

LONG BRIDGE PARK

As you may know, Arlington recently opened a fabulous new park called Long Bridge Park at the north end of Crystal City. It consists of three full size play fields for soccer, lacrosse, and other sports; an elevated bike/pedestrian promenade; rain garden; public art; and a raised overlook perfect for simultaneous bird, train and plane watching given the park's location adjacent to the Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary, the CSX railroad and to Reagan National Airport. The park has transformed a former brown field site and industrial eye-sore into a high-quality green space and recreational area for all Arlington residents to enjoy.

There is more to come. The county's future plan for Long Bridge Park development calls for a comprehensive, state-of-the art Aquatics, Health and Fitness Center; a fourth full-size synthetic turf athletic field; and a bike and walking bridge across the GW Parkway that will connect the park to the Mount Vernon Trail and 14th Street Bridge walkway.

If you have not yet traveled to see the Long Bridge Park, it is definitely worth your time! You might also want to consider celebrating July 4th at the park which will offer an excellent view of DC's fireworks display. Additional information, including directions and information about future park development plans, are available on the County's web site at: www.arlingtonva.us/longbridgepark and on the Friends of Long Bridge Park web site at: <http://longbridgepark.org/>.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ENGLISH IVY THAT CAN CHOKER AND KILL TREES

What looks like a lovely little green plant can actually strangle trees, accelerate rot, attract mosquitoes and cause mature trees to fall down during storms. Thankfully, we as a community can fight back!

Protect your trees, landscaping investments and home by cutting ivy away from your trees by following these steps:

- Use garden clippers to cut ivy at the bottom around the entire trunk of infested trees
- Pull all ivy out of the ground around the base of the

tree, making a two-foot "life saver ring" around the tree.

- Once cut, leave ivy on the tree. Do not pull it off because it could harm the tree. Ivy will gradually blend into the tree bark after it is cut.

For more information visit www.armn.org.

2012 TURTLE TROT IS MAY 19

Enjoy a 5K in Bluemont Park and know your efforts are not only keeping you healthy but your good work is helping injured turtles and wildlife in Arlington. Each year Long Branch Nature Center receives injured turtles and other wildlife that need our help. Proceeds from the race help us give the injured turtles medical attention and a place to live until they are strong enough to be released back into the wild. Read more about Turtle Trot 5K, or sign up on Active.com.

FAMILY FUN DAY IN THE PARK!

Come explore with us and PBS Kids Saturday, April 28, 11am-3pm at Bluemont Park (<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/scripts/parks/BluemontPark.aspx>.)

Enjoy nature activities, sport games, art projects, inflatable moon bounces & more all day! Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy or buy a hot dog lunch for \$3 (hot dog, chips & a drink).

For more information: Contact Kevin Clements 703-228-4729 or email kcleme@arlingtonva.us. TTY number 703.228.4743

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OVER THE FENCE

News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association



Spring 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings neighbors! It looks like we made it through our mild winter and spring is upon us. In Arlington Heights this time of year heralds the beginning of warmer weather and a whole series of celebrated outdoor neighborhood events to go along with the sunshine.

Please consider joining your neighbors for any or all of the following activities:

April 30 - AHCA Fundraiser at P. Brennan's Irish Restaurant and Pub

This event isn't technically outside but it is just a short walk over to Columbia Pike for a great meal and perhaps a pint.

Please join family and friends for a delicious meal to benefit our neighborhood. When you dine at P. Brennan's this evening and tell them you are there to support the AHCA and they will donate 10% of your check total back to the neighborhood. What a fun and easy way to support your own community! Grab a few neighbors and make it a terrific night out!

May 9 - AHCA Quarterly Meeting (note this particular meeting is on a Wednesday)

Granted this quarterly meeting of our Civic Association isn't held outdoors but the majority of the meeting this evening will be a presentation (with Q & A) about the proposed design of the new "Bike Boulevard" running the length of 9th Street through our neighborhood. I encourage all residents to attend but especially those folks who live on the 700/800

blocks of S. Ivy Street, S. Irving Street and along 9th Street.

May 12 - AHCA Softball Season Begins

Please join our own Fightin' Pineapples for this season's kick off game against our neighbors across S. Walter Reed, the Penrose Civic Association. The game will be held at Patrick Henry Elementary School ball field from 10 am to 12 pm Saturday, May 12. Just wear a blue T-shirt, bring yourself and a glove if you have one.

