

OVER THE FENCE

News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association



Winter 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT: THANKS TO MEMBERS!

Dear Neighbors,

As we begin 2013 I would like to take a moment to thank all of the residents and businesses who supported the Arlington Heights Civic Association during the past year by becoming members. Your contributions are vital to the continued existence of the AHCA and we are grateful for your commitment to our neighborhood.

I would also like to acknowledge those local businesses who gave a little bit more this year in support of Arlington Heights. Thanks go to Lost Dog Cafe, P. Brennan's, Twisted Vines and Taqueria el Poblano for the donation of gift certificates for our quarterly meeting raffles. P. Brennan's was also kind enough to host a well attended fundraiser for the AHCA and has again offered to host quarterly fundraising nights for us in 2013.

Giant Food continued to show their commitment to our neighborhood by once again donating all of the treats for our annual AHCA Halloween Party. We truly appreciate their ongoing support.

I would also like to call special attention to our wonderful locally owned and operated Papa John's, which has donated dozens of pizzas to our quarterly

meetings and will once again keep us from going hungry in 2013. I thank them for their generosity and their commitment to community outreach.

Neighbors - please take a few moments now before the year gets away from you and mail in your 2013 AHCA membership dues to our PO Box. The AHCA cannot continue without your support

I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2013 and I look forward to seeing you at our February 12 meeting!

Sincerely,
Stacey Whyte,
AHCA President

AHCA Members

Jennifer Abel and David Tripp
Victoria Arias
Judith and Bruce Baltensperger
Jeffrey and Veronica Bartlett
Ted and Dora Sue Black
Lisa and Steve Bongardt
Ed and Jane Brandt
Michael Braton
Chris and Mary Carbone

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**PLEASE ATTEND THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
ON TUESDAY, FEB. 12, 2013, 7-9 PM,
AT THE PATRICK HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY.**

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President's Letter, from page 1

Douglas Clarke and Bambi Semroc
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Daniel and Erin Flaherty
Jenny and Lawrence Friedl
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Lisa Hopkins
Steve Hornstein
Teresa Lynn Jennings and Michael Bromley
Holly and Jim Jewell
David and Teresa Jones
Peter Jones
Christian and Paola Kammer
Michael Kavanagh and David Mordini
David and Brianne Kopecky
Karl and Dori Kukawa
Bob & Leigh Lanham
Matthew Laskoski and Kimberly Hibschi
Daniel Letts
Mark and Katie Loughney
Terence and Prudence Mackenzie
Gail Massot
Valynda and James Mayes
Brian Meenaghan and Lacey Kahmer
Conchita and David Mitchell
Jonathan and Ellen Moore
John Morrill and Diane Canova
Daniel and Rosemary Morrissey
Gus and Irene Moshos
Dori and Chris Muldowney
Ella W Nargele
Charlotte and Robert Nau

Continued on page 3

President's Letter, from page 2

Blossom and Robert Perry
 Ron and Cathy Peterson
 Matthew and Jennifer Pietropola
 William Potapchuk
 Dave Pouliett Family
 Veronica and Lyle Priddy
 Ida Rademacher
 Nancy and Bill Rasari
 Shawkatullah A. and Nafisa Rawroot
 David and Bette Rodgers
 Allison Rosenberg
 Ralph Ruedy
 Tia Scales
 Cynthia and Christopher Schaller
 Betty Siegel
 Sarah Smiley
 Sally Snead
 Doug and Sara Snow
 Claudi and Dustin Stamper
 William Stevens
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 David and Andrea Talley
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SIDEWALK SAFETY

The U.S. may be seeing one of the warmest winters on record, but we're never more than a cold front away from another snowfall. To that end, Arlington County reminds residents that they're required by county ordinance to keep the sidewalks in front of their homes free of snow and ice within 24 or 36 hours of a snow storm.

