

Neighbor News



December 2003

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

Holiday Fund Drive



Help the less fortunate children in Douglas Park—
See page 8 for details.

You Can Help Children! Contribute to the 2003 Douglas Park holiday fund drive for children

For over 15 years, Douglas Park residents have helped make the holidays happy for struggling neighborhood families. To help out, please see *the notice on the back of this newsletter* and mail contributions to Laurie Siegel, 1307 S. Monroe St., Arlington, VA 22204. Make checks payable to Douglas Park Civic Association; **please mail before Dec. 24.**

As in past years, staff from Randolph Elementary School have provided us with names and information about needy children at the school and their families. With your contributions, volunteer elves will shop for toys and winter clothing for these children and their siblings. Any leftover funds will go toward small household items and food certificates for the families. All of your contributions go directly to the holiday fund—nothing goes to overhead. Please give what you can. Every gift makes a difference in someone's life. > 8

Old-Fashioned Bonfire & Caroling

The Fifth Annual Bonfire and Caroling evening will take place Sun., Dec. 7, 6:30-9 pm, in Douglas Park, at 16th and Quincy Street. Bring loud voices and good cheer, and especially cider (hot and cold), Christmas cookies, marshmallows and hot dogs, plus flashlights, Christmas music and instruments.

Left Turn Progress Phase II of Project Will Add Left Turn Lanes, Pedestrian Amenities



The Arlington County Board voted on Nov. 22 to award a state-funded \$694,000 contract to Omni Excavators, Inc., for improvements to the intersection of S. Glebe Rd. and > 2

New contact for this newsletter:
Send your news and comments to
dpcanews@hotmail.com

See individual contact listings on p. 2

INSIDE SCOOP

- Bale sale fundraising success: p. 4
- Neighborhood volunteers needed: p. 4.
- Update on traffic calming: p. 6.
- Community calendar: p. 7
- Wed., Dec. 24, Contributions due for fund for needy children: p. 8.

Douglas Park Civic Association, Arlington, VA

DPCA Meeting Calendar

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

Dec. 16: *Executive committee* Feb. 17: *Executive committee*
 Jan. 20: General membership Mar. 16: General membership

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: Linda Dye, 979-6276, wwwcdyels@starpower.net
 Secretary: John Roman, 892-2225, roman3606@comcast.net
 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
 Parks liaison: Marty Nielsen, 979-8777, mnielsen@erols.com
 Traffic committee: Carol Freysinger, 271-0431, c.freysinger@verizon.net
 Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission Delegates:
 John Snyder, 892-2887, jvsnyder54@comcast.net;
 Bardie Romano, 920-0769, bardie@erols.com

Neighbor News--

Advertising: Mitch Opalski, 553-1942, mopalski@aol.com
 Editor/layout : Dawn Leland, 979-4480, dmleland46@hotmail.com
 Distribution: Jamie Daly, 521-4567, jamie22204@yahoo.com
 Webmaster: Carol Freysinger, 703-271-031

Civic Federation Delegates--

Tom Brooke 778-1495, arlingtontwb@yahoo.com
 Henry Dunbar 979-9122, htdunbar@cqi.com
 Linda Dye 979-6276, wwwcdyels@starpower.net
 Reid Goldstein 271-0431, rgoldstein@stratsight.com
 Rebecca Krafft 553-4140, rebecca_krafft@hotmail.com
 Abby Pamplin 979-2586, dkimball@primanet.com
 John Roman 892-2225, roman3606@comcast.net

Advertising rates

1/8 page (card) \$25 Full page, \$250
 1/4 page, \$60 Sponsorships and discounts available;
 1/2 page, \$100 call Mitch for information.

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 _____
 Street address _____
 Apt. # _____ Arlington, VA 22204
 Home phone, 703- _____
 E-mail _____

YES, I'd like to volunteer for:
 the 4th of July picnic election day bake sale
 holiday fund drive write articles for newsletter
 call me any time and I'll see if I can help

MAIL CHECK payable to DPCA, with this FORM to:
 Treasurer, DPCA,
 3621 S. 14th St., Arlington, VA 22204

Thank you!