All players are welcome and we love having spectators as well! Anyone interested in playing please RSVP to me at kandswhyte@gmail.com so I know how many folks we have.

May 18 - Bike To Work Day

Bike to Work Day is May 18. Join over 10,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work.

Bike to Work Day is a free event for both new and experienced bicycle commuters throughout the Washington metropolitan region. Those who register and attend one of 59 regional pit stops will receive a free Bike to Work Day T-Shirt* and other goodies, food, drinks, and a chance at winning bicycles or other great raffle prizes. For more information and to register go to: <http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org>

Arlington Heights resident Keith Whyte is organizing a convoy from our neighborhood to participate in

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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012, 7 P.M. PATRICK HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

SEE AGENDA 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

Terry Jennings 703-271-5333
ny2va@earthlink.net

Treasurer

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

Neighborhood Conservation Rep

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

Newsletter Editor

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

Newsletter Distribution

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

Newsletter Advertising

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

Webmaster

Jay Wind 703-920-5193
jay.wind@att.net

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATE

BY JAY VENNETT

There has been activity in Arlington Heights Park, at the corner of S. Highland St. and S. Irving St. Two brand new park benches have been installed, with the third to be put in sometime later, the foundation for it already having been laid down. The new bulletin board kiosk is also scheduled to be put in, along with the promise of a second picnic table to compliment our existing table. These new park improvements will make the park more functional, fun and informative for all residents of Arlington Heights.

Arlington County has begun installing the new streetlight bulbs/toppers at various locations in the county, and several lights in the 100 block of S. Garfield St. have been recipients of this new generation of streetlight. You'll notice that the new bulbs are brighter and whiter than the old bulbs, and they're more energy efficient. You may also find that any installed near your home may need new or additional shielding to prevent the wonderful new glow from overly-brightening your house and/or yard. Check out these new bulbs when you get a chance; they're easy to spot!

That's all for this update. If you have any Neighborhood Conservation-related concerns, please feel free to contact me at vennett3@verizon.net and more information about the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee can be found online at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/ons/CPHDOnsConservation.aspx

AHCA QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA

Please join us for our next AHCA meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, at the Patrick Henry Elementary School Library. The agenda items will include:

- * a presentation by Senor Pan as part of our "Meet the Neighbors" series
- * a presentation by the Arlington County Department of Transportation Staff on the updated plans for the 9th St. "Bike Boulevard", followed by a question-and-answer session.

PLEASE JOIN AHCA AND LISTSERV!

Please take this opportunity to renew your AHCA membership. Residential memberships are \$20.00 per household; business memberships are \$25.

The membership year, just like the calendar year, runs from January through December and **all memberships are due to be renewed in January no matter when you paid the previous year.** While the dollar amount is relatively small, your participation is vital to the continuation of our Civic Association.

Also, we want to thank all the members that have added additional contributions to their membership payments. No matter how small, those additional contributions have not gone unnoticed, and collectively they can make a difference.

Be sure to join the AHCA listserv, too! You get up-to-date information such as alerts, neighbor and event information and time-sensitive notifications. List items you want to sell or donate, get recommendations on contractors and vendors, and much more.

It's easy-and free! Send an email to ahca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.



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2012 AHCA MEMBERSHIP

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 _____

Yes, I'd like to make an additional contribution to AHCA. \$ _____

HENRY'S PIEHOTA NAMED PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Patrick Henry Elementary School Principal Dr. Lisa Piehota has been named Arlington Public Schools 2012 Principal of the Year. Piehota has been the principal of Henry since 2002.

"Dr. Piehota exemplifies what it means to be an excellent principal. She is a strong community leader and communicator and dedicated to teaching and learning," said Superintendent Dr. Pat Murphy. "Her involvement and engagement with parents, students and the community demonstrates her willingness to do what is needed to make sure students receive a high quality education."

Piehota earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Florida State University and a master's in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She earned an Ed.D. in child and youth studies: curriculum development and systemic change from Nova Southeastern University.

Piehota, a former Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, began her teaching as a fourth and sixth grade teacher at Pinewood Elementary School in Florida.

She served as vice principal at Franklin Elementary School K-8 in Franklin, N.J., and the principal of Thomas Jefferson Middle School, also in New Jersey. For two years, Piehota was the superintendent/principal of the Netcong School District in New Jersey.