To wit, all property owners are required to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property:

- Must be removed from the entire width of the sidewalk up to 3 feet wide (to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, and adults with children in hand).
- Must be removed within 24 hours after the snow stops falling when accumulations are less than 6 inches, and within 36 hours when 6 or more inches of snow accumulate (as measured at National Airport, per National Weather Service). If another snow event occurs, the clock will reset to the end of the most recent snowfall. The official snow ending time will be posted at www.arlingtonva.us/portals/topics/TopicsWeatherWinter.aspx
- Noncompliance could result in a civil penalty of \$50 for sidewalks less than 200 linear feet in length, or \$100 for sidewalks longer than 200 feet.
- The County may remove the snow or ice on sidewalks around private property when the owner fails to comply within the designated time period, and charge the cost to the owner.
- Private owners may not deposit snow or ice from private property onto public property, including streets & sidewalks. Such action may result in a class 4 (criminal) misdemeanor and fine of \$250.

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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feel The Heritage Festival

Celebrate African-American culture at the 21st Annual Feel the Heritage Festival on Saturday, February 9 from noon-4pm.

The event will be held at Langston-Brown Community Center at 2121 N. Culpeper Street in Arlington and will feature music and dance performances, delicious food, a variety of vendors, and much more. Free admission and free shuttles.

As part of the program, WalkArlington will be leading a memory-sharing community walk of High View Park at 2:30 p.m. Starting at Langston-Brown, the 30-45 minute walk will stop at significant locations in the community where walkers will be encouraged to share memories about the neighborhood, its residents and traditions. These memories will be adapted into a future Walkabout. For more information, call 703-228-3329.

Parents Night Out

Let us watch the kids, ages 4-11, while you enjoy a night out! **On Friday, February 15, 2013, from 6-10 pm at Walter Reed Community Center** (2909 16th Street South, Arlington) children will enjoy face painting, balloon art, make and take art projects, healthy snacks, movies, bounce house (when space permits) play field games and more!

The cost is \$25 for the first child; \$15 each additional sibling. To register: Please call 703.228.4747, or visit us online at registration.arlingtonva.us and reference Activity Code: 970008-G. For more information, contact: Desi Jerry at AJerry@arlingtonva.us or 703.228.7781 (Se Habla Espanol 703.228.7783) TTY number 703.228.4743 or download full event flyer. **Please register by 2/12/13.**

Summer fun

It's never too early to plan for summer, and Arlington County is making it that much easier by hosting a **Summer Activities Fair from 6-8 p.m. on Feb. 16** at the **Thomas Jefferson Community Center**. Residents will have a chance to find out about activities offered by a variety of camps and other organizations. Snow date: Feb. 22.

Creative Preschool Program Registration Opens in February

Arlington's Creative Preschoolers Program is very popular and space is limited. Registration is conducted on a priority basis. First priority is for students currently enrolled in an Arlington County Creative Preschool program and who reside in Arlington County. Registration for First Priority begins Monday, February 4, 2013. Second Priority is for siblings of current enrollees who reside in Arlington County.

Second priority registration begins Monday, February 11, 2013. All other Arlington residents can register on Tuesday, February 19, 2013. Non-residents registration is on Monday February 25, 2013. For more information download the Creative Preschool Brochure.

NCAC UPDATE

The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee approved the Highland/Ivy/9th street lights project at its meeting last December. The County Board is scheduled to decide whether to fund the project at its Feb. 23rd meeting. County staff say that it's almost certain that the Board will approve the funding and the staff's 'initial estimate' is that construction will begin one year later.

AHCA can have two Neighborhood Conservation (NC) projects in the funding queue, and we now just have one - the 5th St. street lights project.

We are currently considering ideas for the second project. If you have any suggestions, please contact Jim Presswood, AHCA's NC representative, at jimahca@gmail.com.