< 1 Left turn progress

Columbia Pike that will benefit motorists and pedestrians.

"This project will go a long way toward relieving congestion at this busy intersection," said County Board Chairman Paul Ferguson. "It will also provide a safer, more attractive walking experience for pedestrians."

Planned improvements include building or reconstructing turning lanes to enable left turns from all four approaches. Additional work will include widening sidewalks, installing paver crosswalks and planting new street trees--funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation, which must approve the award. Pedestrian-scale streetlights and the Phase I undergrounding of utilities are being funded by the County. Phase I work began in early October.

Phase II streetscape construction is expected to begin in February 2004. Pending favorable weather--and coordination between streetscape and ongoing duct-bank work--the streetscape project is scheduled to be completed in early summer 2004.

Douglas Park Special Meeting on Columbia Pike and Glebe Road Intersection

On Wed., Sept. 17, Douglas Park called a special meeting of some two dozen people who have been involved with the left turn lane project at Columbia Pike and Glebe Rd. After meeting at the intersection, the group sat down at Fire Sta-



County Board chair Paul Ferguson and DPCA executive board member Bob Cowan.



Arlington County Board member Chris Zimmerman (left) and Virginia House of Representatives delegate Adam Ebbin.

Volunteers needed

Neighbors sought to represent the Douglas Park Civic Association as delegates to the Civic Federation, see p.4. DP Traffic Committee Chair needed, see p.5.

tion No. 9 to talk about how to bring completion of the left turn lanes to a conclusion and to work toward undergrounding of aerial utilities along this part of Columbia Pike.

Reid Goldstein, past president of Douglas Park Civic Association, organized the gathering. The meeting gave

everyone a firsthand understanding of the challenges involved in completing the intersection and acquainted all of the principals on the project with each other. Most of all, it made clear to all the people involved that Douglas Park wants this intersection completed, along with the long-promised streetscape improvements along Columbia Pike, including undergrounding of aerial utilities, from Walter Reed Dr. through Oakland St.



Douglas Park president Rebecca Krafft (center) and Virginia state Senator Patsy Ticer (right). Since Columbia Pike and Glebe Road are both state controlled roads, our Virginia delegates came to learn about the causes of these improvements being delayed for eight long years.



Terry Bellamy, head of traffic engineering for Arlington County Department of Public Works, was invited to discuss the possibility of a traffic signal on Glebe Road in front of the Post Office. This possibility was included in the original plan for the Post Office, but has never been followed up on.



Douglas Park residents attending included (from left) Gail Wickers, Linda Dye, and Chris Zimmerman. Also attending, but not shown, were the presidents of Alcovia Heights and Arlington Heights Civic Associations.

Sam Kern, director, Arlington County Department of Public Works, right.



Dave Robinson, below, of the Department of Public Works, is in charge of the project.



Reid Goldstein, meeting convener, points out traffic problems.



Representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation, Tom Farley and Mike Estes, were in attendance. They discussed ways of possibly expediting construction.

Photos by Prentiss de Jesus.



Ward Pest Control, Inc.

5547 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22207
703-532-3506

Serving the D.C. Metropolitan area for 30 years, we offer a full range of residential pest control services, including termite treatments, warranties, and wildlife management. Consumer groups rates us as one of the top firms for quality of service and pricing.



HOUSE CLEANING & SPRUCE-UPS

- Move-in/Move-out - Post Construction -
- Regular & Periodic Deep Cleaning -
- Gift Certificates Available!

Helen's Cleaning Services
703-892-1350

AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

2003 Election Day Bake Sale Raises Funds for DPCA

We had a very successful bake sale at the Randolph School polling place on Nov. 4. Many thanks to everyone who helped by baking, setting up, and staffing the table all day while the polls were open from 6am to 7pm, and cleaning up. And thanks to everyone who stopped to buy all of our homemade goodies. We never could have accomplished this without you. The proceeds from this annual event on Election Day help cover the costs of putting on the DPCA July 4th Parade and Picnic.