In addition to being a teacher and administrator, Piehota was as an adjunct professor at Warren County Community College and is currently an adjunct professor at Old Dominion University.

Under Piehota's leadership, Henry received the Virginia Department of Education's Competence to Excellence Award in 2010, the Virginia Index of Performance Excellence Award in 2008 and 2009 and the Virginia Department of Excellence Creating Excellence Award in 2006. "The diversified toolbox required to successfully administer an academic program to students ages 4-10 is quite challenging," said Jefferson Middle School Principal Sharon Mondé. "Dr. Piehota addresses the task in the highest professional manner and ensures that those responsible for educating these children have the tools they need to promote success."

"As a direct result of her leadership, Henry has ex-

celled in all aspects of No Child Left Behind benchmarks, overcoming challenges presented by a student population which represents more than 30 countries and includes 46% of children receiving free or reduced lunch," said retired Henry teacher Al Lewis.

Parents say that the personal touches make Piehota an exceptional principal. "One cannot overlook the test scores and other quantifiable measures, which all indicate that Henry provides an outstanding learning environment," said Henry parent Lisbeth Fried. "Henry has consistently raised test scores and is actively moving toward closing the achievement gap."

Piehota will be recognized by the Arlington School Board at its meeting on Thu, May 10. She also will be recognized on Thu, May 8 as this year's Washington Post's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award recipient for Arlington. She is one of 18 principals from the metro area this year to receive The Post's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award.

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RICHARD STUART OTTO, PRESIDENT

President's Letter, from page 1

this terrific event. Please see the article inside this issue for more details and contact Keith at kandswhyte@gmail.com or 703-980-2140 if you would like to join the group ride.

May 19 - AHCA Annual Neighborhood Picnic & BBQ

You are invited to the Arlington Heights Annual Neighborhood Day Picnic and BBQ which will be held on Saturday, May 19 from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. on the field/playground area adjacent to Patrick Henry Elementary School.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors. Not to mention an afternoon of food and fun! We will have the grill going with burgers and dogs (including a vegetarian option) and we only ask that you please bring a side dish or dessert to share with others and a picnic blanket.

We will have a moon bounce and free face painting, as well as a few other special activities.

If you would like to volunteer for grilling, helping with set up or clean up please contact Stacey Whyte at 703-271-2681 or kandswhyte@gmail.com

June 16 - Columbia Pike Blues Festival

Join your neighbors for a great block party in our own backyard!

This amazing musical street festival will be returning for its 17th year from 1pm to 8pm on South Walter Reed Drive between Columbia Pike and South 9th Streets.

The music is free and there are all kinds of food, drink and arts and crafts vendors. Whether you just stop by or bring a blanket or a lawn chair and walk over, it is an afternoon you won't soon forget! For details check out the CPRO website at: www.columbia-pike.org

Columbia Pike Farmer's Market

Join neighbors every Sunday from 9 am until 1 pm in Pike Park at the corner of Columbia Pike and S. Walter Reed Drive. The regular Market season runs from April 29th - November 18th.

Did you know that beginning in the early 1800s, and for well over a century, the Pike served as a preferred "farm to market" route for the nation's capital?

As we celebrate the Pike's 200 year history, it is good to know that the tradition of community support for its own thriving Farmers Market continues today.

Support local farmers and entrepreneurs as you source your own fresh ingredients and products.

Happy Spring, neighbors and I hope to see you at some of these wonderful community events!

STACEY WHYTE

AHCA PRESIDENT

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STAY SAFE! TIPS FROM THE ARLINGTON POLICE

Some people take foolish risks and some of them lose. If a robber threatens you with a gun, your chances of safely disarming him or her is small. To be prepared, your best protection lies in thinking ahead, "What would I do if this happened to me?" If you don't have a plan you may panic or do something to cause the robber to panic and hurt you.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

Be aware of your surroundings. Walk with a purpose, head up, and looking around. Stay in lighted areas at night. The robber doesn't want to be seen.

Stay with the crowd — there is safety in numbers.

Women should carry their wallet in their pocket, not their purse.

If you carry a purse, carry it close to your body, like a football player carries a football. Do not place the strap across your body or over your shoulder. When the robber grabs your purse, you may be pulled along with the robber until the strap breaks and you are injured.

