

# Neighbor News



Sign up! Douglas Park online:  
www.arlingtondpca.homestead.com

January–February–March • #1, 2006

## INSIDE

- Renew your membership—DPCA is your voice. .... 2
- Street improvements, Cellular cell tower ..... 3
- Arlington Mill Center progress, Art Fest ..... 4
- Drew Elementary Day, parents conference, plant swap ... 5
- Earth Day events, saving urban forests ..... 6
- Senior Sources ..... 7

**Like this newsletter?** A committee will meet to direct the future of this newsletter, **Wed., April 5, 7 pm**, at the firehouse. Two job openings: Newsletter layout/production specialist, advertising sales representative.

El Departamento de Bomberos del Condado de Arlington tiene un programa llamado Operation Fire Safe (Operación de Prevención de Incendios) que provee alarmas de humo sin cargo en los lugares en que se las necesite. Simplemente llame al 703.228.4646 y deje su nombre, dirección y número de teléfono. Un representante del Departamento de Bomberos se contactará con usted y concertará una cita para instalar una alarma de fuego en su hogar sin cargo alguno.

Douglas Park ganó un premio por tener el mayor número de jardines certificados como habitat de fauna. .... 1  
"Segunda Noche Annual de Baile de la Vecindad de Douglas Park" será el 25 de marzo. .... 1

Por favor, no se olvide de renovar su afiliación (o unirse si todavía no lo hahecho), a la Asociación Cívica de Douglas Park. Es su voz en la comunidad. .... 2

El Condado de Arlington ha terminado algunos trabajos en las calles de cordón de aceras, desagüe y de alumbrado en la vecindad de Douglas Park. .... 3

La Compañía de Cingular Wireless quiere poner una torre cerca del barrio para proveer mejor servicio en esta area. .... 3

El condado va a reconstruir El Centro Comunitario de Arlington Mill. Ya esta buscando compañías para desorrollar el proyecto. .... 4

**Escuelas:** 12 de marzo en la escuela Drew. 18 de marzo: Conferencia de Liderazgo para padres de familia en la escuela Randolph. 22 de Abril: Intercambio de plantas en la escuela Randolph. Suscribase al boletín de la Oficina de Adolescentes de Arlington. .... 5

Un vecino quien esta trabajando en Kabul, Afghanistan recaudó ropa por los niños de los refugiados, y la vecindad ha donado 15 cajas. .... 5

El grupo "Vecinos de Arlington por un medioambiente limpio" va a tener una reunión: 19 de marzo. Ellos requieren conocer sus prioridades para la conservación de la comunidad local. El 24 de Marzo, Saboree vino organico. .... 6

Comunidad protectora de bosques urbanos. .... 6  
Fuentes de información para ciudadanos de la tercera edad. .... 7

Gracias: Gonzo Gallegos, en la comunidad, y Jackie Garcia, Randolph School.

## DP Wins Habitat Creation Award

As many of you know, there was a contest to create the most certified backyard wildlife habitats in Arlington and DP won the top prize from the National Wildlife Federation. The award was presented on Nov. 9, 2005. Marty Nielsen— one of our neighborhood environmental gurus— accepted the prize from county board chair Jay Fisette (right).



David Mizejewski from the National Wildlife Federation, is shown seated in the background. Janine Finnell and Corinne deJesus deserve a lot of credit for promoting the > 6

## Reserve now for March 25! Announcing the Second Annual Douglas Park Dance Fest

Has it been awhile since you've had a night out? Then dance the night away with your friends and neighbors by boogying to tunes by DP's favorite DJ, Sabra Flaherty, on Sat., March 25, from 8–11 pm. The location will be the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. (Rt. 50 and S. George Mason Dr.).

Bring finger food or dessert to share and your own water, soda, juice, wine or beer—no hard liquor allowed. As a result of DP winning the grand prize in the Arlington Community Wildlife Habitat Project's "Neighborhood Challenge Contest," additional food will also be available courtesy of Lebanese Taverna. Adults only, but NOT couples only! Lots of > 4

## Remember to test your smoke alarms! Get a Free Smoke Detector

The Arlington County fire department has a program, Operation Fire Safe, which provides free smoke alarms in owner-occupied residences. Call 703-228-4646; leave your name, address, and phone number. A representative will contact you to make an appointment to install a smoke alarm in your home at no charge. The Arlington Co. Fire Dept. also offers free hearing-impaired smoke alarms. Call 703-228-4659, TTY, 703-228-4610, or e-mail kvangraafeiland@arlingtonva.us

••• Volunteer! Contact John Snyder •••  
 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. March 21: *general meeting*, fire sta. #9, 1900 S. Walter Reed Dr.—election of officers. April 18, *executive committee meeting*.

