

Neighbor News



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August–September 2005

July 4 Fun for All

Nearly 200 neighbors attended the DP July 4 celebration and picnic in Douglas Park. > 3

Musicians Rick Franklin, a DP resident (left), and Steve Cifala provided entertime and talent for the DPCA celebration.



Other musicians who participated are shown below: Jamie Daly (NeighborNews distribution coordinator), Judith Morroy and twin Ingrid Monroy (Arlington commissioner of revenue); and Rob Receveur.



September DPCA Meeting Transportation, Tutoring Opportunities Head Agenda

The next DPCA meeting will be on Tues., Sept. 20th at 7:30 p.m. at Firehouse No. 9 (19th and Walter Reed). A presentation by county transportation staff on new bus routes on the Pike and one on volunteer opportunities for tutoring at local elementary schools are the evening's topics. These issues affect most of you so please attend in order to have your voice heard. > 2

Traffic Calming Efforts Visible in the Neighborhood

In the year since our last update much has been done on DP traffic calming projects.

South Monroe Street

In addition to speed cushions installed north of 16th St., the improvements to the intersection at Walter Reed Dr., reconstruction of the traffic island at 18th St., nubs at 16th and Monroe, and at the 14th and 12th St. intersections, are now complete. The speed cushions south of 16th St. are scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

Recent traffic counts show greater volume on Monroe St. so stop signs currently at 18th St. requiring Monroe St. traffic to stop are scheduled to switch locations to require an 18th St. traffic halt. This change will be done after installation of the remaining speed cushions to avoid possible increased speed on Monroe St. at this intersection. We've also requested that the stop sign at 12th St. be moved onto the nub closer to the intersection.

South Quincy Street

Construction of this project got under way shortly after *continued > 3*

Help Displaced Veterans

Many veterans and spouses displaced by Hurricane Katrina were bused to the Armed Forces Retirement Home (DC) from Gulfport, MS. Here is a list of items they need:
Personal items—electric shavers/disposable shavers; hair dryers; shaving cream; feminine hygiene products; toothpaste/toothbrushes; dental floss; shampoo; soap.
Clothing (new, please)—Pajamas, all sizes for men and women; bath robes; underwear/socks; slippers; shower shoes; shirts/t-shirts; shorts/slacks; hats; belts; tennis shoes.
Linens (new, please)—towels/washcloths; single sheets/pillowcases; blankets; bed pillows; bedspreads.
Household items—laundry detergent; small televisions/radios; small/medium refrigerators; alarm clocks; personal CD players; CDs .

Drop off contributions to me, 3900 S. 7th St. and I'll take them in.

—Mike Rhode; mrhode@gmail.com

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• • • **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. Sept. 20: *general meeting*, fire sta. #9, 1900 S. Walter Reed Dr.—Agenda includes bus routes, tutoring opportunities.

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, roserita_wiggins@apsva.us
 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
 Rebecca Krafft, 553-4140, rebecca_krafft@hotmail.com
 John Roman, 892-2225, roman3606@comcast.net

Neighbor News—

Advertising: Mitch Opalski, 553-1942, mopalski@aol.com
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 Distribution: Jamie Daly, 521-4567, jamie22204@yahoo.com
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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

Neighbors in Search of Bake Sale Help

The Election Day Bake Sale is a Douglas Park tradition and one of our most important sources of funds for events like the Fourth of July parade and picnic. We need bake sale coordinators to carry on the tradition. The job entails coordinating the volunteers who make the sales at the table on election day, collecting baked contributions from the neighborhood, and set up and closing. Many hands make for light work (and coordinators get first dibs on the baked goodies). Thanks in advance from your civic association.

Host a Fall Block Party!

The opportunity remains for a block to step forward as the first to host the Douglas Park Fall Party. Complementing the already famous Winter Dance Party and Fourth of July picnic, the fall party can be whatever you and your neighbors decide. Pick a date, block off the street, and let the neighbors know. They will bring food and other refreshments—all you have to do is ask—and lots of fun.

Next Civic Association Meeting—Sept. 20

The next DPCA meeting will take place at Firehouse No. 9 (see agenda, p.1). I hope to see you there.

Contact me about any of these events!