Don't leave a purse on a counter or in a shopping cart unattended.

Men should consider carrying two wallets, one of them filled with cut up paper. Most robbers are not going to go through the wallet until they have fled to safety.

Be cautious when wearing "flashy" jewelry.

Be conscious of people just "hanging around" anywhere, especially near pay phones, public rest rooms, building entrances and garages.

Notify the police of strangers who are hanging around your home, apartment or place of business for no apparent reason.

Take the profit out of robbery by not carrying large sums of money, or credit cards on your person whenever possible.

Vary your routine — don't do the same thing at exactly the same time every day.

Be aware of people around you when you are using your automatic teller machine (ATM) card. When possible, use an ATM that is located inside a business such as a grocery store.

Have your pay, social security, or retirement checks directly deposited into your bank account.

When you go to the bank, don't flash your cash.

Lock your car doors when your vehicle is unattended even if you will only be out of it for a "minute." This action may prevent a robber from hiding in your back seat awaiting your return.

While driving, keep your vehicle doors locked.

If you are walking and a vehicle is following you, reverse directions or cross the street.

If someone acts suspiciously, looks at you closely or follows you, head for bright lights and people and call the police.

Carry a whistle or other noise making device. Use it to call attention to yourself if threatened.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM A ROBBERY VICTIM?

DO NOT PANIC — get a grip on yourself and stay calm. Take some deep breaths.

DO NOT RESIST — the robber wants your valuables, not you. "Things" can always be replaced ... you cannot.

OBEY THE ROBBER'S INSTRUCTIONS — listen closely to what the robber says and do not argue. Try to remember the exact words spoken by the robber as it may help with the police investigation.

BE ALERT — notice what is happening.

LOOK FOR DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS — look for things that cannot be changed such as scars, marks, tattoos, limps, accents, etc.

WEAPONS — take careful note of any weapons. You will have to describe it later to the police. If the robber indicates that there is a weapon in his pocket, assume it is a gun. If the robber has a gun, assume it is loaded.

DESCRIPTION OF ROBBER — compare the robber to your own height and weight to estimate the size of your attacker.

COOPERATE WITH THE POLICE — if you are robbed, or see someone else being robbed, report it to the police immediately.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER THE ROBBERY?

Notify the police immediately and be prepared to tell them:



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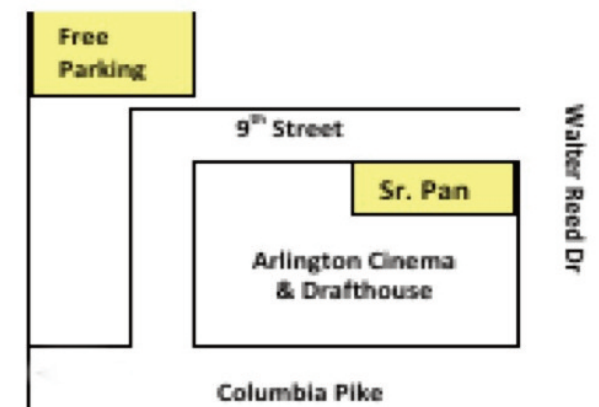
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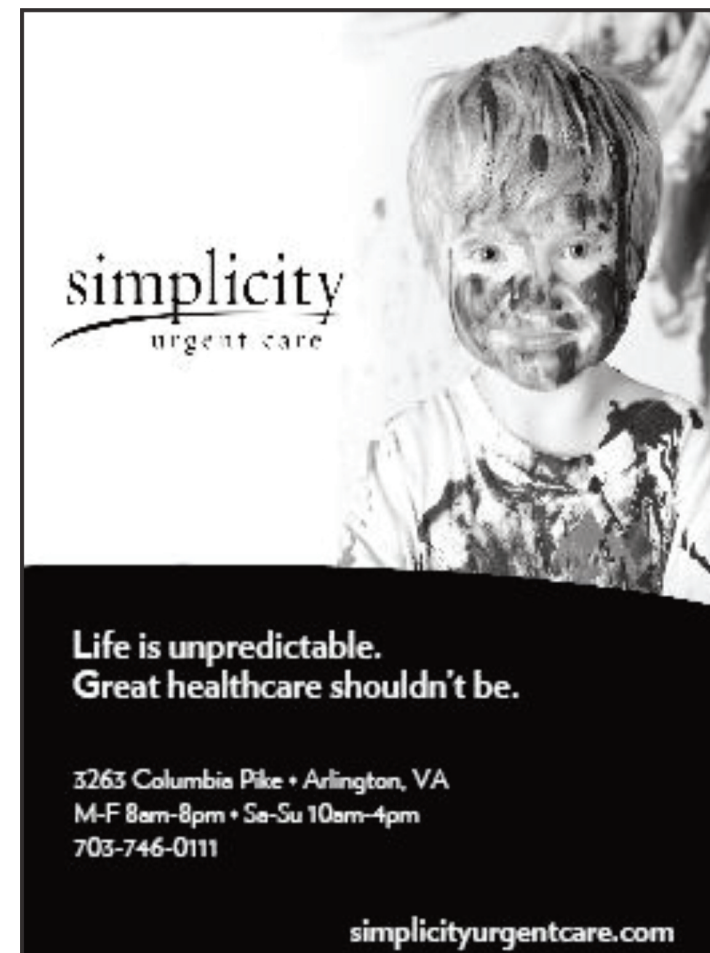
GARDEN TOUR SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 16

