



# Neighbor News

## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Fund Recap

By Rita Wiggins

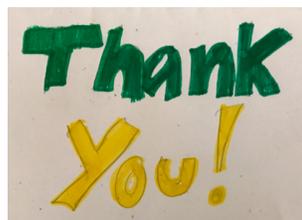
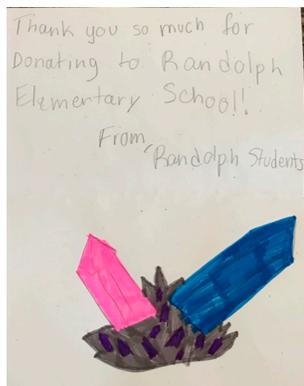
Sincere thanks to everyone in this wonderful neighborhood who once again generously supported our annual Holiday Fund Drive. We collected just under \$2,000, which was significantly less than years past. So far we have reimbursed shoppers for about \$2,400 worth of gifts, so although we haven't closed the books on this one yet, it looks like we will finalize on a bit of a deficit.

Working with Randolph counselor, Jennifer Baitinger, we provided gifts for 40 children, ages 3 months – 10 years old. With lists of "wants" and "needs" in hand and a budget of \$75-80 per child, volunteer shoppers purchased and wrapped packages containing a great variety of items ranging from coats, shoes and clothes to toy trucks, dolls, stuffed animals, skateboards, and, my personal favorite, slime and hair accessories.

I'd like to acknowledge our dedicated, resourceful and thorough shoppers, who worked diligently to ensure the children had the gifts they requested even when their requests were a little confusing! Thank you to the following shoppers: Lindsey Arthur, Traci Pietra, Kate Sinkins, Robyn McGinn, Adam Bray, Irene Wittig, Shannon Taylor, Mina Stanard and Lindsay Robinson. Thanks also to Sandi Sommers who helped out with wrapping. Kudos to the newsletter carriers who distributed the all-important requests for help. And finally, thanks to DPCA Treasurer, Andy Price, and DPCA President, Eric Berkey, who are always working behind the scenes.

DPCA was presented with a thank you card acknowledging the efforts of our community in support of the school. You can see a photo of it below.

Wishing you all happiness, and health in 2023! Let's continue to take care of ourselves and look out for each other!



### DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

#### ELECTIONS 2023

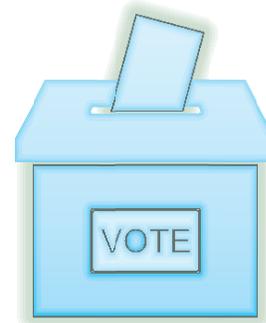
The annual elections for Civic Association officers will be held at the regular meeting on Monday 20 February 2023.

The elected officer positions are

- president
- vice-president
- secretary
- treasurer

To submit your name as a candidate, drop an email to [president@douglasparkca.org](mailto:president@douglasparkca.org). Nominations will also be accepted at the 20 February meeting.

Those elected will serve as officers for the association for FY2024 (1 Mar 2023 to 29 Febr 2024)



DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND THE MEETING ON 20 FEBRUARY TO VOTE FOR YOUR CANDIDATE(S)!

### INSIDE

DPCA Meeting News..... p 2  
 President's Corner..... p 3  
 In and Around Douglas Park..... p 4  
 Useful Numbers and Websites ..... p 6

### NEXT DPCA MEETING

**MON 20 FEBR 2023 AT 7.00P VIA ZOOM**

Please see 'Douglas Park Civic Association Meeting News' on p 2 for more information. All are welcome to attend.

## DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION • ARLINGTON, VA

## MEETING CALENDAR

The Association conducts general membership meetings in February, April, June, September and November. Meeting dates and locations are subject to change; up-to-date information is available at <http://www.douglasparkca.org/> or in the *Douglas Park Neighbor News*.

## NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday evening, 20 February 2023 at 7.00p via Zoom. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for more details. All are welcome.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## PRESIDENT

Eric Berkey, [president@douglasparkca.org](mailto:president@douglasparkca.org)

## VICE PRESIDENT

Steven Jordan Tomaszewski,, [vicepresident@douglasparkca.org](mailto:vicepresident@douglasparkca.org)

## SECRETARY

Lilly Mancilla, [secretary@douglasparkca.org](mailto:secretary@douglasparkca.org)

## TREASURER

Andy Price, [treasurer@douglasparkca.org](mailto:treasurer@douglasparkca.org)

## AT LARGE

Linda Dye, [wwwcdyels@starpower.net](mailto:wwwcdyels@starpower.net)

Adam Henderson, [chair@pike-ppg.org](mailto:chair@pike-ppg.org)