The neighbors to thank: Nora Rodas, Patti Rodas, Sara Pryor and Rita Wiggins for advance organizing; everyone who staffed the table, including Rita, Linda Dye, Jane Cuppinger, Dawn Leland, Heather McPhail, John Snyder, Andrea Leeson, Hayden Chow, Sabra Flaherty and Rachel Reynolds.

We appreciate help with setting up and taking down the canopy from Reid Goldstein, Bob Moore, Henry Dunbar, Ken Wild, and Jamie Bartalon. My apologies to anyone I may have missed.

Also, thanks a lot to Rappahannock Coffee & Roasting for donating coffee to sell.

Neighbor Volunteers Needed

Neighbors are sought to learn about the county and represent Douglas Park. Douglas Park is a member of the Arlington County Civic Federation (CF). Our delegation to the CF consists of four delegates and four alternates, and we currently have several open slots. Please contact me if you'd be interested in volunteering. For more information on this fine organization, visit its Web site at www.civfed.org. One of our delegates submitted the following account of what it's like to be a delegate. The Traffic Committee chair description follows that of the delegate.—*Rebecca Krafft, President, DPCA, 703-553-41.40, rebecca_krafft@hotmail.com.*

What It's Like to Be a CF Delegate

It is important that you routinely attend the monthly meetings, held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Arlington Hospital auditorium. Free parking is available in the hospital parking lot on George Mason Dr. and in their garage (free because, by the time the meetings are over, the lot attendant is gone for the night). A newsletter noting main topics to be discussed and voted on, along with information about general topics of interest to the CF at large, is mailed to each delegate and alternate ahead of the meeting.


Starting around 7-7:30 pm, presentations are made by representatives from all kinds of groups so that we are aware of the wide variety of services and activities in the county. For example, in Nov., the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Northern VA Mediation Service told us about their activities.

Then the main agenda of the CF for that night governs what we do. The goal is to finish between 9:30 and 10pm (sometimes as late as 10:30 or so). It's important to stay until the end because issues for open discussion may require a vote that night (for ex., resolutions to the county).

Annual events include Arlington's delegation to Richmond reporting on the most recently completed legislative session and how items of interest to Arlington fared. We hold a candidates' night for whatever county, state, and national offices are open. A subgroup of delegates drafts items for our representatives in Richmond to take to the next legislative session. We discuss and vote on what to include; one meeting is always spent on the county's proposed budgets overall and for schools. A subgroup works on a draft resolution regarding the budget and we discuss and vote on it.

Any delegate may propose a resolution on a topic of interest regarding county programs. It is then referred to one of the appropriate standing committees for additional work and discussion (committees include housing, public safety, schools, cultural affairs, parks and rec, planning and zoning, and so on). The standing committee presents the resolution to the general membership for final discussion and a vote.


The CF as a whole then goes on record with its resolution



*Happy
Holidays*

from

CAROLE SKOLE
"The Balloon Lady"



RE/MAX Horizons
684-8034

and sends it to the county board. The board also occasionally asks the CF to weigh in on a particular issue. There are times when the CF wants to know where one or more civic associations stand on a proposal and will defer action until the CA has had a chance to meet and report back via the delegates. In order to effectively represent the interests of DPCA as a delegate to the CF and to determine the impact of CF and county actions on DPCA, delegates should stay apprised of the issues discussed at CA meetings, on the e-mail list, in the newsletter, and on CPRO efforts.

Do you have to be an encyclopedia? No. But be aware of how DPCA fits into the larger community. No delegate is forced to serve on any committees, but if you show particular knowledge or interest in a given area, you'll be asked to serve. The more we all bring to the table representing as many viewpoints and backgrounds as possible, the better for all of us in Arlington. The county board looks to the CF as a gauge of the larger community's interests and concerns.

