Neighbor News

August-September 2003

Douglas Park online: http://www.arlingtondpca.homestead.com

President's Message

Left Turn Update

Arlington County will soon begin improvements to the Columbia Pike and Glebe Road intersection. Contractors will begin laying an underground ductbank on Sept. 29. Construction will take place between 9:30am and 3pm. The ductbank is the big underground tube through which electric, phone, and cable wires will be routed after the permanent left turn lanes are finished (in 2004, we've been told). You may want to use alternate routes and avoid the intersection during the day.

Glebe and 13th Development Approved

On Sept. 16, the Arlington County Board unanimously approved JCE's site plan request to build 11 new single family homes and 11 townhouses at 13th Street and South Glebe. The board chose Sketch Study 10A as the development plan. (The sketches are on display in the Monroe Park kiosk.) The plan puts 11 townhouses along the southern edge of the Post Office and clusters 11 single-family detached houses around the magnificent oak tree in the center of the site. The two houses flanking the 13th Street alley on Monroe Street will be renovated.

The developer agreed to the following conditions:

- Undergrounding of aerial utilities along Glebe Road
- An \$86,000 contribution to the County's Affordable Housing Fund
- \$15,000 for construction of the sidewalk along Monroe Street

Other conditions included were

- a buffer between the 13th Street alley and 1307 Monroe;
- abatement of vermin and rodents
- demolition of vacant houses

This is a great success for our neighborhood, and a welcome conclusion to an exhausting 10-month-long process. The plan initially proposed by the developer was for 36 townhouses. The number finally approved took about 6 months and a dozen meetings to be arrived at. At the last minute, the plan agreed to by the neighborhood was almost turned down because JCE refused to underground utilities along Glebe Road. Their agreement to underground is an important step in raising the profile of Douglas Park's Glebe Road frontage. And it is no mean feat--it will cost upwards of \$600,000. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated in meetings and wrote letters. Even John Cowles, president of JCE, complimented our neighborhood on its excellent participation.

Rebecca Krafft DPCA President

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sept. 30, Civic Association Fall Pot Luck Oct. 5 International Music and Arts Festival Oct. 9, Four Mile Run Drive Traffic Study Workshop Oct. 25, Make a Difference Day Nov. 8–9, Wakefield 50th Celebration

Come to the DPCA Fall Pot Luck Get To Know Your Neighbors

What: Next civic association meeting, a Fall Pot Luck Dinner

When: Tuesday, Sept. 30, 7–9 pm

Where: Randolph Elementary School Cafeteria,

1306 S. Quincy St.

Come out and meet your neighbors for supper! Please bring a dish to share with others. The civic association will provide table ware. The school has also made the gym available for kids to play in during the event. (No food allowed in the gym; supervision required.)

We need volunteers to make things run smoothly: Set up, clean up,sign makers, gym monitors. Please contact Rebecca to help: 703-553-4140; Rebecca_krafft@hotmail.com

The Pot Luck will take place instead of DPCA's regularly scheduled membership meeting on Sept. 16. All are welcome and admission is free, but we appreciate it if you bring your 2003-04 dues (\$10) and membership form (on p2).

Wakefield High Marks 50 Years Reunions, tours, and games celebrate history

Wakefield High School, located at S. George Mason Dr. and Dinwiddie Sts., celebrates its 50th anniversary this fall. A fun-filled weekend has been planned for Nov. 7–8, 2003. The weekend begins with an assembly during the school day on Nov. 7, where alumni will share Wakefield's history with its current students. That evening alumni and friends will gather in the gym before the football game for a pep rally, then march to the game together just before game time. Game tickets can be purchased by contacting Susan

Attend a "Visioning Workshop" Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) study to examine Four Mile Run Drive

Do you have ideas about how to help improve Four Mile Run Drive? Arlington County is conducting a planning study, including case studies, to develop strategies and measures to manage transportation and improve safety along arterial streets. One of the three streets studied is Four Mile Run