John Snyder, [jvsnyder54@comcast.net](mailto:jvsnyder54@comcast.net)

## OTHER COMMITTEES

## PARKS COMMITTEE

**WE ARE SEEKING NEW PARKS COMMITTEE MEMEBERS**

If interested, contact Eric Berkey at [president@douglasparkca.org](mailto:president@douglasparkca.org)

## ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOODS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ARNAAC) DELEGATES

**WE ARE SEEKING ARNAAC REPS**

If interested, contact Eric Berkey at [president@douglasparkca.org](mailto:president@douglasparkca.org)

## ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION DELEGATES

Linda Dye, [wwwcdyels@starpower.net](mailto:wwwcdyels@starpower.net)

Adam Henderson, [chair@pike-ppg.org](mailto:chair@pike-ppg.org)

Annette Pigott, [annette.pigott@verizon.net](mailto:annette.pigott@verizon.net)

**WE ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL CIVIC FEDERATION****DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

If interested, contact Eric Berkey at [president@douglasparkca.org](mailto:president@douglasparkca.org)

## DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS

## EDITORIAL, DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Adam Henderson, [news@douglasparkca.org](mailto:news@douglasparkca.org)

## ADVERTISING SALES

OPEN

## DISTRIBUTION

Allegra Jabo, [allegrajabo@gmail.com](mailto:allegrajabo@gmail.com)

## WEBMASTER

Adam Henderson, [news@douglasparkca.org](mailto:news@douglasparkca.org)

## ADVERTISING RATES AND INFORMATION

1/8 page (business card)—\$35

1/2 page—\$115

1/4 page—\$65

Full page—\$210

Multi-issue prepayment discounts and inserts are available.

Visit <http://www.douglasparkca.org/advertise/> for more information.

## DOUGLAS PARK ON THE WEB

## WEBSITE

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

## LISTSERV

<https://groups.io/g/dpca-listserv>

Join by email to [dpca-listserv+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:dpca-listserv+subscribe@groups.io)

## FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/DouglasParkArlington/>

# Douglas Park Civic Association Meeting News

By Eric Berkey

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS, MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY

The next Civic Association meeting will be held at 7 pm on Monday 20 February 2023, via Zoom. The Zoom link will be provided a few days prior to the meeting on the Civic Association ListServ. If you are not a member of the ListServ, please join by sending an email to [dpca-listserv+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:dpca-listserv+subscribe@groups.io) with your name, street, and block number. In addition to officer updates the agenda will include:

## ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Two of our four current officers have confirmed that they are running for re-election in their current roles (Lilly Mancilla, Secretary; Andy Price, Treasurer) and our current Vice President, Steven Jordan Tomaszewski, is running for President. No one has yet indicated their candidacy for Vice President. Nominations for these offices, as well as all others, are open to Douglas Park residents. If you would like information about the role of civic association officers, please contact Eric Berkey at [president@douglasparkca.org](mailto:president@douglasparkca.org). If you would like to stand for an office, please attend the meeting to tell those gathered a bit about yourself.

## PROPOSED DUES INCREASE

The Executive Committee, at its 30 January 2023, meeting, recommended that the Civic Association increase its membership dues to \$25 per household per year (beginning on March 1, 2023). The Executive Committee makes this recommendation due to a variety of factors, including the reality of increasing costs for goods and services and recognizes that dues have not been increased since 2011. The neighborhood will vote upon this recommendation at the 20 February meeting

## COLUMBIA PIKE FORWARD

Sheila Borkar and Susan Finotti from the County's Department of Environmental Services will join us at our next meeting to discuss progress regarding Pike Forward, and specifically construction on Columbia Pike just north of Douglas Park. I have also asked them to speak to some concerns we have raised regarding staging sites on Columbia Pike. Please come with questions for Susan and Sheila.

## PIKE FORWARD STAGING AREAS

Back in December 2022, I became aware that the County's contractor for Pike Forward did not timely request a use permit for the staging site at 1205 S George Mason Dr (next to the 7-Eleven). The use permit, since approved by the County Board in January 2023, deals with the heavy vehicles, trailers, and more at this site for the Pike Forward construction; they also had many heavy vehicles at the old Penske site without any approvals, which have since been moved. Put simply, the contractor procured by DES did not submit appropriate use permits for their staging sites and when this was noticed, the County's Planning Department issued notices to the property owner (Jair Lynch) but not the contractor or the County's Department of Environmental Services (DES). Things did not appear to move along swiftly until we started asking questions and met with the Planning Director, who committed to some process changes and working more closely with DES to try to ensure this does not occur again in the future.