—Linda Dye, DPCA Treasurer, and CF Delegate

Traffic Committee Chair Needed

In order to follow through on the Quincy Street traffic calming project and other traffic concerns in the neighborhood, a new traffic committee chair is needed. The chair reports to the DPCA executive committee; the term lasts one year. Time commitment varies, about 1-4 hours per month. Resources needed are phone, e-mail and Internet access.

As needed, the traffic committee chair

- convenes meetings of the traffic committee to address the CA's role in neighborhood traffic issues; leads discussions of issues; delegates tasks to committee members, ensures that tasks are followed through by members.
- oversees the formation and operation of any working groups convened for specific traffic calming projects funded by the county within Douglas Park.
- handles inquiries about traffic issues from DP residents, including answering questions, contacting county staff with information requests, directing the resident to the appropriate county contact for more information, or requesting that executive committee address an issue.
- ensures that the committee stays aware of status of all traffic issues within the DPCA boundaries. This may include appointing a representative from the traffic committee to serve on other committees or ad hoc groups addressing development issues within the neighborhood, and reporting back to the full committee on status of any relevant traffic issues.
- keeps the neighborhood conservation representative and the CA president informed on all activities.
- submits brief articles [see p. 6] to the *Neighbor News* and to the e-mail list to keep all residents informed about important neighborhood traffic issues.
- does not address parking unless it is part of a larger traffic issue (such as visibility in a traffic calming study).

6 Costly Trade Up Mistakes to Avoid

Unlike the experience of buying a first home, when you're looking to move-up, and already own a home, there are certain factors that can complicate the situation. Not only is there the issue of financing to consider, but you also have to sell your present home at exactly the right time in order to avoid either the financial burden of owning two homes or, just as bad, the dilemma of having no place to live during the gap between closings.

Below is a summary of the 6 most common mistakes homeowners make when moving to a larger home.

Knowledge of these mistakes, and the strategies to overcome them, will help you make informed choices

before you put your existing home on the market. Call or email us for a full detailed report or consultation.

1. Not cross-matching criteria. You need to be aware of ALL available homes as they continually enter the market.
2. Failing to make necessary improvements. There will be home fix-ups you can do to enhance it in a prospective buyer's eyes (they don't have to be expensive).
3. Not selling first. You typically should plan to sell before you buy your next one with no strings attached. (see point number 5 below).
4. Failing to get a pre-approved mortgage, a simple process that doesn't cost or obligate you to anything, and you know exactly how much house you can afford.

5. Getting caught in the Real Estate Catch 22. Your biggest dilemma when buying and selling is deciding which to do first. Point number 3 above advises you to sell first. However if you have sufficient equity or reserve cash, or creative financing you can eliminate this dilemma.

6. Failing to coordinate closings. With two major transactions to coordinate together with all the players involved the chances of mix-ups and communication go up dramatically. To avoid a logistical nightmare ensure you work closely with an experience agent.

Planning on selling your home?

Want to know what it is worth?

Visit our web site, call us or go to:

HOUSEVALUES

.COM
 YOUR HOME'S MARKET VALUE ONLINE

Judi Finney/Casey O'Neal Team
RE/MAX Allegiance

www.caseyoneal.com 703-824-4800

Resident & Specialist in 22204

FREE Notary Service....for Douglas
 Park Residents!

AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Update on Traffic Calming

Improvements have been made to slow traffic in busy locations, and more changes are underway.

South Monroe Street Sports Speed Cushions

As you have probably noticed, speed cushions have been installed on S. Monroe St. between Columbia Pike and S. 16th St., and signs have been posted to notify motorists. The cushions are being painted dark red. Two more cushions will be placed on S. Monroe between S. 16th and S. 18th. The exact completion date will be a function of the weather and the county paving contractor's schedule. It is expected that all work on the cushions will be finished by spring 2004. Citizens have also requested that short posts (known as bollards) be placed on the center line of each speed cushion to discourage motorists from crossing the center line and driving in the grooves designed for emergency vehicles only. The DP traffic committee will pursue this request with the county's neighborhood traffic calming committee.