Calling all gardeners! The Arlington Heights Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 16. If you have a garden you'd like to show, please consider participating. And if you know of anyone whose garden you think is a great candidate, encourage them to join us, too.

The tour will begin at the Mashaws' home, 2908 South 5th Street, with coffee and breakfast treats at 9 a.m.

The tour provides a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors, view some beautiful gardens, and learn more about gardening while you share your knowledge. Even if you don't want to show your own garden, please join us for the tour!

For more information, contact Rebecca Mashaw at rmashaw@comcast.net or 703-892-3793.



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ART BUS EXTENDS SERVICE IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Several schedule and some slight route changes for the ART 42, 52, 75 and 77 routes went into effect on Monday, April 16, 2012.

ART 75 (Shirlington-Wakefield H.S.-Carlin Springs Rd.-Ballston-Virginia Square) will add mid-day service, and extend evening service until 10 p.m. The schedule will also better coincide with the bell schedule at Wakefield High School.

ART 75, a Pike Ride route, is the perfect commuting option for people who need to travel between Ballston-Virginia Square and Shirlington. Key stops along the ART 75 route are in the Bluemont, Carlin Springs, Columbia Heights West, and Columbia Forest neighborhoods, Wakefield High School and the Shirlington Bus Station. Look for the green and gold ART signs along the route.

View these new schedules online at www.arlingtontransit.com.

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- the address, with an exact location in the building;
- as complete a description as possible of the robber(s);
- whether or not a weapon was implied or used. If you saw the weapon, a good description including the type, for example, if it was a handgun what style (revolver or semi-automatic), or other weapons such as knives, crowbars, etc.;
- a description of any vehicle used and the number of people in the vehicle;
- the direction of travel; and
- any words spoken by the robber(s).

While waiting for the police to arrive, lock the doors and do not touch anything. Keep everyone away from the hold-up area and guard anything that may have been touched by the robber(s).

Save anything left behind by the robber(s) such as a note, weapon, bag, clothing and do not handle any of these items.

While waiting for the police, do not discuss the crime with other witnesses. All those involved should make individual notes of the information they have while it is fresh in their minds.

To a thief, there's nothing like a motor vehicle. It's self-propelled and fully equipped for a fast get-away. The vehicle and its components are items in steady demand.

Stolen vehicles are frequently used to aid in the commission of more serious crimes, especially robbery, abduction, assault, and burglary. The definition of theft is to take the property of another wrongfully, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner.

ARLINGTON ALERT KEEPS YOU INFORMED

Arlington Alert sends people who either live or work in Arlington County text messages. Individuals choose how they want to receive messages -- on their mobile phones, pagers, and/or in their e-mail boxes. These messages warn people about emergency situations.

The Office of Emergency Management, in consultation with other relevant County departments or regional and state government entities, decides when to issue Arlington Alerts. The alerts go to subscribers who can choose both the device upon which to receive the alerts and sub-categories of alerts.

These messages are usually issued to provide emergency information specific to Arlington, although Arlington sometimes cooperates with other jurisdictions to issue messages on region-wide events or concerns. Arlington Alert is not a crime alert and/or a transit update service.

