters@arlingtonva.us](mailto:voters@arlingtonva.us).

### Delegate Hope replied to our inquiry:

“Dear Jefferson Precinct Voters,

By now, many of you are aware of the split in the Jefferson Precinct resulting from the redistricting process. Specifically, the Virginia General Assembly changed boundaries and split the Jefferson precinct so the area north of 2nd Street South and some properties to the west of Glebe Road remain in the 47th House of Delegates District.

Those households affected by this change should have received a new voter card and notification that their new voting location is at the Barcroft School located at 625 South Wakefield St. The rest of the precinct is now in the 49th House of Delegates District. This has

caused several voters whose precinct is only blocks away from the Thomas Jefferson Community Center to be redistricted into Barcroft.

Every ten years through the redistricting process precincts unavoidably get split and we try to mitigate the challenges that ensue. Please know that I am fully aware of this particular problem and I commit to requesting modifications to the Jefferson precinct boundaries in the 2012 legislative session to ensure that voters can access the nearest polling place.

I sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this has caused for the November 8th election. In the meantime, if you have any additional questions or need a ride to the polls please feel free to contact my Arlington office at 703-486-1010.

Sincerely,  
Del. Patrick Hope”

We urge all Arlington Heights residents to get out and vote Tuesday, November 8!

## ARLINGTON FLU CLINICS

Get your flu shot and protect yourself and your family this winter. It's easy and affordable!

Ages 6 months & older—\$30  
FREE for Medicaid Part B Participants

November 10, 2011 (Thursday)  
Drew Center, Rm. 180  
3500 S. 24th Street 4 pm-7 pm

November 19, 2011 (Saturday)  
Langston Center, Head Start Rm. 108  
2121 N. Culpeper Street 10 am-1 pm

December 9, 2011 (Friday)  
Carver Community Center, Rm. 138/139  
1415 S. Queen Street 4 pm-7 pm

December 10, 2011 (Saturday)  
Fairlington Center, Rm. 134  
3308 South Stafford Street 10 am-1 pm

# NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATE

*by Juliet Hiznay, Neighborhood  
Conservation Representative*

Arlington Heights has two Neighborhood Conservation projects that have been funded, as well as two projects the neighborhood has proposed but are not yet funded. The status for pending projects are as follows:

**Irving Street/Arlington Blvd. Phase I: 0-100 block of South Irving Street** (Arlington Blvd to Second Street South): This sidewalk, curb and gutter project was funded by the Arlington County Board in February 2009. The project will include a complete street rebuild, drainage, curb & gutter, sidewalk repair as needed, gateway treatment, and streetlights on the east side of the street, as well as removal of a non-standard 3-foot sidewalk on the west side of the street. It is at 100% design, and the best estimate for construction at this time is Spring 2012.

Usually, Neighborhood Conservation projects are completed within 2 years of funding. This project is more complex than is typical, due to the need to widen the street, as well as its location abutting parkland. Several utility poles need to be moved towards the park to accommodate a wider street as well as the full parking lane that was approved in the final petition. Kellie Brown, our Neighborhood Conservation Planner with Arlington County has worked with Park staff and others to ensure that impact on trees will be minimized.

The plan was recently approved by Dominion Power, with pole relocation to be carried out within the next 90 days. The pole system will be modified to include alley arm extensions. The arm extensions will be used to move the wires away from the tree line, which will ensure that the mature oaks lining the park will not require severe pruning of large limbs. Significant pruning is to be expected even with this adjustment. Thanks to Kellie and Caroline Temmermand in the Parks Department and her team for working out this

compromise with Dominion Power. Once pole relocation is complete, construction work can begin but this is weather dependent. Until the project is completed, road conditions on Irving Street can be expected to be worse rather than better. All efforts will be made to complete construction prior to the 2012 Arlington County Fair.

We have a new volunteer block captain for this project. Special thanks to Craig Palmer for volunteering for this key position.