*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, wwwcdyels@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, mrtynlsn@gmail.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  
 Debbie Falco, 919-5131, dfalco@speakeasy.net

*Civic Federation Delegates—*  
 Linda Dye, 979-6276, wwwcdyels@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  
 Coordination/layout: Dawn Leland, 979-4480, dmleland46@hotmail.com  
 Editorial: Rebecca Krafft, 553-4140, rebecca\_krafft@hotmail.com  
 Distribution: Jamie Daly, 521-4567, jamie22204@yahoo.com  
 Webmaster: Nancy Limprecht, nlimprecht@yahoo.com

**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**

All DP neighbors are invited to the upcoming civic association general meeting to elect officers for your civic association, Tues., March 21, 7:30 PM Firehouse #9 (Walter Reed and 19th St.), downstairs conference room. It's your participation that makes it all work!

Nominations for president, vice president, treasurer and secretary are still open. Call me if you're interested.

**Volunteers are Needed for Event Committees**  
 March 25, Second Annual Douglas Park Dance Fest.  
 May 13, Neighborhood Day—Fun, food, and games.  
 July 4—You guessed it, the Fourth of July Parade and Picnic.  
 Volunteers are needed for all events. Contact me to volunteer! Or e-mail your questions and what you'd like to do.

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

**Join or Renew Membership**

It's time to either renew your membership or join the Douglas Park Civic Association. What's in it for YOU? DPCA is *your* voice—the voice of the DP community and also works for traffic calming projects, neighborhood conservation projects, and other projects for the neighborhood. DPCA also sponsors the Fourth of July Parade and Picnic, Neighborhood Day, the Dance Fest and other opportunities for neighbors to get together and have fun. Please join, or re-join, using the flyer provided with this newsletter.

—Linda Dye, DPCA treasurer

**REPORT FROM THE TREASURER**

Douglas Park Civic Association  
 Financial Statement, 3/1/05 – 2/28/06

<b>Beginning Balance .....</b>	<b>\$9121.69</b>
<i>Income</i>	
Membership dues .....	1690.00
Contributions .....	869.00
Newsletter ads .....	1371.00
Newsletter printing underwriting .....	3000.00
Bake sale .....	549.00
Holiday fund drive .....	<u>2785.00</u>
	Total 10,264.00

<i>Expenditures</i>	
Newsletter printing .....	2467.50
July 4 picnic .....	3765.13
Holiday fund drive .....	2785.00
Dues .....	115.00
Wakefield PTA – Senior graduation .....	200.00
DPCA winter dance underwriting .....	200.00
DPCA tree grants .....	450.00
Neighborhood Day picnic .....	154.08
Membership dues drive materials .....	81.23
Miscellaneous .....	<u>96.00</u>
	Total 10,313.94

**Ending Balance .....** 9071.75

Prepared by Linda S. Dye, DPCA Treasurer 2/28/06

**MEMBERSHIP FORM, thru 2/07**

**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

### *1 < Douglas Park Dance Fest*

people came without partners last year and had a blast socializing and dancing. Dress up or down—just bring your dancing shoes! Space is limited and last year's dance was a huge success. Cost: \$12/person. It's best to pay in advance.

Contact—

**Heather McPhail, [gooseacre@comcast.net](mailto:gooseacre@comcast.net);**

**Janine Finnell, [jafinnell@yahoo.com](mailto:jafinnell@yahoo.com);**

**Debbie Hill, [debbie.hill@fns.usda.gov](mailto:debbie.hill@fns.usda.gov);**

**Sabra Flaherty [flaherty1310@aol.com](mailto:flaherty1310@aol.com); or**

**Rebecca Krafft, [rebecca\\_krafft@hotmail.com](mailto:rebecca_krafft@hotmail.com).**

*With thanks for the support of the Douglas Park Civic Association!*

### Street Improvements Continue

The county is making its way through a list of projects. Here's an update on some of the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) work in this neighborhood.