> 2

Douglas Park Civic Association, Arlington, VA Membership Meeting: Sept. 23, POT LUCK, 7:30 pm Randolph Elementary, 1306 S. Quincy St. [See schedule for future meetings at right]

Douglas Park Executive Committee

All area codes 703

President: Rebecca Krafft, 553-4140,

rebecca_krafft@hotmail.com

Vice president: Mitch Opalski, 553-1942; mopalski@aol.com
Treasurer: LindaDye, 979-6276,wvwcdyels@starpower.net
Secretary: Gail Wickers, 920-4543; gmwickers@aol.com
At Large: Bardie Romano (Crime and Safety Committee),

920-0769, bardie@erols.com

Bob Cowan, 979-3081, rcowan@erols.com

Randolph liaison: Rita Wiggins, 521-4725, rmwiggins@aol.com Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission Delegates:

John Snyder, 892-2887, jvsnyder54@comcast.net; Bardie Romano, 920-0769, bardie@erols.com

Parks liaison: Marty Nielsen, 979-8777

Traffic calming committee: Carol Freysinger, 271-0431,

c.freysinger@att.net

Newsletter editor: Dawn Leland, 979-4480,

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Civic Federation Delegation

Tom Brooke: 778-1495, arlingtontwb@yahoo.com
Henry Dunbar: 979-9122, htdunbar@cqi.com
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Rebecca Krafft: 553-4140, rebecca_krafft@hotmail.com
Abby Pamplin: 979-2586, dkimball@primanet.com
John Roman: 892-2225, roman3606@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Douglas Park Civic Association

YES! Count me in!

— Enclosed is my payment of \$10.00.
[Dues year runs from March to February.]
—YES, I'm donating the additional amount of \$
A CHECK FOR THE
TOTAL IS ENCLOSED, \$
[PLEASE PRINT]
Name

Name
Street address
Apt. # Arlington, VA 22204
Home phone, 703
E-mail
_YES, I'd like to volunteer for:
_the 4th of July picnicelection day bake sale
holiday fund drive write articles for newsletter

MAIL CHECK payable to DPCA, with this FORM to:

call me any time and I'll see if I can help

Treasurer, DPCA,

3621 S. 14th St., Arlington, VA 22204 Thank you!

DPCA Meeting Calendar

The DPCA executive committee has decided to schedule regular meetings —on the third Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm. Here's the schedule. Meetings will usually be held at the fire station, 1900 S. Walter Reed Dr., at

Oct. 21: Executive committee
Nov. 17: General membership
Dec. 16: Executive committee
Jan. 20: General membership
Feb. 16: Executive committee

<2 Wakefield

Saulmon Trice ('63) at 703-538-2864.

On Saturday, Nov. 8, beginning at 11:00 am, a visual history will be on display throughout the school. There will be a "hall of fame;" music from the decades; space available for "mini reunions;" memorabilia from our days at Wakefield; a PowerPoint presentation about Wakefield and Arlington county; a time-line of the past 50 years; self-guided tours to activities throughout the school; classic cars on display; a concert of current and alumni string players will take place at 3:00 (those interested in participating should contact the orchestra teacher at gspohl@teacher.mail.arlington.k12. va.us; and refreshments will be sold by students.

A block of rooms has been reserved at Hampton Inn (\$79), 4800 Leesburg Pike, 703-671-4800 as well as Hilton at Mark Center (\$99), 5000 Seminary Road, 703-845-1010. Volunteers and donations are needed. Donations of time, money and memorabilia are needed.

The two-day event is free, but those interested in purchasing a special commemorative packet can do so for \$25, and pick up on Sat., Nov. 8, or \$30 if mailed to you. Make checks payable to Wakefield PTA and sent to 3102 North Dinwiddie Street, Arlington, VA 22207. For general information, contact wakefieldalumni@aol.com or 703-892-4780.