*Please note that there is a separate grant-funded project that will address the intersection at Irving Street and Arlington Blvd. Designers are working closely together to ensure that design elements of both projects are compatible. Preliminary design work is now under way, for this project at the staff level. A public meeting will be held to review the project design, which may occur sometime in 2012. It is expected that meeting the will be open to the public, with invitations to all abutting neighborhood civic associations. This project will require a permit from the Virginia Department of Transportation.*

**Irving Street/Arlington Blvd. Phase II — 2900-3200 block Arlington Blvd.** (Frontage between Fillmore and Irving Streets): This beautification project was funded by the Arlington County Board in February 2011. The concept design approved by the AHCA contemplates improvements to the trail, drainage, landscaping, and pedestrian safety elements. A designer was recently assigned to complete the engineering design work for this project. Discussions with representatives of Etz Hayim about design elements in front of the temple are expected shortly. A public meeting will be held to obtain input regarding final design, most likely sometime in 2012. All abutting homeowners will receive written invitations in advance of that meeting. Since the project will require a permit from the Virginia Department of Transportation, there is no estimated construction date at this time.

**Consolidated Streetlight Project — 700-800 blocks Ivy St., 700-900 blocks Highland, 2900-3200 blocks 9th Street:** This proposed streetlight project is the neighborhood's first priority project and was successfully repeted in 2010. It is in queue for funding. For the December 2011 funding round, this project will



have accumulated 30 points. To be in funding range it will need to have between 45 and 60 points. Based on the current points system and past funding patterns, this project is not likely to be funded before Fall 2012.

**3200-3400 blocks 5th Street South:** This proposed streetlight project is a “grandfathered” project from a time when more projects were permitted in each neighborhood’s proposed project queue. The project was approved by the civic association and successfully petitioned years ago. However, due to changes in county design standards as well as resident turn-over, it will probably require a new clipboard petition to qualify for funding. This is also a very small project — perhaps only 2-3 streetlights would be installed.

**IMPORTANT:** A street resident from the 3200-3400 blocks would need to volunteer to be block captain to move this project forward. Please call me at if you are interested in becoming a block captain for this project. This is also the first project that will accumulate points without the benefit of extra Updated NC Plan points. If the project moves forward it will not likely accumulate adequate points for fund-

ing before Fall 2015.

Should you have any questions about Neighborhood Conservation, please do not hesitate to contact me at [strangefruitblues@yahoo.com](mailto:strangefruitblues@yahoo.com). Information is also available on the web at: [www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/ons/CPHDOnsConservation.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/ons/CPHDOnsConservation.aspx).

## Moving Soon to Penrose Square!

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#### Northern Virginia Market Trends

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on March 2011 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 1,437 homes sold in March 2011, a 7.71% decrease below March 2010 home sales of 1,557. Active listings decreased by 7% from 2010, with 3,975 active listings in 3/11, compared with 4,267 homes available in 3/10. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in 3/11 increased 39% to 71 days, compared with 51 days in 3/10. Sale prices rose compared with those realized last year. The average sales price in March 2011 increased 3% from March 2010, to \$448,957 from \$434,129 last March. The median price of homes sold rose in March 2011 to \$385,000, an increase of about 5% compared with March 2010's median price of \$368,000.

The number of new pending home sales in Northern Virginia in March showed a decrease of 5.5% 2,113 compared to 2,236 new contracts pending in March 2010.

#### Arlington County Statistics comparing March 2010 to 2011:

**Condos** - Avg. Sold Price was \$373,112 in 3/10 - up 13% in 3/11 to \$421,108. **Single Family Attached** - Avg. Sold Price was \$551,911 in 3/10 - up 18% to \$653,160 in 3/11. **Single Family Detached** - Avg. Sold Price was \$712,483 in 3/10 - up 3% to \$732,041 in 3/11.

Mortgage Rates are still attractive! The following rates are average quotes with no points: 4.75% to \$417,000, 4.88% up to \$729,750, 5.38% over \$729,750

On 10/1/11 the current administration is *proposing* lowering the conforming loan amount from \$729,750 to \$625,500 for FHA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac housing loans.



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## Arlington Heights Young Entrepreneurs

Need some help with all that leaf-raking? A reliable baby-sitter? Someone to look after your pets when you're away?

Arlington Heights has a number of young people you can turn to for these and other services. Give them a try!

### **Pet Sitting and plant watering:**

Experienced, reliable and friendly. I treat your pet as my own! Call or email for references and rates.

