

Neighbor News



May-June-July 2005

Vengan Todos La Veinte-tercero Celebracion Anual del 4 de julio

La Asociación Cívica Parque Douglas tiene el placer de invitar a todos los residentes del barrio a su Celebración Anual del Día de la Independencia de los Estados Unidos (4 de julio) en el Parque Douglas. Cualquier persona quien desea ayudar, por favor llame a la señora Joni Gallegos, 703-521-1724; jonigallegos@hotmail.com.



We need YOU! Volunteer To Help with the 4th of July Celebration

We need lots of neighbor volunteers working together to have another successful event. Needed are advance planners (buyers for food, decorations, and supplies; and sign makers); people to decorate Monroe & Douglas Parks the morning of July 4th; amusement attendants during the picnic; and set-up and clean-up crews. All ages are welcome and it's a swell opportunity for children to help with decorating and meeting other kids.

Join us! Even if you can only volunteer for a short time, you are most welcome. We would love to have new Douglas Park residents help out and meet their neighbors. Janet Smith and Annette Pigott are again this year's Fourth of July coordinators. Please contact them if you would like to help out on July 4th or before: Janet, 703-553-7732, hockeymom@virginiahockey.net, or Annette, 703-521-6214, annette.pigott@verizon.net.

Want to
advertise?
See p.2

Households Earning Less Than \$72K Real Estate Tax Rebates Available

County board members approved in the fiscal 2006 budget a \$500-per-year tax rebate to homeowners living in homes where total income is less than \$72,000 per year—about \$15,000 less than the median family income in Arlington.

The \$72,000 threshold is the maximum allowed under state law for tax-relief purposes, promoted by county officials to help offset the impact of rising home assessments. Even with an eight-cent cut in Arlington's real estate tax rate this year, the average homeowner will pay \$600 more in taxes in '05.

County officials will open the tax-relief program to the public on July 1. Residents applying will have to prove their income level with tax returns or pay stubs. (excerpted from the Sun Gazette, 5/18/05).

To apply, download an application from www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/HumanServices/pdf/hogappl.pdf, or call 703-228-1350; apply at 3033 Wilson Blvd., #300A.

* HOT TIP *

Soak plants at the roots, preferably with a soaker hose; don't just mist them with your hose because you lose water to condensation and do the plants no good.

INSIDE

- June 21, DPCA meeting agenda: transit, wildlife habitat challenge 2
- Around Your Neighborhood:
- Photos from the Columbia Pike Blues Festival 3
- parking permits, park safety, new book group..... 3
- Around the County:
- Radio Clarendon; helping homeless women, county-sponsored activities 4
- Schools and Children: Randolph notes; Wakefield High nationally ranked, Cappies awards, Our Savior Lutheran School 4
- 4th of July Celebration details insert
- Home and Garden: Trees and mulch; butterflies; wildlife habitats 6-7

••• Volunteer! Contact Rebecca Krafft •••
 Douglas Park Civic Association, Arlington, VA

Meeting Calendar: The DPCA executive committee has scheduled regular meetings on the third Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm.
 June 21: *general meeting*, fire sta. #9, 1900 S. Walter Reed Dr.—
 Agenda includes Pike Transit Initiative, backyard habitats.

Douglas Park Executive Committee (All area codes 703)—
 President: John Snyder, 892-2887, jvsnyder54@comcast.net;
 Vice president: Mitch Opalski, 553-1942, mopalski@aol.com
 Treasurer: Linda Dye, 979-6276, wvwcdyels@starpower.net
 Secretary: John Roman, 892-2225, roman3606@comcast.net
 At Large: Bob Cowan, 979-3081, bcowan@rlcjr.com
 Lane Nemirow, 271-1111, lane@pop.net
 Randolph liaison: Rita Wiggins, 521-4725, rmwiggins@aol.com
 Parks committee: Marty Nielsen, 979-8777, mnielsen@erols.com
 Traffic committee: Bob Cowan, chair, 979-3081, bcowan@rlcjr.com
 Parking liaison: Lane Nemirow, 271-1111, lane@pop.net
 Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission Delegates:
 John Snyder, 892-2887, jvsnyder54@comcast.net;
 Lane Nemirow, 271-1111, lane@pop.net
Civic Federation Delegates—
 Linda Dye, 979-6276, wvwcdyels@starpower.net
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Advertising rates and information