Bake Sale Coordinator Needed

Douglas Park's election day bake sale in November is the civic association's biggest fund raiser. It is the primary reason that we are able to have been able to have such a grand Fourth of July Celebration for the past 21 years. Our former coordinator, Ashley Schinella, is about to move with her family for a two-year posting in Bahrain. Please consider taking on this task—it requires working on election day morning, and coordinating many advance details. As with other Douglas Park activities, there is a crew of very enthusiastic volunteers who will help with all the early morning set-up, take-down, baking, labeling, etc. We need someone to help pull it all together. If interested, give me a call—it's a very rewarding job! Rebecca Krafft, 703-553-4140, rebecca krafft@hotmail.com

AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Sun., Sept. 28, Noon-4 pm.: 9th Annual Speedy Tolliver Old Time Fiddler's Contest

Traditional fiddling is fun music. It is cheerful, powerful and made for dancing. It's music that Americans and the immi-



grants from whom they came have been playing for their own entertainment for hundreds of years, an experience from a slower, simpler time. Although simple, so people with basic musical skills could play, it's refined enough to hold the interest of highly skilled musicians. All fiddlers, regardless of skill level, are

welcome, and the spirit of the music is paramount. It's named for Arlington's master fiddler, Roy "Speedy" Tolliver, shown above, who's till playing at age 83. Lubber Run Amphitheatre. Free Admission. 703-228-1850.

Sun., Oct. 5, International Music and Arts Festival

Columbia Pike will sway to the sounds of an international mix of music on Oct. 5, noon–6pm. The festival will be held

on Walter Reed Dr. between Columbia Pike and 9th St. and will feature music from five continents, as well as Douglas Park storyteller Imani Russell. The Columbia Pike Revi-



The JCJ Band, one of DC's top salsa bands, will play on Oct. 5, at the Pike's International Festival.

talization Organization (CPRO) is sponsoring this event, and they need volunteers all day long. For more information or to help out, call 703-892-2776.

Sat. Oct. 18, 9 am-4 pm: St. Charles Fall Festival/ Oktoberfest

Come enjoy food, fun and games at thia annual St. Charles event. No admission fee and the festival features Kids' Corner with carnival games, Bongo the Clown, Moonbounce, kiddie crafts, and more; arts and crafts for sale; bake sale/cake walks; Mike Flaherty's Dixieland Direct band; Bolivian dancers; O'Neill-James Irish Dancers, and a spaghetti dinner, 5-7 pm. St. Charles is located on the corner of Washington, Fairfax and Kirkwood, directly across the street from the George Mason School of Law. 703-527-0608.

Sat. Oct. 25: Make A Difference Day in Douglas Park

Get set for a county-wide invasive plant removal day. Oct.25th is National Make A Difference Day. You and your neighbors can make a difference in Arlington by removing non-native, invasive plants and cleaning up trash from local parks and natural areas. Meet at Douglas Park, 1718 S.

Quincy St. (corner of S. Quincy St. and 16th St.) between 9-10 a.m. Work parties finish at Noon.

Water Service Notice

If you are experiencing issues with water clarity or water service, Arlington County operates an emergency control center, which is staffed 24/7. The phone number is 703-228-6555. If you are experiencing problems related to the water main replacement on South 19th Street, contact Mr. Hung Tran, of Arlington County's Department of Public Works: 703-228-7730; htran@co.arlington.va.us

Traffic Calming Update

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Commission (a county-wide group) has selected Quincy St. from the Pike to 16th St. eligible to receive traffic calming assistance to address speeding and other traffic issues on the street. Susan Finotti, of the County Traffic Calming Team, is looking for Quincy St. residents to share the concern about traffic calming to assist in the effort. As Quincy St. is adjacent to Randolph School, and an important walking route through the neighborhood, please don't be shy about joining in if you don't

happen to live on Quincy St.

The study project will commence in mid- to late-September, and be completed by early December, Ms. Finotti estimates; 703-228-3735, sfinotti@ co.arlington.va.us. Or, you can contact Carol Freysinger, DPCA's Traffic Committee Chair, who will be coordinating the neighborhood's participation in the project, at 703-271-0431, or c.freysinger@att.net.