Why is this important and why should you care? My concern, shared by the Executive Committee, is that we need to continue to monitor these sites because of their close proximity to parks, especially Doctor's Run and its playground, which are used heavily by our neighborhood and Columbia Pike residents. We do not want a repeat of what happened with the Fort Barnard staging site (19th Street South and South Pollard Street) where the Civic Association had to work with DES for several years to ensure that heavy trucks did not come onto the site all hours of the day, engage in sound and air pollution, etc. Fortunately, for the time being, it appears that many of our concerns about the Pike Forward staging sites are addressed in the staff report for the use permit. Additionally, the County will have a 90-day review of the situation, so it's important the Civic Association continue to monitor the sites and loop back with the County in April.

The County's staff report on the use permit can be found at Item 9 here: [https://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=2&event\\_id=1840&meta\\_id=215402](https://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&event_id=1840&meta_id=215402)

## DPCA GENERAL MEETINGS

Please mark your calendars. In 2023, the Civic Association General Meetings are on the following dates (at 7 pm and on Zoom unless otherwise changed):

*Monday 20 February 2023 · Monday 24 April 2023  
Tuesday 20 June 2023 · Monday 18 September 2023  
Monday 13 November 2023*

## President's Corner

*By Eric Berkey*

**G**reetings and Happy New Year to neighbors and friends! This is my last President's Corner as I have decided not to run for re-election for this coming year.

When I first wrote this column back in 2021, I made two specific pledges to the neighborhood: (1) that we would pursue and support efforts to maintain and increase that sense of community that many so value about our neighborhood; and (2) that we would update our Neighborhood Plan (formerly known as our Neighborhood Conservation Plan) and take efforts to advocate for the improvement of our parks and infrastructure. Regarding the first goal, many neighbors in Douglas Park worked hard to bring back traditions like the Douglas Park July 4th Picnic (after a two-year hiatus) and the Douglas Park Trail of Terror; to begin new events like Douglas Park Movie Night (September 2022); and to maintain and strengthen community activities like the Douglas Park Holiday Fund Drive, just to name a few examples. Regarding the second goal, the Civic Association finalized the Neighborhood Plan update in December 2021, and we began discussions with the County in 2022 regarding improvements to Monroe Park and the Douglas Park. But we didn't stop there – a group of residents, supported by the Civic Association, successfully advocated that the County not extend 12th Street South to Monroe Street South, due to significant concerns about safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

There is more to do. We need to finalize our Civic Association's incorporation so we can better provide long-term stability for the organization. Continued advocacy is needed regarding our parks and infrastructure. And person-power is needed to maintain and build upon the great community-building events we've held over the years. There is a lot about which to be excited!

It has been a pleasure serving in this position and I am very excited about the future with the leadership that we will have over the coming years. Thank you.



## In and Around Douglas Park

by Lilly Mancilla

Some items of interest in our and nearby neighborhoods:

- **Monroe Park Playground Renovation:** The existing playground for ages 2-5 will be replaced with new play equipment along with updated site seating, landscaping, and ADA compliant pathways. To learn more, visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Parks-Projects/Monroe-Park-Playground-Renovation>.
- **Columbia Pike Street Projects a/k/a Columbia Pike Forward:** phases involve lane closures to accommodate the necessary utility undergrounding, and sidewalk widening. To learn more, visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/Columbia-Pike-Forward>.
- **3401 Columbia Pike [Bank of America Site]:** The applicant proposes to build a six-story mixed-use building on the site currently occupied by the Bank of America office building, associated drive-through and a surface parking lot. The proposal includes 250 new residential units, approximately 5,000 square feet of ground floor retail, and 2½ levels of below-grade parking containing approximately 287 parking spaces. This project is currently under review. To learn more, visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Form-Based-Code/3401-Columbia-Pike>.
- **2607 Columbia Pike [The Elliott]:** Fillmore Center LLC, proposes to build a six-story mixed-use building. The proposal includes 250 new residential units, approximately 50,243 square feet of ground floor retail, and three levels of below-grade parking containing approximately 412 parking spaces. This project was approved by the County Board on 19 Mar 2022. To learn more, visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Form-Based-Code/2607-Columbia-Pike>.

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

- **Celebrate Black History Month in Arlington.** The 2023 Feel the Heritage Festival will be held on Saturday 25 February from noon to 5 pm at Charles Drew Community Center, 3500 23rd St S in neighboring Green Valley. The festival welcomes hundreds of attendees each year to learn about the Arlington's historically African American neighborhoods while enjoying live entertainment, delicious food and dozens of vendors. The event is free and includes a full afternoon of engaging programming for guests of all ages. For more details, visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Feel-the-Heritage-Festival>.
- **Make Your Home Smarter and More Efficient.** This is a virtual webinar to be held Thursday 16 February from 7 to 8 pm. Learn about energy conservation programs from Dominion Energy that help customers save energy and maximize savings, including their Home Energy Assessment Program. Pre-register at <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/make-your-home-smarter-and-more-efficient-with-help-from-dominion-energy/>.