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

SEND check, payable to DPCA, and ad information to Mitch Opalski, 3129 12th St S., Arlington, VA 22204. He will provide information on preparing and submitting your ads.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Volunteer and Meet Neighbors

We hope that, if you've turned to this page, you've decided to volunteer with 4th of July festivities. It's a great way to meet your neighbors. The 4th of July parade and picnic have been a Douglas Park tradition for more than 20 years. If you have always come or will come for the first time, don't miss it. Small town America lives on right here in *your* neighborhood, as kids of all ages parade from Monroe Park to Douglas Park for a picnic, a moon bounce, a dunk tank, and lots of fun. *See insert.*



June Meeting To Feature Transit Options


Our June 21 meeting will feature a presentation on the Pike Transit Initiative proposal for streetcars on Columbia Pike. Come see what the future may hold for Pike transportation.

We'll also have a presentation on how our yards can be certified as backyard wildlife habitats. *See details, page 7.* You can help Douglas Park be the neighborhood with the most certified yards. The recent rabbit invasion endorses our efforts to date! —*John Snyder, DPCA president*

DPCA thanks Carole Skole for donating balloons for the July 4 event.

I'll see you at the
 Annual 4th of July Parade
 with my red, white, and blue

BALLOONS



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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!

AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



Scenes from the 10th annual Columbia Pike Blues Festival held on June 5. At the end, Tom Principato and then the Nighthawks had the joint jumpin'. Festival sponsors included ART/ Arlington Transit; Washington Forrest

Foundation; Blue Waters Foundation; Silverwood Management, Inc.; E.G. Reinsch Co.; Fillmore Garden Apartments; Trammell Crow Residential; John Boy; and Virginia Commerce Bank.

Residential Permit Parking Under Review

Arlington County has been undergoing a major review of its Residential Permit Parking program. Results from community outreach will soon result in recommendations to the planning and transportation commissions and the county board. The draft recommendations presented in March have been revised based on citizen feedback and further research. They pertain to which properties are eligible to participate in zoned parking, sizes, and locations of zones, how the program is managed and enforced, visitor passes, and the hours.

Final recommendations online at www.parkarlington.com. Opportunities for your input include public hearings. Bring your questions, or contact park@arlingtonva.us. Location: county building, room 307.

- June 23, transportation commission;
- June 27, planning commission;
- July 9, 8:30 am, public hearing.

Parks Checked Out for Illegal Activity

In recent weeks members of community policing and the gang unit conducted random checks of the Douglas Park area and found little evidence of any illegal activity or any suspicious subjects. Police are proactive in efforts to combat the issue and encourage any citizen comments. To report concerns, contact either Sgt. John Rizik, 703-228-4068, or Lt. J.L. Wasem, 703-228-4181; police@arlingtonva.us.



Right: Columbia Pike Redevelopment Organization (CPRO) director Tim Lynch and volunteers were present to answer questions and provide information.

Photos by Dawn Leland

Neighbors Invited to Join Book Group

Neighbors started a new book group at the Columbia Pike Library on the third Wed. of the month, 7-8 pm. It's a friendly group—men and women, white and black, roughly in our 30s to 50s. Just drop in, or e-mail John Gall, the reference librarian who leads the group, j.gall@comcast.net. To get the book, go to the reference desk of the Columbia Pike library and request the "(English) book club book" and they'll loan you a copy you can keep for up to six weeks.