Based on resident recommendations, the County Traffic Calming Team is looking at expanding the

study area to include S. Quincy from 16th through 19th St. Residents are also urging the county to look at traffic calming on Quincy all the way to Walter Reed Drive. Based on the traffic volumes and speeds recorded, the study area may be expanded. Installation of speed cushions, nubs, etc. on S. Monroe, originally supposed to start this summer, is being delayed until next spring.

—Carol Freysinger, DP Traffic Committee



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AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, CONTINUED

How About a Round of Applause . . .

Lots and lots of people make the July 4th event the success that it is. A lot of advance work is done even before the day starts. On the 4th, a lot more work is done to get the parade and picnic rolling, keep it moving and get it wrapped up. I want to take this opportunity to thank those who made this year's event so successful:

Mike Flaherty and Dixieland Direct; Jamie Daly for loaning the tent for the band; Carole Lieber and Ingrid Morroy for carrying the banner; Jeff Coupe for and Katie Kampmann for decorating Douglas Park; Henry Dunbar for end-to-end ser-

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as always, the Arlington Firefighters from our own Fire sta-

tion #9 for parade participation and filling the dunk tank. . . and many, many more people who helped out just because they were in the right place at the right time! I apologize if I left out your name, but thank you for your help with a great July 4th event 21 years in a row!

—Reid Goldstein Found at July 4 Picnic: Child's baseball cap, Reebok, green



Janet Smith with daughter Charlotte

with blue brim. Adult sunglasses, rectangle shape; child's set of plastic keys. To claim, call 703-271-0341.

How 'bout Them ARTs!

Pike Ride took off Sept. 7, routing neighborhood bus ART 74 conveniently and more frequently for residents of Douglas Park. The Project is an effort to get citizens out of their cars and provide traffic relief. Here are some riders' comments: "It's a nice ride in the evening, and a quicker one too, it goes down the express lane of 395. . . and it's great to have the later service," and "You catch it at the corner near Borders, Pentagon City; it's better than the lonely strip at the Pentagon. At this stop you can run errands or dine out. Try it!"

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< 1 Visioning workshop

Drive (From Columbia Pike to Shirlington Road). Community participation is central to this effort. Issues under consideration include safety for all users, transit access, bicycle issues, enhancing the movement of people throughout the County, and making streets more walkable.

For each case study, the community process will include:

Visioning Workshop—A meeting to gather input from citizens on the issues and long-term (20-year) vision for the arterial corridor:

Walk-Through—A walk along the corridor with citizens and county staff;

Concept Plan Workshop—A meeting to present findings of the analysis and the concept plans for the segment to obtain feedback from the citizens.

All interested residents are invited to attend the visioning workshop for Four Mile Run Drive on Thurs., Oct. 9, 2003 at 7:00–9:00 pm at Drew School, 3500 S. 23rd St.

Lane Nemirow, a new neighbor on Randolph Street, is Douglas Park's representative on the advisory task force, organized by the Arlington County T ransportation Commission. You may contact Lane at 703-271-1111 or email lane@pop.net.

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Douglas Park: A History Part 2 of 2— The Historical Setting of Douglas Park

Andrew M. Johnson, Chairman, Historical Committee

This historical summary of our civic association, written when we were named "New Arlington-Douglas Park" Civic Association, appears in our Neighborhood Conservation Plan. Your Historical Committee thought that many readers who do not have a copy of that plan would like to know more about this little piece of Virginia.

Part 1 of this article appeared in the May-June 2002 issue of Neighbor News. It is also contained in Douglas Park's Neighborhood Conservation plan, which is online at

www.arlingtondpca.homestead.com. To recap, the earliest recorded land ownership dates to 1669. New Englanders immigrated a century later seeking better crop conditions. The Civil War disrupted lives in the area, and many forts and batteries were erected.