# Want to talk to thousands of your neighbors?



## *Advertise in the Douglas Park Neighbor News*

Let your neighbors know about your business and services. Each issue reaches over 1,300 households in Douglas Park.

Rates are affordable and prepayment discounts are available for multiple issues. For more information, visit [www.douglasparkca.org/advertise/](http://www.douglasparkca.org/advertise/).

To place an ad, drop an email at [douglaspark.news@gmail.com](mailto:douglaspark.news@gmail.com).

**R & M Cleaning Services**

*We are licensed and insured!*

- RELIABLE
- EXPERIENCED
- GOOD REFERENCES
- FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING
- REASONABLE RATES



**WE BRING OUR OWN EQUIPMENT**

*Free in-home Estimate  
Weekly/Bi-Weekly/Monthly or Occasional  
Move-in or Move-out*

**Call Maryen or Raul at  
703-321-5335**

**USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES**

Covid-19 Updates <a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/">www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/</a>	703.228.7999
Covid-19 Food Assistance <a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/food-assistance/">www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/food-assistance/</a>	703.228.1300
Abandoned Vehicles on the Street <a href="http://police.arlingtonva.us/parking">police.arlingtonva.us/parking</a>	703.228.4141
Adult Protective Svcs (VA Hotline) <a href="http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/as/aps.cgi">www.dss.virginia.gov/family/as/aps.cgi</a>	888.832.3858
Are Schools Open? <a href="http://www.apsva.us/emergency-alerts">www.apsva.us/emergency-alerts</a>	866.322.4277
Are Parks/Community Centers Open? <a href="http://emergency.arlingtonva.us/closings-delays-cancellations">emergency.arlingtonva.us/closings-delays-cancellations</a>	703.228.4715
Auto Registration, County <a href="http://taxes.arlingtonva.us/vehicles/vehicle-taxes">taxes.arlingtonva.us/vehicles/vehicle-taxes</a>	703.228.3135
Automated Taxpayer Service <a href="http://taxes.arlingtonva.us">taxes.arlingtonva.us</a>	703.228.3090
Emergency Mental Health Svcs (24 hr) <a href="http://health.arlingtonva.us/behavioral-healthcare/mental-health">health.arlingtonva.us/behavioral-healthcare/mental-health</a>	703.228.4256
Permit (Zone) Parking <a href="http://transportation.arlingtonva.us/parking">transportation.arlingtonva.us/parking</a>	703.228.3344
Police Non-Emergency <a href="http://police.arlingtonva.us">police.arlingtonva.us</a>	703.558.2222
Pollard & 19th St Site (WSS Operations Center)	703.228.6555

Schools: Alice West Fleet ES <a href="http://fleet.apsva.us">fleet.apsva.us</a>	703.228.5820
Schools: Charles R Drew ES <a href="http://drew.apsva.us">drew.apsva.us</a>	703.228.5825
Schools: Peyton Randolph ES <a href="http://randolph.apsva.us">randolph.apsva.us</a>	703.228.5830
Schools: Thomas Jefferson MS <a href="http://jefferson.apsva.us">jefferson.apsva.us</a>	703.228.5900
Schools: Wakefield HS <a href="http://wakefield.apsva.us">wakefield.apsva.us</a>	703.228.6700
Snow Removal and Updates (Streets) <a href="http://emergency.arlingtonva.us/weather/snow-ice/snow-removal-phases">emergency.arlingtonva.us/weather/snow-ice/snow-removal-phases</a>	703.228.6485
Tax Payments <a href="http://taxes.arlingtonva.us">taxes.arlingtonva.us</a>	703.228.4000
Utilities: Comcast/Xfinity <a href="http://www.xfinity.com">www.xfinity.com</a>	800.934.6489
Utilities: Dominion Virginia Power <a href="http://www.dominionenergy.com">www.dominionenergy.com</a>	866.366.4357
Utilities: Sewer and Water (24 hr) <a href="http://water.arlingtonva.us">water.arlingtonva.us</a>	703.228.6555
Utilities, Verizon FiOS <a href="http://fios.verizon.com">fios.verizon.com</a>	800.837.4966
Utilities, Washington Gas <a href="http://www.washingtongas.com">www.washingtongas.com</a>	844.927.4427

*If you smell gas, or if you have an emergency involving natural gas, leave the area immediately, and call 911 or Washington Gas at 844.927.4427.*