*17th St.* Sidewalk, curb and gutter and streetlight work was completed on 17th St., between Monroe and Glebe Rd.

*14th St.* Streetlight work done between Glebe and Walter Reed.

*12th St. and Glebe Rd.* The pedestrian traffic light project for a crosswalk across Glebe Rd. at 12th St. and the post office hit another delay— design and regulatory approval for the project. The latest delay is VDOT's request for traffic

warrant information—the data through which they determine that a light is appropriate. (Glebe is a state-maintained road.) Providing new information, getting approval, and completing design and construction will likely take until the end of 2006. DPCA is pushing to move the process along.

*Oakland St.* The project for curb, gutter, sidewalk and repaving from 14th–16th, is in line for funding through the NC program—the line is a long one with a large backlog. Combined with escalating construction costs, this has led to significant cost overruns on NC projects. (Some costs, such as paving, that had been borne by other programs are now funded through the NC program, adding to the drain on funding.) The program is rapidly running out of money from the 2004 and earlier capital bonds. Funding for future projects, including Oakland St., lights on the path through Doctor's Run, and other DP projects will depend on the funding included in the 2006 capital improvement bond.

If you'd like to see these projects continue as they have for the last few years (eight projects completed in DP), express your support to the county manager and county board—[countymanager@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countymanager@arlingtonva.us), [countyboard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countyboard@arlingtonva.us). Empower Yourself! Here's the number to call when you see a sign that needs to be fixed, or streetlights not lighted, > 4

### Wood Floors Add Value to Your Home

Did you know that homes with real wood floors sell faster and for more money than homes without wood floors? In a survey of real estate agents across the country, 58% of agents surveyed agree that homes with wood floors sell for more money than homes without wood floors—up to 10% more. In addition, 46% agree that homes with wood floors sell faster than homes without them.

There's no doubt that real wood floors add value to a home. In the same survey, 90% of agents agreed that hardwood floors influence a home's marketability. That's value you can bank on.

Wood floors add warmth and charm to any decor. No matter what your decorating style, chances are that the wood floors in your home can remain unchanged, and adapt to a completely different look. Going from a formal decor to a more casual, family-friendly environment? Wood floors can handle the transition with style, and hold up to the demands of busy family life and add beauty to your vision.

For homeowners who are considering refinishing existing hardwoods versus covering with new carpet, refinishing wood floors is the way to go. The only inconvenience is having them refinished while you are living in the home, although that can be done in phases.

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

#### **The Casey O'Neal Team RE/MAX Allegiance**

[www.caseyoneal.com](http://www.caseyoneal.com)

[www.HomeSaleAdvisor.com](http://www.HomeSaleAdvisor.com)

703-824-4800

**Don't Lose Thousands of Dollars When Making Your Next Purchase!** Call our 24-hour hotline today for a FREE copy of the report titled "49 Buyer Tips You Should Know To Avoid Making Huge Mistakes" **1-800-523-6054, extension 1034**



Casey O'Neal  
Associate Broker  
703-824-4196

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



Catherine Tallant  
Realtor, Buyer  
Specialist  
703-969-6772

### 3 < street improvements

or anything else requiring attention of the county, 703-228-6570, the Environmental Services Customer Service Center. As you might imagine, civic association presidents spend a fair amount of time complaining, but I can confirm that these folks really do provide customer service.

You can track the progress of neighborhood projects: [www.arlingtonva.us/Portals/Departments/DepartmentsPortal.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/Portals/Departments/DepartmentsPortal.aspx) and click on Environmental Services and then the CAPTrack link. —*John Snyder*

### County Responds to 19th and Pollard Concerns

The 19th and Pollard Sts. area, which is Public Works Dept. property, is being used temporarily for storage of maintenance supplies. This was made necessary by the ongoing construction at the county location in Shirlington where storage areas and parking have been displaced. Once construction is done, the 19th St. area will be cleared. It will, however, very likely be used as a county staging area periodically. The county has asked that crews tidy up the site for now.