I joined to have a neighborhood activity, to save on travel for evening activities, and to get to know neighbors. Last time, I had a great Pike experience—taking the bus, eating at Bangkok 54, and walking to the library and home. For the

June 15 meeting we're reading the *Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo* by Paula Huntley.

—Julie Isaacs,
jbixleri@aol.com

New picnic tables have arrived at Monroe Park.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Radio Clarendon Hits the Air Waves on July 1

It started with a simple idea, voiced by a local lawyer—“This town needs a radio station.” And Sona Viridi, former director of the Clarendon Alliance, has poured hours into creating a diverse community internet radio station. The station will include local DJs and mostly local music, and 30% talk. Radio Clarendon will give a voice to the interests of numerous civic associations and local government departments.

One feature is called “loving where you live,” in which people are interviewed on what they love about their neighborhoods. The station is still looking for local DJs, bands, and sponsors; it’s run on minimal funds and is underwritten by local businesses and supporters. radioclarendon@gmail.com; www.radioclarendon.com.

Help Homeless and Abused Women, Children

The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter—TACTS—will introduce a new name, “Doorways for Women and Families,” soon. TACTS was begun 25 years ago by an interfaith group as a nonprofit shelter for battered and homeless women and children. Now they need help keeping the pantry stocked, especially with detergent, trash bags, and paper goods.

Fannie Mae’s Help the Homeless Walkathon, a vital fundraiser for Doorways, is scheduled for Nov. 19, and Doorways seeks groups to host mini-walks and do other volunteer tasks.

Whether it’s staffing the safe house for an afternoon or helping stock pantry shelves, you can help women and families seeking safe, stable and self-sufficient lives. Contact Jennifer, 703-522-8858, ext. 13. For emergency shelter: 703-237-1147.

County-Sponsored Activities, Resources
Ballston skating facility

In June the county broke ground on an ice skating facility near Ballston Common Mall, at N. Glebe and Randolph St. It’s owned by Arlington and leased to the Capitals, who’ll operate the complex and manage community programs. Open seven days a week; space available for meetings, other events.

Thurs., June 16, 7 pm., film screening, *Dirty Wars*—Thomas Jefferson Theater, 125 S Old Glebe Rd.

[Also check the library for films scheduled in the Cross-Cultural Film Series, Thurs. nights at 6:30; 703-459-4918.]

Thurs.–Sat., June 23–25, 6:30 pm., and June 25, 1 pm.: “Signature [Theatre] Sings Broadway”, Welburn Square (next to Ballston Metro), 4200 Block of N. Fairfax Dr.

Aug. 18–21, 29th Arlington County Fair

Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St.

Outdoor performances at the fair include:

Fri., Aug. 19: 4:45–5:45, Ruthie & the Wranglers (roots rock);

6–7, Origem (Brazilian jazz); 7:15–8:15, Tom Principato (blues);

Sat., Aug. 20: 4:45–5:45, The Barrettones (bluegrass);

6–7, DKGB (reggae); 7:15–8:15, Mary Ann Redmond Band

(blues); and, *time tba*, multicultural performances.

Free Arts al Fresco concerts schedule

www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural_affairs/alfresco.htm;

703-228-1850, 24-hour hotline, 703-228-6966.

Commuter solutions

Transportation alternatives, www.commuterpage.com.

Arlington Alerts—Hurricane season’s here

www.arlingtonva.us/web/storms; 703-228-0590.

Sign up for e-mail “culture alerts”

Topics include Arts/Crafts, Performance, Storytime, Nature/Environment, Workshops, and more. www.arlingtonva.us.

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SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN



Randolph Elementary celebrated its authorization as a Primary Years School of the International Baccalaureate on April 29. Sergeant Major W. Bramwell Smith, of the United States Army Band, Pershing's Own, played a fanfare saluting Randolph's authorization at the evening celebration. Sgt. Major Smith is the husband of Randolph's IB coordinator, Linda Smith. Randolph is the first school in Northern Virginia to be authorized to offer this educational program.