Renovation of intersections on S. Monroe to add curb extensions ("nubs") and crosswalks, and redesign of the 18th St. intersection for greater visibility, will take place sometime in 2004.

South Quincy Street is Next in Line

Another Douglas Park major thoroughfare slated for traffic calming, on the neighborhood's center, was approved for a

traffic calming study in September 2003. The street qualified for traffic calming based on documented vehicle speeds, which often exceed 30 mph (the speed limit is 25 mph).

The DP traffic committee formed a working group of residents living on or near S. Quincy St. between Columbia Pike and S. 19th St. (the study area) and began working with the county's traffic calming committee to study measures to reduce speeding on S. Quincy. Randolph Elementary, in the 1300 block of S. Quincy, is the county's only school where all students walk or ride each day (no buses); therefore the safety of the students arriving at and leaving school adds a unique dimension to the study. Randolph's Principal, Dr. Kathie Panfil, has been active in the working group, including hosting an open house at the school on November 17.

Petitions supporting the proposed measures, which include speed cushions, painted crosswalks, curb extensions, and improved pavement markings, are now being circulated. A minimum of 60% of residents on or near S. Quincy St. must sign in support of the program in order for the county board to approve funding at its February meeting. If the project is approved, installation of measures will begin in mid-2004.

—Carol Freysinger, DPCA Traffic Committee Chair,
703-271-0431, c.freysinger@verizon.net.



The Mike Webb Team, LLC



Buy or Sell one house through the Mike Webb team, LLC
& have access to This Truck, for life

For more
information,
please call us at
703-979-3016



*If you are
considering selling
your home, or would
just like to know the
current market
value, Please do not
hesitate to call me
for a free, no
obligation market
analysis.*

If your property has been listed for sale with another broker, this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing.
Printed in the U. S. A. Postal Mailing Solution 1-888-832-8178

How Can Four Mile Run be Made Safer for Pedestrians?

The Arterial Management Task Force (AMT) needs your input. I am serving on a task force that is exploring options for management and/or redevelopment of Four Mile Run Dr. between the Pike and S. Shirlington Rd. County staff and the project consultants have asked for DPCA input regarding this area. See www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/apptmdls/potrvt/fourmlrn1. Please pass along requests, observations, and complaints about this segment of Four Mile Run. I will pass them on to the AMT and assure that DP concerns are included in ongoing discussions. Post replies to the DP e-mail list or e-mail me directly. —*Lane H. Nemirow, lane@pop.net*

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

For sale, Ikea loft bed (double) with attached desk, shelves, and drawers. In great condition. Asking \$250 OBO. Call Bob or Regina Moore at 703-920-8353.

For sale: Couch, by Scan Furniture. Pulls out into bed. Beige/light brown textured fabric. Fair condition. \$75. 703-979-4480.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Old Fashioned Bonfire and Caroling, Dec. 7, 6:30 pm
Annual DP bonfire and caroling evening will take place Sun., Dec. 7, in Douglas Park, at 16th and Quincy Street. See p. 1.

MOMS Club Gymboree Demo, Mon., Dec. 8, 9:30 am
The MOMS Club of S. Arlington will host a guest speaker from Gymboree to demonstrate games and songs for young children. Moms AND kids are welcome. Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. More info: 703-553-0116.

Community Coffeehouse Opens

A Barcroft neighbor has planned a series of not-for-profit performances at the community house—"Barcroft Community Coffeehouse"—all proceeds will go to the performers. They also hope to hold children's shows. 800 S. Buchanan St. Reserv.: 703-486-0457. \$10; \$15 at the door. See schedule at www.communitycoffeehouse.com. —*E. Harold (Barcroft CA)*

Open House at St. Charles Catholic School, Jan. 25

On Sun., Jan. 25th, 2004, 9:30am–12:30pm, all classrooms will be open to visitors and all teachers will be available for discussions. During Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 26–30, there will be a variety of programs, however, classrooms will only be available to visitors that Sunday. St. Charles is a small, traditional school located in Clarendon open to all faiths, with a strong emphasis on academics, values, and community. 3299 N. Fairfax Dr., across from G. Mason Law School. School office: 703-527-0608; www.stcharles.k12.va.us.