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LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Many of the Arlington Heights streetlights have already been converted to LED lighting, with a few more scheduled for the upgrade in the near future:

- * A few lights on S. Old Glebe Rd. new S. 2nd Street
- * S. Hudson St. (Arl. Blvd to 2nd St S)
- * S. Garfield St. (6th St. S. to 7th St. S.)
- * S. Ivy cul de sac (at 7th St S)
- * 7th Street S. (Glebe to Walter Reed)
- * S. Irving St (7th Street S. to 9th Street S.)
- * 9th Rd. S. at Walter Reed Dr.
- * S. Glebe Road - only a few lights near Col. Pike

The county anticipates that these conversions will occur between February-April, barring any unforeseen issues. More information is available at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/page87719.aspx

All future conversions of LED streetlights will include adding the eyebrows on the side of the lights adjacent to private properties. Also, all of the converted LED streetlights in neighborhoods are utilizing dimming technology which occurs gradually as night progresses. For previous installations, the county is installing eyebrows on a case by case basis after receiving a request from the adjacent property owner. Anyone who has concerns regarding a previous installation can contact Santosh Neupane, Streetlighting Engineer, at sneupane@arlingtonva.us, or 703-228-0778.

NOISY NEIGHBORS: HOW LOUD IS TOO LOUD?

The county wants to know and is expected to hold a public hearing during the first quarter of 2013 (exact date to be announced) to vote on the first comprehensive overhaul of the County's Noise Control Ordinance.

Proposed changes include:

- * Civil penalties on violators after a warning is issued or posted on the premises.
- * Criminal penalties for violations would increase from \$25 to not less than \$100 or more than

\$2,500 upon conviction.

- New methods to determine a noise violation that is above grade, or that occurs within multi-unit buildings.
- Clarity on the agencies and scope of work that are allowed exemptions to complete emergency repairs.
- Enhanced prohibited acts to address issues such as loud music and animal noises.
- Learn more at

arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?meta_id=104307&view=&showpdf=1

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

New to the neighborhood? Arlington County has just launched a new Arlington Welcome Kit, a free resource for new residents. The Welcome Kit includes an online information portal and a printable guide packed with information on how to sign up for county services, set up a new home and settle into the community.

The kit is available for download at www.arlingtonva.us/portals/topics/page87702.aspx

AHCA EVENTS FOR 2013

Mark your calendars for these important and fun events coming up this year in our neighborhood—

Feb. 12, 7-9 pm:	Quarterly meeting of AHCA
May 14, 7-9 pm:	Quarterly meeting of AHCA
May 18, 12-2	Spring Neighborhood BBQ
May 19, 12-2	BBQ Rain Date
June 6, 9-12:	Neighborhood Garden Tour
Aug. 13, 7-9 pm:	Quarterly meeting of AHCA
Oct. 26, 3-4:30	Halloween Parade
Oct. 27, 3-4:30	Halloween Parade Rain Date
Nov. 12, 7-9 pm:	Quarterly meeting of AHCA
Dec. 20, 7 pm:	Holiday caroling

ARLINGTON COUNTY AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPROVE FRAMEWORK FOR NAVY ANNEX LAND EXCHANGE

On January 10, 2013, the Arlington County Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Department of the Army that establishes a framework for a future land exchange agreement between the two parties at the Navy Annex site.

The MOU outlines the key objectives for both parties and the framework for a future land exchange. Under the agreement, the Army would receive all property north of a realigned Columbia Pike in exchange for providing the County with land south of a realigned Columbia Pike.

The existing Southgate Road would be realigned to the western edge of the Navy Annex site to maintain appropriate access to Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, while directly linking the Navy Annex site to the existing Arlington National Cemetery grounds. Engineering and design work must be completed to deter-

mine the exact location for a realigned Columbia Pike and the parties must work out the exact acreage and parcels to be exchanged.

"Arlington National Cemetery is sacred ground for our community, our region and certainly, our nation," Board Chairman Walter Tejada said. "This MOU paves the way for an agreement that will allow us to support their expansion goals. At the same time, it enables us to meet our goals: preserving and displaying Arlington County's history and heritage by establishing an Arlington Heritage Center and Freedman's Village Museum, and fulfilling our transportation and economic development vision for Columbia Pike."