Randolph Elementary School Notes

Preschool admissions: Randolph continues to accept applications for its preschool program. A child must be four years old by Sept. 30. First priority goes to children from families that qualify for free or reduced lunches. If all spaces are not filled by Aug. 1, up to five children from families making a maximum of \$62,000 will be accepted. 703-228-5830.

Fifth grade promotion will be held on Tues., June 21, 7 pm. The last day of school is Fri., June 24. Classes will be released at 12:51 p.m. on Wed.–Fri., June 22-24.

Summer school students' classes begin Mon., July 11, and continue through Aug. 11, from 8:25–11:25 a.m.

Wakefield High Nationally Ranked

Wakefield High School was recognized by *Newsweek* as one of the most academically challenging high schools in the nation. The magazine rates schools according to the "Challenge Index," which reports how many Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests are taken by the students to try to earn college credits, as a measure of the academic challenge offered by the school. Wakefield ranked 257th in the country—in the top one percent. Arlington's other three high schools are also in the top one percent.

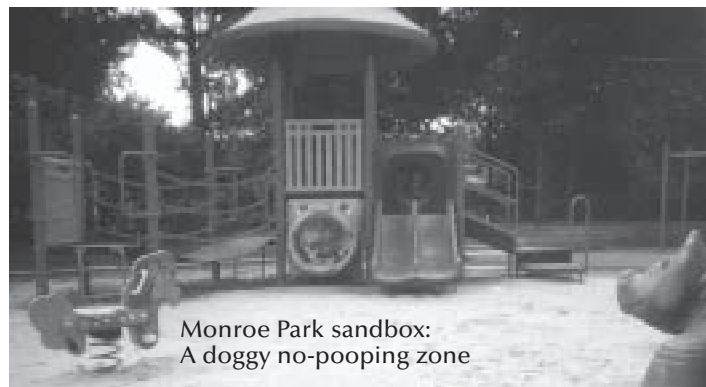
Wakefield Students Win Cappies Theater Awards

It's an honor just to receive nominations for the annual DC area Cappies theater awards, and Wakefield students, including some DP kids, received nominations this year in six categories for their work in the drama, "Radium Girls." Then

Wakefield went on to receive three final awards at the 6th Annual Cappies Gala at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on June 5. Winning students include Jackie Curiel, Nahid Koohkanrizi, and Adam Schiffer. Other students who received nominations were Amanda Adams, Maggie Colella, Kent O'Connor, Emily Yaffe, and John Nelson.

Our Savior Lutheran School Is Still Enrolling

It's not too late to enroll your children at Our Savior for the 2005-06 academic year. OSLS has been a part of the Arlington community for more than 50 years. The school offers a quality education for kindergarten through grade 8. The school is located in the Barcroft neighborhood, at 825 S. Taylor St. 703-892-4846. www.osva.org.



Monroe Park sandbox:
A doggy no-pooping zone

We're fortunate to have one of the county's off-leash canine areas nearby. Most dog owners respect the county law that dogs must stay on-leash outside those parks. But it's been noted that a few dog owners have used children's play areas as dog runs. Animal control officials were alerted to watch for these folks, some of whom allow dogs to defecate in the tot lot and playground sand! Please be aware of the health issues involved and respect your neighbors.

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3507 Columbia Pike at Lincoln Street

HOME & GARDEN

Keep Your Trees Healthy With Mulch

Mulching is one of the most beneficial things a home owner can do for the health of a tree. Mulch—ground up branches or leaves—can reduce water loss from the soil, minimize weed



Thanks to the efforts of Nancy Theodore and the parks dept., soil erosion from the bases of many trees has been halted by the installation of timbers on the Stafford Street entrance to Douglas Park.

competition, and improve soil structure. Properly applied, it can give landscapes a handsome, well-groomed appearance.