Saturday's Child

Located in the Shirlington neighborhood, we are So. Arlington's newest shop for vintage and retro goods and furnishings.

Our stock changes weekly, and ranges from linens to leather goods, quilts, rugs, kitchenware, pottery, clothing, jewelry, and furniture—and unusual finds in toys, handbags, tools, lingerie, dolls, coin banks, art, and more.

Saturdays, 10 pm–4 pm • 4144 S. Four Mile Run Dr. (near DMV)
Pam Wroten 703-931-2243 • Nancy Brooks 703-920-2507

♥ Many thanks to neighbors who shopped in November—a portion of sales were donated to the ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE of ARLINGTON ♥

Providing the community with a quality Christian education for over 50 years.

Our Savior Lutheran School

825 S. Taylor Street

Arlington, VA 22204 (703)892-4846

Kindergarten through 8th grade

Small classes
Caring teachers
New facilities

Fully accredited
Close to home
Affordable

Arlington Seniors Programs and Events

Arlington County Senior Adult Travel office has announced two overnight trips in 2004: Las Vegas, NV, Apr. 25–29, and Pinegrove Dude Ranch, Kerhonkson, NY, May 24–28. For information call Judy Craig, 703-228-4748. Note the main phone no.: Office of Senior Adult Programs, 703-228-4744.

Internet Training Made Easy for Seniors

Register with CyberSeniors/CyberTeens for four one-hour hands-on sessions, set at a comfortable pace for beginners. \$30; includes a workbook. Classes are held at Lee Senior Center, Kenmore and Williamsburg schools. 703-228-6425.

New Senior Fitness Center To Open

A new senior fitness center opens in Dec. at Langston-Brown Community Center, 4854 Lee Hwy. (at N. Culpeper St.). The center will have certified personal trainers on site to assist with weights and equipment. Cost: \$45 for 15 sessions. For more information: 703-228 4771.

Exercise is On the Air

A TV exercise program for at-home seniors—"Exercise Buddy," can be seen on Channel 71. It's a half-hour program at 10:00 am and again at noon, Mon. through Fri.

Free blood pressure screening for seniors

Screening will be available at Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N. Pershing Dr., every Thurs., 10:00am–1:00 pm. For information call 703-228-4403.

Ms. Senior Virginia Pageant to Celebrate 20th Anniversary

The first winner, in 1984, was Dottie Gantt from Arlington. To apply to enter the 2004 pageant call Pinky O'Neill, the Va. state pageant director, 703-481-1715, pinkyon@aol.com.

Holiday Fund Drive



Douglas Park Civic Association Annual Fund Drive

It's once again time for our annual civic association holiday fund drive. For more than 15 years, our civic association has purchased clothing, toys, food, and other necessities for the less fortunate children in our neighborhood.

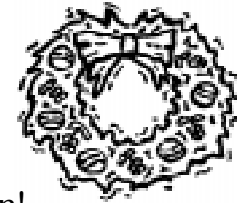
Each year the staff of Randolph Elementary, our neighborhood school, provides the civic association with names of children who desperately need our help during the holiday season. The children's families are grateful to our civic association for our efforts in making the holiday a little brighter for them. Any amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

Please make your check payable to:

Douglas Park Civic Association -or- DPCA

Mail your contributions to:

Douglas Park Holiday Fund Drive
c/o Laurie Siegel
1307 So. Monroe Street
Arlington, VA 22204



Best wishes to you and your family for the holiday season!

Thank you! The Douglas Park Civic Association thanks the Mike Webb Team for their generous gift to defray the cost of printing *Neighbor News*.



The Mike Webb Team LLC • 703-979-3016 • <http://northernvirginiahouses.com>