The County Board action was necessitated by the decision of the Department of Defense last year to terminate the previous land exchange agreement, which would have provided the County with 4.23 acres of land on the Navy Annex Property north of Columbia Pike in exchange for providing DOD with an equivalent acreage of the Southgate Road right-of-way.

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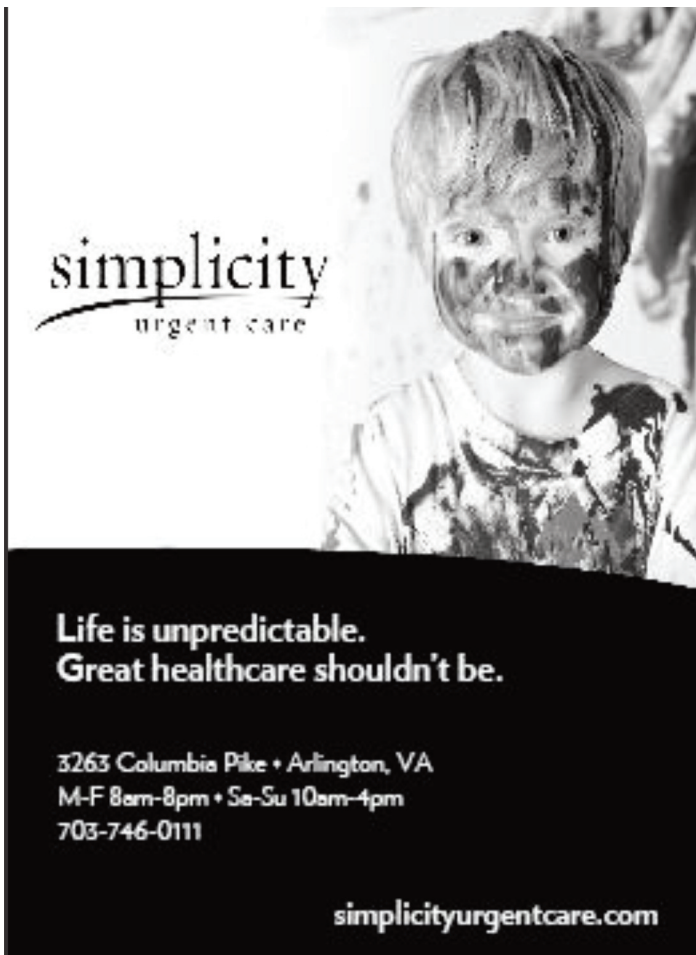
Please take this opportunity to renew your AHCA membership. Residential memberships are \$20.00 per household; business memberships are \$25.

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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2013 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. \$ _____

COLUMBIA PIKE UNDERGROUNDING AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Construction continues for the Utility Undergrounding and Street Improvement project, located between S. Wakefield Street and S. Four Mile Run Drive. The County's contractor is wrapping the installation of the Dominion Virginia Power, Verizon, and Comcast duct banks. (This is a construction method designed to consolidate wiring into centralized underground paths). These utility companies will then begin pulling lines and making the necessary connections to allow the removal of the existing utility poles along this segment of the Pike.

The street improvement phase of this project, which includes installation of storm drain, wider sidewalk, street trees, and street lights, will coincide with the wiring connections. Construction for the street improvements will require lane closures with at least one westbound and one eastbound lane open at all times. Crews may perform some of this work during evening hours to minimize impact to businesses and motorists during the day. Residents can expect some construction noise associated with this work. County staff appreciates your patience during this time! Businesses located along this segment of Columbia Pike remain open during construction and owners greatly appreciate the community's continuous support.

ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD HOLDING TOWN HALL MEETINGS

During 2013, the County Board is holding a series of eight Neighborhood Town Halls and two Neighborhood Town Walks, holding them in every corner of Arlington. All residents of the County are welcome to attend any session.