—John Snyder, DPCA president,
 jvsnyder54@comcast.net, 703-892-2887

MEMBERSHIP FORM, thru 2/06
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

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Treasurer, DPCA, 3621 S. 14th St., Arlington, VA 22204

Thank you!

9-05



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AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

1 < traffic, continued

school ended this spring, scheduled to reduce the impact on Randolph School parents and students. Nubs have been constructed at the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 16th St. intersections with S. Quincy St. A nub was also installed at the mid-block crosswalk for Randolph School.

At Columbia Pike and South Quincy St. the handicap ramps were reconstructed to meet current standards in preparation for the "gateway treatment" at that intersection. (A gateway treatment is a section of pavement stamped and colored to resemble brick pavers.) The remaining work on this project consists of speed cushions, textured crosswalks, gateway, and painted lines to define the parking lanes, is also scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

South 18th Street

The expedited speed hump project is complete with three speed humps installed. Progress over the last year has not been as good on other traffic issues. Work continues on bollards or some other device to be installed on the center of the speed cushions to deter traffic from crossing the center line to avoid crossing the bump. The flat cuts through the cushions are for the use of emergency vehicles only and police will issue citations to violators.

Glebe Road Changes

Arlington County staff and VDOT are still working through some design issues with the traffic signal at 12th and Glebe Rd. They anticipate submitting a revised plan to VDOT by the end of Sept. Prior to the start of the recent construction along S. Glebe Rd., the pedestrian improvements planned include installing crosswalks along Glebe at 14th and 16th Sts. Due to the recent construction projects there, county staff

continued > 4

The community gardeners hosted their annual open house in August; gardeners displayed some of their beekeeping skills.



July 4 in Douglas Park

The annual parade with floats and prizes, a kids' twinkie-eating contest, volunteers at the grill, a pinata-smashing challenge, a dunking tank, a moonbounce for the kids, and other events highlighted the day.

One baby slept through all the noise and activity.



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

3 < *traffic calming*

plans to ensure that proposed locations will accommodate the new construction and adequately address the needs of proposed usage.

Proposed plans include marked crosswalks and advanced signage requiring traffic to yield to pedestrians. Our consultant has proposed that this include advanced flashing beacons that are activated when a pedestrian pushes the button at the crosswalk (similar to the device at Columbia Pike and S. Frederick). The beacons are proposed for installation before the crosswalk. Again, county staff is working through design issues with wording and sign usage with VDOT. The timing is unknown because of the need for approval and permit for construction. —*Bob Cowan, traffic committee chair*

Traffic Control: How It Happened

For those wondering about how this project got started, it was through a widespread and intense expression of need in the community, as expressed in our neighborhood conservation plan, adopted several years ago after a survey of the neighborhood, discussions at civic association meetings, and on this list. Then a community leader—Carol Freysinger—stepped forward and put in the volunteer time to organize the effort. Ideas for traffic calming were discussed at a commu-

nity meeting, to which the entire community was invited.

Proposals went through a petition process, staffed entirely by volunteers, gaining overwhelming support (more than 80%) of Quincy St residents. It was supported by a vote of the civic association at an open meeting, and civic association members went to the county traffic calming committee to support the plan. Finally, all were invited to a walking meeting with county staff to go over the details. In sum, it got started because a lot of people in the community wanted it, the community supported it overwhelmingly, and because many people worked very hard to make it happen.

—*John Snyder*

To comment: Contact the county, 703-228-3130

Other Neighbor Notes

- Nam Dunbar earned All-America honors at the USA Wrestling 2005 Kids Greco/FreeStyle Wrestling National Championships held June 30-July 3. He finished third in the freestyle and fifth in Greco-Roman. Nam just completed eighth grade at Jefferson Middle School and is a freshman at Bishop O'Connell High School.
- Jake Michael Fields was born on August 10 to David and Dana Fields, S. 13th St.

How To Double or Triple Your Investment When Preparing Your Home To Sell!

Cleaning up, removing clutter, adding a new coat of paint, installing carpeting, refinishing hardwood floors, manicuring landscaping, updating fixtures, and other cosmetic touches, put your home in the best light. An investment of \$5,000 to \$10,000 can easily be doubled or tripled at resale. Buyers will gravitate towards generic improvements that enhance a home's functionality, efficiency, and aesthetics, giving it a more contemporary feel.