New Arlington and Douglas Park: Early Residential Developments

The civic association took its name from two separate housing developments of the same names. A map study of 20th century Arlington shows no urban development in our community in 1925. In 1928, the Douglas Park housing development appears on maps north and south of present day Walter Reed Dr. While laid out, there is no detail showing actual construction. By 1938, the map shows Douglas Park and New Arlington running together. Then Douglas Park temporarily takes on the spelling 'Douglass Park.' Maps from show

New Arlington expanded by Hunter's addition from S. 17th to 19th Sts. and from S. Monroe St. on the east to So. Quincy St. on the west. At that time, the entire New Arlington development is only lightly built.

Most of Douglass Park of that day is now included in the Nauck civic association. Other later tracts now included in our community between S. Monroe St. and Walter Reed Dr. are the Corbett tract, John Travers's addition, a subdivision of Joel Whitehead's estate, C.B. Munson's 3d addition, Munson's 2d addition, the A.E. Dye Plan, and the R.R. Dye Plan Subdivision. West of S. Monroe St. were farms belonging to the Hall, Corbett, and Nicholson families north of 12th St. and south of Columbia Pike; and the Luther Wise addition and the farms of Edward Chewning and Lydia J. Warner south of 12th St.

The 'Douglass Park' spelling appears on maps from 1938 to 1952 after which the original spelling is resumed. Research has yet to determine who Douglas was.

Boundaries and Street Names

The community lies at a crossroads of early S. Arlington settlement. A capsule summary of boundary streets gives an interesting glimpse into the development of this area.

Columbia Pike (State Hwy. 244) roughly follows the route of the Columbia Turnpike, a toll road begun in 1808 by the Columbia Turnpike Co. of the District of Columbia. It was to run from the Potomac River bridge (apparently the railway bridge over the Potomac) in Arlington to Little River Turnpike in present-day Annandale. The portion of the turnpike in present-day Arlington Co. was completed by 1812. A Virginia law of





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1817 required the Pike to be "well covered with good gravel or stone . . ." and it remained so until 1926 or 1927 when the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture added concrete experimental paving from its connection with U.S. Rt. 1 to S. Taylor St. The Pike was continually used by federal forces during the Civil War from Washington to Bailey's Crossroads. At the close of the War in April 1865, Camp Bailey's Crossroads became a large separation station. It was mainly from Bailey's via the Columbia Pike that the great military marches up Pennsylvania Ave. originated as the Army paraded past the White House in Washington.

Four Mile Run Dr. follows the course of the stream of that name and marks the southern boundary of our community. George Washington bought timberland along Four Mile Run from James and George Mercer in 1774 at the suggestion of George Mason. Washington himself visited the tract beginning in 1774 and returned after service in the Revolutionary War to personally lead survey parties in 1785. These lands passed to George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of Martha Washington and builder of Arlington House. The Washington and Old Dominion Railway tracks formerly followed Four Mile Run from Falls Church to Alexandria. The railway ended service in Aug.t 1968 and its roadbed was converted to the present W & O D Regional Park Trail in 1969.

Walter Reed Dr. is a principal arterial road marking our community's eastern boundary. The name honors Major Walter Reed, the Army surgeon whose research and resulting death conquered yellow fever. In our community, Walter Reed Dr. roughly follows the route of the Washington, Arlington, and Falls Church Railway which ran streetcars from Rosslyn to Nauck from 1901 until approximately 1941. George Mason Dr., our western boundary, is one of Arlington's major north-south urban highways, named for the Virginian responsible for drafting the Virginia Bill of Rights.

Early Arlington grew as separate unincorporated communities and housing developments such as New Arlington and Douglas Park. Each had its own set of street names, many of which duplicated names in other communities. Arlington County rationalized the street name and number pattern in 1934. Since then, named streets in New Arlington—Douglas Park run north-south beginning alphabetically in the two syllable series from Highland Street on the east through Randolph Street on the west. Numbered streets run eastwest starting on the northern boundary with 11th Street South through 19th Street South.

(condensed from RemodelingOnline ww.remodeling.hw.net)

Considering a Remodeling Project?