This first Neighborhood Town Hall features Neighborhood Town Hall County Board Chairman J. Walter Tejada. It will be held **Wednesday, Jan. 30, 6:45-9 p.m. at Drew Community Center Cafeteria,**

3500 23rd Street S., Arlington, VA 22206

The county especially encourages residents of the surrounding neighborhoods of the Drew Community Center—Nauck, Fairlington, Claremont, New Arlington-Douglas Park, Columbia Heights and Arlington View—to attend.

This is an informal session during which County residents can speak directly with County Board Members on any topic without an appointment. The session also includes an opportunity for you to meet-and-greet your neighbors.

All county residents are welcome to attend any session to speak directly with County Board Members on any topic.

Just come to the scheduled session – you do not need an appointment. The board members are scheduled to be at Thomas Jefferson County Center from 6:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. on March 27.

Please view the full schedule and a clickable map at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/County-Board/page88148.aspx>. You can also go to the County's homepage, www.arlingtonva.us, and search "town hall."

SUPER STOPS CONSTRUCTION

Construction continues on the first Columbia Pike super stop at Walter Reed East. Crews are awaiting delivery of light fixtures, and aim to complete work on the stop by February 2013. Work will begin on the Barton West super stop upon completion of Walter Reed East. The County will construct a total of 24 new bus stops to support Pike Ride bus service and serve as future streetcar stations along the Pike corridor.

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ARLINGTON URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE

The public is invited to join members of Arlington's Urban Agriculture Initiative Citizen Task Force for a series of three community conversations in January.

As part of Arlington's ongoing sustainability efforts, the task force is developing an inventory of existing programs, identifying gaps, and exploring new options for food production - such as rooftop gardens, land exchanges, demonstration gardens and backyard hens - and investigating issues concerning food security, health and fitness benefits. The goal is to bring healthy, nutritious food to the community and to promote community wellness.

Last March, the Arlington County Board adopted the following charge for the Urban Agriculture Task Force: "Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive

residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important."

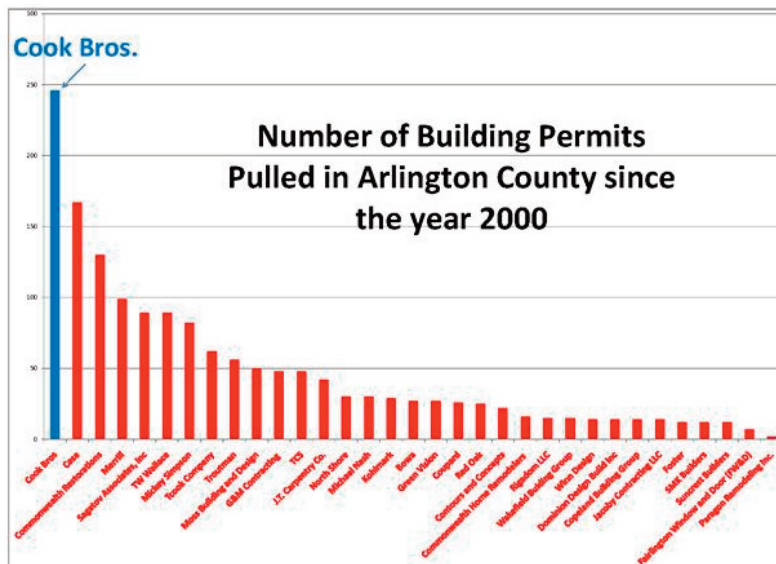
Do you have ideas or questions about the many topics the Urban Ag Task Force should address? You are invited to participate in our informal, drop-in Community Conversations, where you can meet with Task Force members who are eager for your input.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 7:30-9 pm at the Central Library

For more information, e-mail Kimberly Haun of the county's Department of Parks & Recreation at khaun@arlingtonva.us.

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