Complete deferred maintenance and make repairs to fix or replace broken items and systems. Use your cash to put the home and its components in good working order by replacing missing roof shingles and broken or cracked windows. Repair driveway cracks and straighten leaning fences. Make sure doors, gates, lights, plumbing fixtures and other items are all working properly. Beyond the cosmetic touches and functional upgrades, the best home improvements that help net sellers' full market value include kitchen and bath remodels and only those alterations and additions that bring your home in line with the others in the area.

Too often home improvements are random, uneven upgrades. If you leave one of your bath-

rooms in its original 1950s style, but remodel the other, or if you landscape the front yard, but leave the backyard in its natural weed-infested state, most buyers will notice what's left to be done, rather than credit you for completed work. Consistency pays off for achieving the best price!

Want a quick and easy checklist of inexpensive ways to make a buyer instantly attracted to your home? **Contact us for our report on the 44 Money Making Tips For Preparing Your Home To Sell! For a free copy and other helpful reports, call our office or visit our web sites.**

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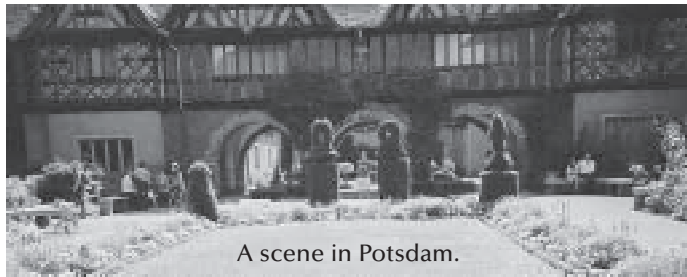
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Realtor, Buyer Specialist
703-969-6772

AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Sister City Experience: DP Teen Visits Aachen, Germany, in July

The ending of any school year is always cause for celebration. People say their goodbyes before they head off to camp or a vacation with the family. My usual vacation has been packing up the car and driving with my family to the Outer Banks of

North Carolina, or Maine. That's usually the highlight of my summer and I try to avoid canceling it for any other "better" vacation. This year my plans were altered. I spent three weeks in



A scene in Potsdam.

Aachen, Germany, to begin my summer vacation. Earlier in the year we heard from Washington-Lee High School that Arlington was looking for people to host exchange students from Germany for three weeks, as a part of the Sister City Program. My dad prides himself in speaking the small amount of German that he does, and he also lived in Germany as a teenager, so he thought this would be a great experience, and the rest of my family agreed.

Our host student had been taking English since she was 8. She is now 17, so her English was better than my dad's German. While she was here with my family, she had activities with her Sister City group while I went to school. On weekends we spent time together. Everyone who hosted a student then had the opportunity to take a trip to Germany to stay with our students' families for three weeks. There was no doubt that this was a great opportunity and I should take advantage of it.

In Germany, we had a schedule for everything we'd be doing. The agenda included trips to Berlin and Potsdam, as well as day trips to smaller towns near Aachen. When we first arrived the students were still in school, so one of our daily activities was to go to school with them. The school I visited was totally different from the one I attend. There were only about 60 students in the grade, and the entire school only had about 600 students. They had a lot of free periods and the order of their classes changed daily.

One of the small towns we visited was Monschau, a very old town where houses looked the same and there were rules restricting the amount of home restoration. It seemed inhabited by little old ladies who glared from their windows. Most, the tour guide told us, didn't leave their houses until all tourists had gone for the day. The doors on the houses are all about five feet tall because most everyone who lives in the town is on the shorter side.

We also visited Maastricht, where it wasn't the city that was interesting, but the caves that lie right outside the city borders. Farmers used to live in these caves and hide. When you walk in you notice a major temperature drop—usually 10–15 degrees lower than outside. On the day we visited the caves it was about 50 degrees inside. The second thing you notice is that when you walk into the caves and the guide closes the door, even with the three lanterns held by people

in our group, it is seriously dark! I know this wouldn't bother most people, but I am deathly afraid of scary movies where everything that could ever possibly go wrong will go wrong — in the dark. I made sure I was no more than six inches away from any lantern. Our tour guide made sure that we knew that without her we would never make it out of these caves alive—caves so cold and so damp that nobody could survive without heat or light for more than four days. So just when we were getting near the exit, the tour guide thought it would be a good experience to turn out all the lanterns and let us find our way out by feeling along the walls.