Here are some Highlights from the 2002 Cost vs. Value Report

- Remodeling experts say the decision to renovate or not should be based on what a homeowner needs or wants rather than on what the upgrades could fetch when the house sells.
- Some remodeling experts agree that one reason people turn their lives upside down for a redo is to increase property value. The catch is figuring out which improvements generate the most value and how much is too much to spend.
- The majority of local buyers in this market will pay for any kind of improvements, because they do not want to do things over and because they want the house to be in move-in condition. They are not willing to pay if it's not in good taste.
- The best return nationwide, according to Remodeling magazine, was 94% for a bathroom addition at a job cost of \$15,058, with a resale value of \$14,180. Locally the DC Metro area is at 103%, Washington DC is at 166%.
- You are more likely to recoup a decent chunk of your home improvement dollars if you take the worst home on the block and fix it up so that it is comparable with nearby homes. By the same token, avoid improving a house to the point where it is far grander than anything else in the neighborhood.

Want to make the right improvements with the best return before you sell? Call or email us for a FREE no obligation analysis of your home's value and/or a copy of the Cost vs. Value Report.

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HOME & GARDEN

The Problem of Invasive Species

Arlington County needs your help to protect parks and natural areas from invasive alien plant species. About 40% of the trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants in Arlington parks are non-native species. Many of these alien plants are aggressive competitors with native plants. Here they have few natural controls such as insects and disease that keep them in balance in their native lands. While some of these exotic aliens are spread by wind or birds, many others have crept into parks from nearby residential properties. They overtake native undergrowth and out-compete it for nutrients and water. They shade out and replace wildflowers, shrubs, and young trees of the natural forest under-story. They also climb and will eventually kill trees. These vines change the open forests into dense monocultures, eliminating the diverse varieties of plants needed by birds and other wildlife to provide food and shelter through each of the seasons. If you live near a park or natural area, you can help by removing these vines from your landscape or by confining them to limited and defined spaces and keeping them under control.

For a detailed list of the most troublesome invasives in Virginia and how to eradicate them write:

The Virginia Native Plant Society, 400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce, VA 22620; visit their Web site at www.vnps.org. Or visit the VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation Web site at www.state.va.us/~dcr/dnh/invproj.htm.

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A free service to individual Douglas Park residents. Please limit listing to 5 lines or less. E-mail to: dmleland46@hotmail.com.

MOMS Club of S. Arlington: A weekly group for mothers and children offering activities, lectures, playgroups, and a monthly Moms Night Out. For more information.go to www.arlingtonmomsclub.com

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
#1 COURTHOUSE PLAZA, SUITE 706
2100 CLARENDON BOULEVARD, ARLINGTON VA
22201

Dear Resident:

On March 17, 2003, the Arlington County Board approved an ordinance to enact nighttime permit parking in the Douglas Park neighborhoods. Signs detailing times and days of parking restrictions will be posted on streets that qualify. The program is expected to begin on September 15, 2003/7 days/week; 7:00pm - 3:00am

Additional unrestricted nighttime parking will be made available on South Four Mile Run Drive between Walter Reed Drive and Columbia Pike. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Arlington County Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Division at (703) 228-3575 or (703) 228-3576.

Estimado(a) Residente:

En Marzo 17, 2003 la Junta Gubernamental del Condado de Arlington presentó y aprobó dos ordenanzas para permiso de estacionamiento nocturno en la vecindad de Douglas. Las señales de tránsito serán establecidas en las zonas pertinentes con información detallada con respecto a dichas restricciones. El programa ha sido señalado para comenzar en Septiembre 15, 2003 desde las 7:00 de la noche hasta las 3:00 de la mañana.

En la Four Mile Run Drive South (Sur) entre Walter Reed Drive y Columbia Pike habrá estacionamiento sin restricciones adicional en las horas de la noche. Si usted tiene preguntas, por favor comuniquese con el Departamento de Obras Públicas, Division de Tráfico en el Condado de Arlington a los siguientes telefonos (703) 228-3575 o al (703) 228-3576.

Thank you! The Douglas Park Civic Association thanks the Mike Webb Team for

their generous gift to defray the cost

of printing Neighbor News.