### Cingular Cell Tower Proposed

Cingular Wireless is talking to the local civic associations about putting a cell tower nearby to provide better service along Four Mile Run Dr., between George Mason and Walter Reed. Cingular has proposed either Barcroft Park or at the water tower by the dog park and community gardens (near the fire house). We met with Cingular at the Jan. DPCA meeting and asked them to review other locations nearby, instead of putting the tower in a park. Cingular has not yet made a formal proposal to the county.

The county is implementing a process for use permits for cell towers that require the application to go to the zoning office, and then to a county board hearing. Depending on the anticipated impact on the community, it would also go to the planning commission. Once an application is filed, DPCA will make our viewpoint heard by the county. Resident Lane Nemirow has agreed to coordinate our response. However, we also encourage responses from concerned DP residents!

### Recuperating Neighbor Appreciates Help

“My thanks to my neighbors of the DP community who have been most helpful to me in the period of recovery from relatively minor but nonetheless disabling surgery. Being homebound for 6 weeks allows a focus on the world around us and underscores what we all know from birth to death—we depend on others.

Urban living too often means not knowing who lives on our block or across the street. Arlington makes a conscious effort to encourage the idea of the “urban village”—everyone has a community around him and that those living in that community have some direct responsibility to one another. DP has worked hard to make that concept a reality in our little corner of Virginia. People care and people do help others.

Thanks especially to Bridget, Ingrid, Ed, Marcy, Oren, Big Ed, Joe and other friends for daily newspaper pickup, grocery shopping, gutter cleaning, Meals on Wheels, plumbing services, changing burned out light bulbs, rides to doctor’s office, a home-cooked meal, get well cards, or just a phone call. Fred Rogers always said/sang it was a “beautiful day in the neighborhood.” Maybe he lived here. Thanks for being my neighbors.”

—*Andy Johnson, amjohnson@juno.com*

## AROUND THE COUNTY

### Arlington Mill Community Center Status

The Arlington Mill Community Center (AMC)—the old Safeway at Columbia Pike and Arlington Mill Dr.—will be rebuilt. The county is sending out requests for qualifications to prospective developers for a public–private partnership for the new center, intending that a developer will provide most of the funding in exchange for the right to build on the site.

The space plan for the center (gym, multipurpose rooms, etc.) is the minimum, and the remainder would be proposed by the developer—condos, offices, or some combination and the site is subject to the Columbia Pike Form Based Code. The next step is a request for proposals (with selection by end of ’06), followed by design and construction beginning (hopefully) by the end of ’07.

### Arlington Mill Continuing High School Program

The current AMC is home to a continuing high school program, with about 200 students, and the REEP (Arlington Education and Employment Program) English language classes, also with hundreds of students. The REEP program is centered at AMC, and holds classes all over S. Arlington in other school buildings, including Randolph. The county and the school system jointly decided that the school programs would not continue in the new center. This makes a public-private partnership more viable. New locations have not been determined. We have asked Arlington Public Schools (APS) to put the REEP office in the new center—a prominent location, an inviting atmosphere, and in the part of Arlington with the most foot traffic—Arlington Mill. We’ll continue to monitor the situation and remind APS that programs that serve the 22204 community and Douglas Park in particular should be convenient to them.

### Arlington Art Fest, March 31–April 7

The Arlington Artists Alliance, a non-profit association promoting the arts and artists, is proud to feature a week-long all-media art show and sale, entertainment, workshops, and demonstrations at Fort C.F. Smith 2411 N. 24th St. Reservations and fees required for workshops and demos. Call Linda Maldonado, 703-528-5740. [www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org](http://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org).

### Police Bike to Raise 9/11 Memorial Funds

Arlington County police will be participating in the Police Unity Tour, May 9-12, to raise funds for the Police Officer’s Memorial Fund honoring officers who died in the line of duty and assisting those left behind. A team of officers will take a 300-mile bike ride through Ground Zero in New York, and finish in DC. DPCA is contributing to this effort.—*Mark Mazzella, 703-228-3600, x9748; mmazze@arlingtonva.us*

### Potomac Harmony Chorus Offers Free Event

Potomac Harmony Chorus, a women’s four-part harmony a cappella chorus will be performing, for free, Sun., March 12, 2 pm, at the TJ theater, 125 S. Old Glebe Rd. Contact Ozzi Mask, 703-764-3896, [potomacharmony@yahoo.com](mailto:potomacharmony@yahoo.com); see [www.potomacharmony.org](http://www.potomacharmony.org).

## SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN

### Hurricane Katrina Benefit, March 12

Parents Choice Gold Award winner Steve Songs appears on Sun., Mar. 12, 5 pm, in support of the River Shelter Nursery School in Baker, LA, near Baton Rouge. Barcroft Elementary, 625 S. Wakefield St. \$10 advance/\$12 at the door. Family discounts available: \$30 advance, \$35 at the door. Contact Katherine 703-362-0168, kgracemcgwier@comcast.net. See: [www.swanbr.org/program\\_nursery.aspx](http://www.swanbr.org/program_nursery.aspx).

### Discover Drew Day, Open House March 18

You are cordially invited to an open house at Drew Model Elementary School on Sat., Mar. 18, 9–11:30 am. Drew offers innovative education, arts-focused programs, and grades K-5. It's the only APS school that offers Montessori classes from age 3 through 5th grade, and has a partnership with the Kennedy Center. RSVP to the school office, 703-228-8134.

### Parent Empowerment Conference, March 18

The Community of Concern is offering the Parent Empowerment Conference. It will be hosted by Arlington Public Schools department of student services, comprehensive school health committee, Partnership for Youth and Families, and the staff and PTA's of Wakefield, Washington-Lee, and Yorktown High Schools, and the H-B Woodlawn Program. All parents, school staff, and teens are welcome on Sat., Mar. 18, 9 am–noon, Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Rd.

Participate in discussions on reducing risky behaviors in teens, fostering positive relationships between parents and teens. Workshops are offered, including Positive Communication with Your Teen; Teen Dating and Sexuality; Teens Staying Safe on the Internet, and more. Register: 703-228-6060, vtellez@arlington.k12.va.us. Onsite registration and Spanish translation will be available also.

### Celebrate Earth Day with a Plant Swap, April 22

Randolph Elementary's habitat committee will hold its popular plant swap and sale on Sat., April 22, 9–12 am. Divide your own garden plants and bring a wagon full, or purchase wonderful surprises. The plants available do extremely well, since they come from nearby gardens—not hothouses on the other side of the world. Other activities include a schoolyard cleanup, and possibly food and nature walks.

### Mississippi School Benefits from DP Kindness

Thanks to your generosity we were able to send \$2,785 to Lizana Elementary School in Gulfport Mississippi to help them recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. As many of you know, we decided this year to piggy-back on to our Randolph Elementary School's support of Lizana elementary school. You can be sure that our donations were greatly needed and appreciated.

### Other News

#### Support for Arlington's Teens

You can subscribe to Arlington's Office for Teens newsletter by contacting oft@arlingtonva.us. The monthly newsletter aims to provide youth, parents and youth service providers all

over the county with news and updates about what is happening county-wide. Contact 703-228-7781; oft@arlingtonva.us or se habla Espanol, 703-228-7782.

### A Flurry of New Babies Arrived in late '05

Three current and one former DP resident—members of the South Arlington Moms Club—gave birth within a week's span in early November. Congratulations to the families:

Kate and Todd Sinkins, along with big brother Connor, welcomed Grace Elizabeth Sinkins on November 4.

Former DP residents Kathi and Tony Gelona welcomed their third child, John Russell Gelona, on Nov 6.

Heather and Lane Nemirow, along with big sister Devin, welcomed Owen Harrison Nemirow on Nov. 9.

Allegra and Steve Jabo, along with big sister Ella, welcomed Amelia Rose Jabo on November 11.

### Neighbor Serving in Afghanistan Asks for Help

On February 12, the DP e-mail list posted this message: "My name is Lori Sessano and I am a DP resident currently stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan. I am president of the Volunteer Community Relations Committee here at Camp Eggers, Afghanistan. The folks living in this area occupy the former Russian Cultural Center, which is now crumbling. All of the buildings have bullet holes . . . They are displaced Afghan citizens that fled to Pakistan during the Taliban Rule. Now they have returned and have nothing.

"I am making a call for donations for the Afghan people living in the various villages and orphanages. Most live in dilapidated buildings and/or tents with no heating units. . . ."