We had a few free days where we'd go into the center of Aachen to the market or take trips with our host families. At night we'd go into Aachen's *Elisenbrunnen*, the square and shopping district. The city curfew for teenagers is midnight; most of the business comes from teens so if you're old enough to go into clubs the laws aren't always enforced.

This was a fantastic trip and I wasn't too upset to change my summer schedule to accommodate this trip. As my parents had predicted, this was an experience of a lifetime.

—Olivia Goldstein; ggo7390@hotmail.com.

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HOME & GARDEN

Fall Gardening Tips

Wait until autumn leaves fall to fertilize or prune your trees and shrubs. Deciduous woody plants pruned or fertilized in late summer or early fall (i.e., now) will respond with new growth that may not survive the winter. Now is the time to plant new trees. Planting now will maximize growing time critical to surviving next summer's heat.

Porcelainberry is an invasive climbing vine with grape-like leaves and interesting, multi-colored berries that are ripening now. Cut it or pull it out. Native alternatives include clematis, trumpet honeysuckle and trumpet creeper.

—Marty Nielsen, marty.nielsen@verizon.net

The Rat Problem: 2005 Edition

I spoke with Anastazia Frueauf—who is on our Community Wildlife Habitat Team and is a park naturalist at Long Branch Nature Center—concerning rats and whether or not backyard wildlife habitats encourage their presence. She's an

informed and matter-of-fact naturalist. You can contact her directly about rats or any other wildlife issues that you are encountering. Her thoughtful response is below.

—Janine Finnell, jafinnell@yahoo.com

Excerpted from: *Oh Rats!*

Providing food, water, and shelter for wildlife in our yards can be a helpful and rewarding experience. However, there are several issues to consider. Probably the biggest is the unwanted wildlife. Everyone has different opinions about what wildlife they consider nuisance animals or pests. Some people love to see squirrels searching for nuts and watch their antics; however, others are disgruntled by their determination and ability to get into everything.

Yet, there is a mutual contention that no one wants rats! Living in the city where construction is a constant, trash is plentiful, and overgrown areas are abundant, these disease-carrying, introduced animals proliferate. They are active at all hours, year-round. Any area with shelter, food, or water will eventually attract them. If these become scarce, they simply move on. However, taking extra care can help reduce the occurrence of rodents.

Avoid Dense Groundcovers

Rats take refuge in low growing dense ground cover—English ivy, vinca, and other invasives that grow relentlessly. Keep vegetation in check and away from your homes. There are many beautiful native plants that do not provide shelter to rats yet remain a good roost for our feathered friends and other wildlife. Many of these plants also have flowers and seeds that are eaten by the hungry bird or butterfly, but are insignificant to the rat.

Clean Up Your Act!

The ravenous rat also ventures in looking for their preferred food sources. Rats have voracious appetites and will eat almost anything. Keep trash off the ground and in metal containers to thwart their gnawing efforts; plastic bags are no obstacle for these chewing champs. Other food sources include pet food bowls and excess bird seed. Hanging feeders that contain already-shelled seed and make little or no mess on the ground below won't provide a free meal for the rat. Finally, any dirty water source can have numerous negative consequences. Any amount of water that stands for three days, or more, is a potential mosquito breeding area and rat sipping source. Empty pet dishes and birdfeeders frequently and keep them out of reach. Monitor these to minimize the possibility that rats might take advantage.

We must accept responsibility in dealing with situations that arise from dwelling in crowded urban conditions. It is impossible to eliminate rats, so we must focus on control. Unfortunately, there is no instant or permanent solution. Poisons and traps simply provide a temporary fix and often cause casualties with other wildlife and pets. The methods noted above usually curtail the problem significantly.

—Anastazia Frueauf, park naturalist, 703-228-6535

Douglas Park in the Lead on Wildlife Habitats—Let's Keep Up the Momentum!

