

OVER THE FENCE



NEWS FOR NEIGHBORS
FROM THE
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC
ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2019

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THE AHCA QUARTERLY
MEETING

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 12
AT 7 P.M.

PATRICK HENRY
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL LIBRARY

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UPCOMING AHCA MEETINGS - PLEASE JOIN US!

The next AHCA meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 12, from 7-9 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Elementary School Library. Pizza will be served.

The next Alice West Fleet elementary school construction meeting will take place Wednesday, February 13, from 7-8 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School Library.

PATRICK HENRY UPDATES

BY CAMERON SNYDER, INTERIM PRINCIPAL

We have had a great start to the academic year at Patrick Henry. Throughout the beginning of the year, the students participated in multiple engaging activities including field trips to local museums and parks, enriching classroom experiences, service learning projects, the Read-A-Thon and multiple assemblies. During the fall, the students worked hard to prepare for multiple performances and assemblies including Veterans Day, Hispanic Heritage, and the Winter Concert. It was wonderful to see so many of the Patrick Henry families at these events and others! This fall many families also attended the ESOL/HILT Family Literacy Night, Silver Diner Night, Math Strategies Night for Parents, and Bingo Night. Thank you for your continued participation and support of the school.

We are excited about the many fun events ahead. In the coming months we have Academic Night, Zones of Regulation Information Night, an ESOL/HILT Family Literacy Night, the Book Swap, International Night, and concerts.

Next year will bring changes and new opportunities for the current Patrick Henry students and families. On December 6, 2018, the boundaries for next school year were finalized and current students at Patrick Henry will attend Fleet, Drew, or Hoffman-Boston as determined by their address of residence. Over the course of the winter and spring, we will be working collaboratively with these schools to prepare transition and community building events. More information about the specifics of these events will come through our typical school communication methods including the Happening @ Henry, SchoolTalk messages, and flyers home. Thank you for your continued support. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school should you have any questions.

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Please find more information about neighborhood representatives on our website at ahca.info/about/contact

TIME FOR PLANNING AND PATIENCE

BY REBECCA MASHAW

As I'm writing this I'm looking out at about eight inches of snow, beginning to melt now in the sunshine. Gardening is probably the last thing on most people's minds at the moment.

But it's not too early to make some plans. So start your 'to do' list now:

Late winter is the perfect time (once the snow melts, that is) to cut ornamental grasses down. One of the greatest characteristics of these beauties is how they define 'low maintenance.' Just cut them back hard, once, in late winter or early spring, and they take care of themselves for the rest of the year. This applies to both the tall grasses such as miscanthus and pennisetums, and the low-growers, such as liriope. Hedge shears or a string trimmer will do the job quickly and easily.

As the snow melts and the days grow longer, the gorgeous hellebores (Lenten and Christmas roses, as some call them) will start to bud. The older leaves from last year will look tattered; trim them off at the base to give the new leaves and flowers air and light.

Even before all the snow is history, take a look at your evergreens. Some can get weighed down with snow on the branches and if left

to themselves, may not regain their shape. (Remember yew wood is the preferred medium for archery bows, because of its bendability.) So take a broom out and knock the snow off the yews, the arborvitae, boxwoods and hollies, and any other shrubs that are splayed out or bent over. Be careful with the azaleas; they can be brittle as they age, so brush them a bit more gently.

If you notice broken or split branches on trees and shrubs and can safely trim them yourself, have at it. Take care not to over-prune right now; any spring-blooming plants will lose flowers and some summer bloomers, like mophead hydrangeas, bloom on old wood. Just take care of the broken stems.

Otherwise, be patient with your garden and yourself. It's a good time to get tools sharpened and cleaned, ready to go; to check your seed supply and put in orders for seeds that you want to try out this year; to stock whatever else you may need, from organic fertilizers to pre-emergent weed-and-feed products for your lawn.

And on snow days, get out your garden books and read, and plan, and daydream. Get inspired. Identify new plants to try. And be glad for the snow, because it will

soak in to that soil you've been working to improve and nourish the first bulbs of spring.



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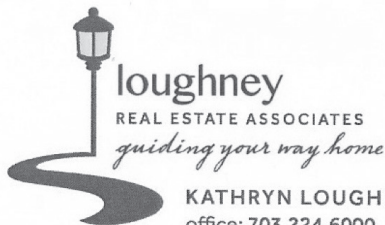
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2019 AHCA MEMBERSHIP

Your membership helps support the Arlington Heights Civic Association's activities. Members receive voting rights on issues presented to the association. Membership year runs the calendar year, renewable each January regardless what month dues were paid in the previous year.

Individual/Family Memberships are \$20. Business Memberships are \$25. Please complete this form and send with your check made out to AHCA to the following address:

Arlington Heights Civic Association
P.O. Box 40311, Arlington, VA 22204

Name _____


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NEW: PAY WITH VENMO

Find @arlingtonheightscivicassoc on the app and pay your \$20 fee. Don't forget to provide your name, address, phone, and email, as well as a note saying "2019 dues" in the "What's it for?" field.




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TREE CANOPY PROJECT: HELP BEAUTIFY OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BY ADDING A FREE TREE TO YOUR PROPERTY

Arlington Heights's tree canopy percentage is only 34 percent. You can help increase our tree canopy by filling out an application for a free tree from the Tree Canopy Project. There are generally two rounds of plantings a year. The application process is quick and easy. More information can be found here: <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/>.

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