—lori.sessano@us.army.mil, Office of the Commanding General, Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan

Note: One neighbor offered to collect and ship items; others contributed, and within a week, 15 cartons of clothing and some children's toys were shipped. Thanks go to Terry Alafita, Richard Bishop, Mary Finch, Carol Freysinger, Lillian Goldstein, Joni Gallegos, Dawn Leland, Nancy Miller, and Linda Schramm for this effort. You can check out the projects to help the Afghan people:

[www.missionafghanistan.com/](http://www.missionafghanistan.com/) and [www.savingbabylon.com](http://www.savingbabylon.com).



Lori Sessano with refugee residents at Dehmazang Village.

## HOME AND GARDEN

I < DP wins award program to neighbors in recent years. At the awards event, Janine gave a talk, "You CAN Make a Difference."



Janine Finnell and Joel Lerner the Washington Post "Green Scene" columnist.

Top left: Elenor Hodges, executive director of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, and competition organizer Janine Finnell are shown at the awards event. Top right: Corinne deJesus, right, poses at the last 4th of July parade, where she won a prize for her habitat display. At left is Sabrina Lintz.



### Saving Urban Forests, Saving Our Lives

Have you seen *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*? This charming documentary about a man who dedicates himself to feeding a flock of wild parrots in San Francisco was a surprise hit in '05. A recent article (1/30) in the *New York Times* told of that man, Mark Bittner, stepping in front of a chain saw to save a cedar tree that the parrots used for breeding. The cedar was about to go the way of so many trees, cut down for development. The article went on to describe "urban forests" and the attempts by communities to protect them.

Urban forests are a relatively new topic in our landscape. One idea states that all of the trees in a city and surrounding communities act together to provide benefits as do the trees in a forest—providing habitat for wildlife, retaining storm water, storing and recycling pollutants, moderating temperatures, and so forth. Communities are protecting their urban forests because the they add value with reduced utility costs, pollution amelioration, storm water management, and higher home values.

Arlington's urban forest consists not only of the trees in our parks but the trees in our yards. The trees in your yard provide shade and clean the air for your neighbors. The trees on your block act as a wind break for the houses on the next block. The trees on your street store carbon from the carbon dioxide emissions of passing cars. Douglas Park trees pollinate trees in Nauck and Barcroft and so on.

So when you plant a tree in your yard, you are helping yourself, your next-door neighbor, your friends down the street, the birds in the park, and every person and animal in the county. And that's something to be proud of.

—Marty Nielsen, [mrtynlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mrtynlsn@gmail.com)

### Neighbors Help with Park, Trees

This just in—"On Feb. 28, we did a major cleanup at the Stafford St. entrance and installed a nice landscape entry feature. Planting in the retaining wall area (at the park

### Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) Events

*Take Action to Protect Arlington's Environment.* Join neighbors to voice your top priorities for local conservation. Small group discussions, light refreshments (in conjunction with the ACE annual meeting.) Sun., Mar. 19, 2–5 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. To be eligible for a drawing, do the survey at [www.arlingtonenvironment.org](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org).

*Organic Wine Tasting.* ACE will host a wine tasting on Fri., March 24, 7:30 pm, at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, with organic wines from around the world presented by The Curious Grape. Suggested donation is \$40, with proceeds to benefit local conservation programs. More details or reservations: [www.arlingtonenvironment.org](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org) or 703-228-6406.

—Elenor Hodges, [elenor@arlingtonenvironment.org](mailto:elenor@arlingtonenvironment.org)

703-920-5660 [www.arlingtonpresbyterian.org](http://www.arlingtonpresbyterian.org)  
3507 Columbia Pike at Lincoln Street

Specialize in Pre/Post Natal Fitness, Sports Conditioning and Wt Management.

**Nicole Justine Hurren**

Certified Personal Trainer

3829 9th Rd South  
Arlington, VA 22204

(703) 403-9054  
[Nico5\\_5@yahoo.com](mailto:Nico5_5@yahoo.com)

Over 7 years training experience!

manager's direction) will take place this coming month. One staffer has placed several little flags for possible tree planting in other areas of the park. And, our invasive control expert has provided a description of what is to take place in the area proposed for planting.