The challenge ends Sept. 30 so don't delay! We hope to become the first county in the United States designated by the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat.

So far Douglas Park is in the lead—let's win this contest. Between now and Sept. 30, special incentives are being offered for people who get their properties certified as backyard wildlife habitats.

There will be weekly drawings for newly certified habitats including \$10 gift certificates to Meadows Farms Nurseries; native or wildlife-friendly plants delivered to your home; and more! If you're already certified, you can win a \$50 gift certificate to the Behnke Nurseries by helping to get friends and neighbors to certify their properties. See details at www.arlingtonenvironment.org/challenge.htm.

County/Neighborhood Contacts (703-)

Arlington County

Animal control: 931-9241
Community gardens: 228-6426
County board: 228-3255;
countymanager@arlingtonva.us
Human services: 228-5100

Nature Centers

Gulf Branch: 228-3403
Long Branch: 228-6535
Parks & Recreation—
Community canine area,
parks contact: 228-6523
Police, Third District
Commander: 228-4097
Public information:
228-4311
Public schools: 228-6000
Public Works—

Assistance/special pickups:
228-6570
Environmental services/
hazardous mat.: 228-6832

Leaf collection/mulch
delivery: 228-6570
Water/sewer/streets: 228-6485
Traffic/roads: 228-3720
Pothole hotline: 228-6485
Trees, urban forester: 228-1863
Volunteer office: 228-1760

Hotlines

Child abuse hotline:
1-800-552-7096
Graffiti removal: 558-2222
Horticultural information/master
gardeners: 228-6414
Class information and
cancellations: 228-7199

Other Contacts

Arlington Food Assistance Center
(AFAC): 525-3450
Freecycling: www.freecycle.org
Red Cross (Arlington): 527-3010

(See also p.2 for DPCA contacts)

SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN

What's Up at Randolph

Believe it or not, another summer has passed and the school year has begun. The outstanding staff at Randolph Elementary School has opened the 2005/2006 school year with great enthusiasm. We wish everyone an exciting, interesting and successful year.

Now that school is in session, please keep in mind that as the only designated 100% walking school in Arlington (no school buses), Randolph has lots of children on the sidewalks traveling to and from school. Throughout our neighborhood streets, the speed limit is ALWAYS 25 MPH and in the school zone during pickup and drop-off hours, the speed limit is 20 MPH. Follow the speed limit, keep alert, and take care for our precious little ones!

Volunteer Opportunities at the School

We have many opportunities available this year for Douglas Park residents (and others) to be involved in our neighborhood school. Volunteer commitments can range from once a year, to one hour per month, to one hour per week. We offer community members the opportunity to be lunch buddies, study buddies, reading buddies, and tutors. Interested folks can chaperone field trips, help at the Fall Festival, work in the library, or teach an after-school class. We welcome partnerships with local businesses, or businesses that are owned by, worked at, or patronized by DP neighbors. We are always happy to welcome Douglas Park neighbors into the school. We pride ourselves with being a neighborhood school, serving the children who live in our midst, and involving the entire community in their education. Did you know that—

... we have senior citizens from a local retirement home who spend time each week reading to one or two classes? We consider this our "adopt a grandparent" program. You can't begin to imagine the impact this program has had on both the children and the adults involved.

... we have a neighbor who has been a lunch buddy for over five years to more than four students? She has followed the children through middle school and remained a constant source of support and encouragement in their lives.

... we have a musically talented neighbor who has of-

fered music lessons at our annual silent auction and who has performed with his band at school functions? His contributions have been enjoyed and appreciated by many.

If you want to volunteer at Randolph, would like more information on the school, or are a prospective Randolph parent with questions about our school in particular, or Arlington Public Schools in general, we look forward to hearing from you! —Rita Wiggins, *community outreach coordinator*, 703-228-8917, roserita_wiggins@apsva.us

Child Care Permit in Progress

The Child and Family Network Centers is applying for a use permit for a child care center at 1718 S. Taylor, in the Virginia Gardens Apartments. If you'd like more information or have any questions or comments, please contact me or Ms. DuPree of the County Planning Division, 703-228-3525.

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