Benefits of proper mulching

- Helps maintain soil moisture. Evaporation is reduced, and need for watering can be minimized.
- Helps control weeds. A 2-4" layer of mulch will reduce the germination and growth of weeds.
- Mulch serves as nature's insulating blanket. It keeps soils warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Trees growing in a natural forest environment have their roots anchored in a rich, well-aerated soil full of essential nutrients. The soil is blanketed by leaves and or-

ganic materials that replenish nutrients and provide an optimal environment for root growth and mineral uptake. Urban landscapes, however, are typically a much harsher environment with poor soils, little organic matter, and big fluctuations in temperature and moisture. Applying a 2-4" layer of organic mulch can mimic a more natural environment and improve plant health.

Mulch—but not too much!

As beneficial as mulch is, too much can be harmful. The generally recommended mulching depth is 2 to 4". Deep mulch can lead to excess moisture in the root zone, which can stress the plant and cause root rot. Avoid placing mulch against the tree trunks—a "mulch volcano." If mulch is piled up, pull it back several inches.

DP residents can obtain mulch made from leaves and wood collected in the county. Residents can pick up free mulch at the Trades Center, 4300 S. 29th St., or have it delivered for a small fee. Call 703-228-6570 for details, or see www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdMulchOrders.aspx

—Marty Nielsen marty.nielsen@verizon.net

Portions reprinted by permission, International Society of Arborists

* HOT TIP *

Want to get rid of vegetation or those sprouts from a recently cut-down tree? Try spraying vinegar first instead of toxic chemicals.

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Seven Douglas Park renovation projects
completed or in progress

Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden

You might think that butterflies have a carefree life, but their life cycle is complex. As caterpillars they can survive by dining on a few very specific plants while avoiding becoming a treat for birds or other woodland animals. After morphing into a chrysalis, they must wait, unprotected, while transforming into a beautiful butterfly. Upon emerging as adults, they must hesitate, while their wings dry so they can take flight.

You can attract butterflies to your yard and help them survive if you provide the four basic elements of habitat in your yard—Food, water, sheltered places for rest and escape from weather and predators, and places to raise young—critical to the survival of these magical creatures.

The Arlington Community Wildlife Habitat team is ready to help you make your property friendly for butterflies and other wildlife. If you join the Neighborhood Challenge and get your property certified before Sept. 30, you can help your civic association gain bragging rights as the most wildlife-friendly place in Arlington.



Certified wildlife habitats:

Top: Home of Janine Finnell and Ralph Lintz, S. Stafford St.

Center: The deJesus home, S. Monroe St., shows a beautiful Virginia creeper growing on the garage wall; it produces berries and attracts about 30 species of birds.

Bottom: The habitat created by Randolph students at the school's front entrance.

Meet the Challenge! Community Wildlife Habitat Neighborhood Challenge

As noted in the Jan. issue of this newsletter, a team of Arlingtonians is challenging *your* neighborhood to become the most wildlife-friendly in the county. The challenge is part of the Arlington Community Wildlife Habitat (ACWH) project, a three-year initiative to educate and assist Arlingtonians in the creation of wildlife habitats to benefit its people, plants and wildlife. Through the Challenge, the ACWH team hopes to reach its goal to become the third community in Virginia certified by the National Wildlife Federation, and the first certified county in the nation.

The Challenge will take place through September. All civic associations that certify at least five new properties by Sept. 30, will be recognized by the Arlington County Board. Prizes will also be awarded to civic associations certifying the most properties. For more information on the Community Wildlife Habitat project and the Wildlife Habitat Neighborhood Challenge, see www.arlingtonenvironment.org. Contact: Elenor Hodges, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, 3308 S. Stafford St. Arlington, VA 22206; elenor@arlingtonenvironment.org; 703-228-6427.

See also www.arlingtonenvironment.org/programs/wildlifehabitat/index.htm for more information on the Wildlife Habitat project. All types of properties are eligible for certification including homes, apartments, condominiums, schools, places of worship, and work places. We also have resource packets and naturalists to assist in your efforts.

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Thank you!



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

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