Typical alert messages provide information about:

- Events, either natural or man-made, that pose a threat to health/safety.
- Serious, sudden or long-term traffic disruptions.
- Unusual weather events.
- Cyber alerts.

You can visit the County website for Crime Reports and also sign up with WMATA for Metro Alerts.

Unless people are in the immediate area to witness an emergency situation, the chance that they will be quickly alerted to important safety information is min-

imal. Because text messaging is used by many people, it is an efficient effective means to immediately alert a segment of the population who can then warn others.

There is no cost to register for Arlington Alert. All it takes is completing a simple form. Each registrant chooses the devices on which he/she wants to receive messages.

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JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR BIKE TO WORK DAY MAY 18!

Bike to Work Day is May 18. Join over 10,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work.

Bike to Work Day is a free event for both new and experienced bicycle commuters throughout the Washington metropolitan region. Those who register and attend one of 59 regional pit stops will receive a free Bike to Work Day T-Shirt*, food, drinks, and a chance at winning bicycles or other great raffle prizes. For more information and to register go to:

<http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/>

I'm organizing an AHCA convoy on the 18th. Friends and neighbors from Alcova Heights and Penrose are welcome to join us too! We'll meet up in the morning at Thomas Jefferson Park (corner of 2nd and Irving) and ride to the festival at Freedom Plaza in DC. Our route takes us through Fort Myer and Arlington National Cemetery, past Lincoln & Korean War Memorials and along the Reflecting Pool with great

views of the Mall, Washington Monument & WWII Memorial. It is truly one of the best ways to experience some of the most scenic vistas in our area. The ride is about 6 miles and will take around 45 minutes one-way.

I've commuted to work in DC every day by bike for years (I know several other AHCA residents do as well) and I enjoy helping new riders navigate our great trails and look forward to a fun ride with the experienced cyclists. If you're going to ride in the convoy I'd suggest when you sign up on the Bike to Work site you select "Freedom Plaza" as your pit stop to make sure they save a shirt for you.

I'll provide a lot more details but if you are interested in joining the convoy please contact me at kandswhyte@gmail.com or 703.980.2140.

I look forward to seeing you on May 18th!

KEITH WHYTE

DC-Area Housing Market Ranks Among Nation's Strongest; Housing Affordability At All-Time High

Metropolitan Regional Information Systems (MRIS) data shows the DC-area housing market improved over last year:

***Inventory is down more than 25%** (currently representing a three-month supply—**the lowest in seven years**)

***Purchase contracts are up 4.6%**

***Foreclosures are down 67.2%**

***Average price is up 1.4% overall**

*A market forecast by real estate statistical analyst Veros suggests that the local market will grow at 2.9% in 2012, and places the **DC-area at #3 in its "Projected Five Strongest Markets."**

*New Census Bureau data shows that Washington, DC ranks fourth on a list of most affluent cities. And, **ten of the richest counties in the US**, with highest median household income, are in the DC-region—five in Maryland and five in Virginia. Loudon (VA), Fairfax (VA) and Howard (MD) Counties come in first, second and third for the nation.

11 High Cost Home Inspection Traps You Should Know About Weeks Before Listing Your Home For Sale

According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A special report identifies the most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale - not after.

Whether you own an old home or newer one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these items could cost your dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until after you list your home for sale and the home inspector flags these issues for the buyer, you could experience costly expenses which can delay the closing of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. Knowing what you're looking for can help prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their home is listed for sale our free report is titled "*11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection*". Contact me for a FREE copy!



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Real estate Tips for selling your home: Visit www.HighestHomePrice.com

TAKE THE HENRY CHALLENGE!

Henry Elementary School would like to extend an invitation to all AHCA community members to participate in the 8th annual Henry Challenge, a 5K run/walk that is meant to bring the community together and promote fitness.

The event starts at Henry, winds through the neighborhood to TJ Middle School, and finishes back at Henry Elementary where there will be several activities and refreshments. The event takes place on May 19th from 9am to Noon, which is just before the Annual AHCA Neighborhood BBQ.

The event is FREE, so if you are interested, no pre-registration forms are necessary; simply come on down to Henry and enjoy the day. If you are interested in ordering a t-shirt for the event, which has been designed by two of our very own students, they are \$5 (kids) and \$7 (adults) if pre-ordered. All shirts sold on the day of the event will be \$10.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the PE dept. at jon.haws@apsva.us or michael.humphreys@apsva.us.

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