"Fort Barnard, the community canine area, has received a delivery of trees to provide shade for residents using the park."—Patrick Wegeng, *Parks & Natural Resources*

### DPCA Renews Tree Grant Program

Residents can again this year receive up to \$50 to plant a tree in your yard. See [www.arlingtondPCA.homestead.com](http://www.arlingtondPCA.homestead.com), and click on "tree grants."

### County-wide Spring Clean-up

All county leaf removal programs are over for the season. But please remove and bag all leaves and tree litter from curbs and gutters. Leave these bags out on your regular trash pickup day.

### Check the Status of Monarch Butterflies

Bookmark your Internet browser to track the progress of these beautiful butterflies—[www.MonarchWatch.org](http://www.MonarchWatch.org).  
[www.backyardhabitat.blogspot.com](http://www.backyardhabitat.blogspot.com)

Dear Neighbors,

Seasonal factors and higher mortgage interest rates this year have lead to longer sales cycles for sellers (average 36 days), but the markets return to "normalcy" will benefit all interested parties. Buyers will be happy to be afforded more time to find the "perfect" home, and sellers will be pleased to learn that, according to the Metropolitan Regional Information System, Arlington residences are averaging 95.8 percent of their asking price. In today's real estate market, homes may take a little longer to sell, but the Arlington market is up 20.4 percent from a year ago, and many factors point to continued increases.

I am a resident of the Douglas Park community and specialize in this market. I hope that you will think of me when you consider selling your home or buying a new home.



**Keri O'Sullivan, ABR, GRI**  
Associate Broker  
*NVAR Top-Producer*  
Email: [keri@osullivanproperties.com](mailto:keri@osullivanproperties.com)  
Website: [www.osullivanproperties.com](http://www.osullivanproperties.com)  
Direct: 703-395-4099

RE/MAX Allegiance  
3315 Lee Highway  
Arlington, VA



## SENIOR SOURCES

### Health and Exercise

*Senior adult sports:* Volleyball teams being organized to play at Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St. 703-228-4745. All levels of players are welcome.

*Arlington Senior Golf Club* needs new members for the '06 season, which begins April 4. Call 703-228-4766.

### Family and Roots, Grief and Survival

*Living after the loss of a loved one*, April 10–early May. Four-week program to help widows and widowers. Grief management, organizing, community services, and more. 10 am–noon, Culpeper Garden Sr. Ctr., 4435 N. Pershing. Register: 703-228-4403.

*Tracing family roots*, Wed., April 26, 1 pm. Diane Gates, from the staff of Central Library, will teach how to explore the Heritage Quest database's access to federal census records. Lee Sr. Ctr., 5722 Lee Hwy. No fee; 703-228-0555.

*Memoir writing*, April 19 begins six-part series. How to create a foundation for writing. 10-11:30 a.m., Walter Reed Sr. Ctr., 2909 S.16th St. \$21. Register: 703-228-5703.

### Leisure and Workshops

*Hawaiian dancing*, Sat., Apr. 29, 7 p.m., Culpeper Garden Sr. Ctr., 4435 N. Pershing Dr., featuring the Arlington County Hawaiian Dancers. No fee; 703-228-4403.

*Opera workshop*, Sat., April 29, 11 a.m.–noon; Wash. National Opera shows how music communicates a story. Aurora Hills Sr. Ctr., 735 S. 18th St. Free; register: 703-228-5722.

### Other News

*Free smoke alarms for hearing impaired*—See p. 1.

*Furry Friends*—Animal Welfare League of Arlington offers senior volunteer opportunities. For info, call 703-931-9241.

—Judy T. Massabny; [jmassa@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jmassa@arlingtonva.us)  
Office of Senior Adult Programs, Arlington Co.

Want to  
advertise?  
See p.2

## CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE. Sturdy metal folding cot. For use with single size mattress. \$20.00 Call Julie at 703-979-8266.



**First Thought Yoga**  
Small classes, personal attention

Weekday mornings • Evening candlelit •  
Parent-Child/Children's • Meditation

First Thought Yoga  
703-271-8448; [first\\_thought\\_yoga@comcast.net](mailto:first_thought_yoga@comcast.net)



Over \$100,000,000 in real estate sold by The Mike Webb Team. Let our experience work for you!



## 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 1-888-832-6178

# Thank you!



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