Ally Sobola

703-892-1350

sobolas@verizon.net

Parents: Helen & Mike Sobola

### **Yard Work and Pet Sitting:**

Kyle Jackson, 13 (yard work and pet sitting)

Claire Jackson, 11 (pet sitting)

703-909-0686

Parents: Kathy & Mike Jackson

### **Babysitting:**

Tony Conge, 16

703-892-0859

Parent: Lisa Turcios


### **Leaf Raking, Dog and Cat Sitting**

Jestin Vennett, 16

703-920-1832

Parents: Jay and Amy Vennett

Children and youth 18 and under may advertise free in *Over the Fence*. Parental permission required.



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# NATURAL GAS SAFETY FACTS

Recently, residents of Arlington Heights have reported smelling natural gas near 6th St. South and S. Highland. In light of the concerns that have been expressed about this situation, we're providing you with information from Washington Gas about what to do if and when you smell natural gas or believe you detect a leak of natural gas.

## What to Do If You Smell Natural Gas

Natural gas is non-toxic, colorless, and odorless and is a combustible fuel. For detection and safety, natural gas delivered through Washington Gas's distribution system has been odorized with an unpleasant odorant known as mercaptan. (Gas traveling through a very small portion of our transmission pipeline is not odorized, and additional information about visible signs of a possible leak are provided below.) Call for a free odorant sample brochure. Government, schools, businesses, property managers and others are welcome to request multiple copies for public education and awareness purposes.

***If you suspect a natural gas leak or other gas emergency and are unsure of its severity or what to do, evacuate the area immediately and call 911 from a safe location.***

If you smell natural gas, ***do not attempt to locate the source of the odor.*** Call the **Washington Gas Emergency Leak Line** at or outside the local calling area. Frederick County, Maryland, customers should call . Customers in the Shenandoah Valley area of Virginia should call or .

- If the odor is very strong or you hear a blowing or hissing noise, vacate the building or area *immediately*, leaving doors unlocked as you go. Abandon all motorized equipment. Do nothing that could create an ignition source — do not light a match or use any type of phone or battery-powered equipment. Do not turn electrical equipment or light switches on or off. Do not start a car or any type of motorized equipment. Call **911** and the appropriate Washington Gas emergency numbers as noted above only *after* you have reached a safe distance away from the building or area. Follow the same precautions if you are outside and smell gas; hear hissing, blowing, or roaring noises; or

see any of the following: dirt being thrown into the air; fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn above the ground; water bubbling or being blown into the air at a pond, creek or river; or if you see a dry spot in a moist field or dead or dying vegetation on or near a pipeline right-of-way.

**Natural gas is distributed through a network of underground pipes and service lines. If a leak should occur, it is possible for gas to migrate into buildings, including those without natural gas service.**

## Washington Gas Responds

Washington Gas responds around the clock to natural gas leaks and other emergencies. If a leak poses an immediate threat, the company takes quick action to make the area safe. Corrective action is scheduled for a later date if there is no immediate threat. This prioritization process helps to ensure the safety of customers while allocating resources efficiently, coordinating with customers' schedules, and minimizing traffic disruptions.

## Pipeline Safety

**Distribution pipelines** deliver natural gas directly to customers and can cause serious injury if they are damaged. Although the majority of buried distribution pipelines are generally not marked above ground, you can help prevent damage to them.

## Pipeline Damage Prevention - Call 811 Before You Dig

Digging-related damage is a major cause of pipeline accidents. To ensure the location and marking of underground utilities and to avoid unnecessary damage and injury, all individuals, including homeowners and construction companies alike, are required to notify their pipeline damage prevention one-call center — now made easy by dialing **811** — when any kind of work that involves moving earth and altering the ground's surface is planned. This includes general digging, landscaping, home improvements and/or major construction, excavation or demolition. Give **at least two full business days' notice** (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to the scheduled start of the project, and please don't begin digging until lines are



marked. If there is no evidence of markings — high visibility safety paint and/or flags – check back with your one-call center to ensure no utilities were found.

#### **Additional Contact Information**

##### **Corporate Headquarters:**

101 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20080

##### **Customer service and contact information:**

**email:** click on *Contact Us*

**written correspondence:** Customer Care, 6801 Industrial Road, Springfield, VA 22151

## **2011 Leaf Collection Program**

During the months of November and December, Arlington County collects leaves from residents who receive county curbside trash and recycling services. Residents can rake their leaves in loose piles to the curbside for Vacuum Leaf Collection, or put their leaves in Biodegradable Leaf Bags for collection.

Biodegradable Bag Collection began Oct. 31 and will continue through Jan. 13. Vacuum collection will begin Nov. 14 and extend through Dec. 24.

Sign up to receive leaf vacuum schedule updates via e-mail. "Like" Arlington County Environmental Services on Facebook, or follow @ArlingtonDES on Twitter to find out where the leaf vacuum trucks are starting November 14.

And don't forget to recycle your Christmas tree after the holidays! Check the county website at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdSpecial.aspx#trees> for more information.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS IN ARLINGTON

### **Feed Your Soil, Feed Yourself — Composting Workshop**

November 9, 7 – 8:30 PM

Walter Reed Community Center  
2909 16th Street South, Arlington, VA.

How to compost your yard and kitchen wastes to increase your yield, make your plants and vegetables more disease resistant, and improve the water retaining capacity of the soil.

For more information, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension Help Desk at 703-228-6414.

### **Remove Invasive Plants!**

November 13, 2011, 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Gulf Branch Nature Center  
3608 Military Rd, Arlington, VA 22207

Keep the park free of destructive invasive plants. Work parties are held every month and are making a real difference. We are starting to see the return of wildflowers in areas once covered in ivy. Join us! Maybe you'll want to adopt an area of your own! No registration required. Free. Information: 703-228-3403. <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/nature/ParksRecreationScriptsNatureGul...>

### **Lucky Dog Animal Rescue Adoption Event**

November 19, 2011, 12:00 PM

Dogma Bakery 2772 S. Arlington Mill Dr.  
(The Village of Shirlington)

Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about any dog or our adoption process. Please visit our web site to see the dogs who are waiting for their "forever" home and family.

You may contact us by email: [info@luckydoganimalrescue.org](mailto:info@luckydoganimalrescue.org) or phone: (202) 741-5428

<http://www.luckydoganimalrescue.org>

<http://www.dogmabakery.com>

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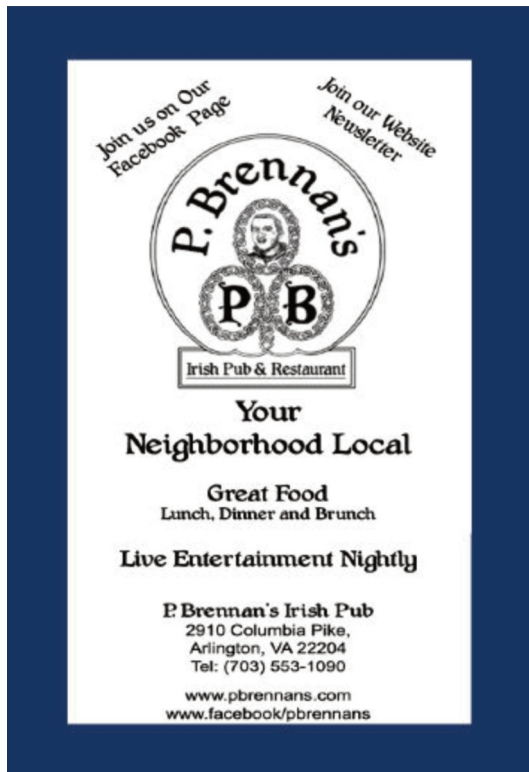
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## Fire Safety And Your Christmas Tree

Keep the trunk of the tree immersed in water at all times.

DO NOT permit smoking by the tree.

Use flame retardant trim and decorations.

Use only lights that are UL approved.

Inspect the lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs, and defective sockets.

Unplug the lights at night and when leaving home.

Remove the tree soon after the holidays, before the needles dry out.

Check your smoke alarms and install new batteries if necessary.

For more information please contact the Fire Prevention Office at 703-228-4644 or visit our website at [www.arlingtonva.us/fire](http://www.arlingtonva.us/fire)

## PLEASE JOIN AHCA!

Individual/Family Memberships are \$20.

Business Memberships are \$25.

With your membership you help to support the Arlington Heights Civic Association's activities. Members receive voting rights on issues presented to the association.

Memberships should be renewed annually.

Please complete this form and send with your check made out to AHCA to:

Arlington Heights Civic Association

P.O. Box 40311

Arlington, VA 22204

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!