



Neighbor News

January–February–March 2007

Douglas Park Raises \$2,860 for Holiday Fund Drive

*A message from Rita Wiggins
Community Services and Outreach Coordinator
Randolph Elementary School*

I just wanted to let everyone know how our Holiday Fund Drive went this year. We were able to sponsor four families with a total of ten children, ages 7 months to 14 years old, and five adults. With your kind contributions, we were able to provide dolls, stuffed animals, games, puzzles, books, trucks, cars, building blocks, arts and crafts materials, dress-up clothes and other gifts to the children. In addition, children and adults received new coats and clothes. Some families were also given blankets and pots and pans.

The generosity of this community was overwhelming. These truly needy families were grateful for the kindness and care exhibited towards them from the residents of Douglas Park. I recently received a thank you note from

one of the recipients. It reads, "I, the mother of [two children], thank your organization for all of the gifts that you gave my kids on Christmas day. Thank you for your time and love that you may have put at the time of buying each gift that put a smile on my kids when they open each present. God bless you for your kindness. THANK YOU!!!"
....That pretty much says it all!

I do want to add a thank you to Lori Sessano for her amazing bargain-hunting capabilities and, in the midst of much chaos in her own home, taking the time to shop for coats, clothes and household goods for our families. Great job Lori!

I am very proud to be a member of this wonderful neighborhood. I look forward to continuing this great tradition of generosity next year.

Join the Civic Association!

There are a lot of good reasons to join the Douglas Park Civic Association. These are some of the things we do to make life better in our neighborhood:

FUN!

Dancing! The civic association sponsors the Douglas Park Winter Dance Fest—great food, great music, great dancing (OK, the dancing is "uneven")—just a lot of fun with friends and neighbors in the dead of winter. Some neighbors had a great idea and do all the preparation work. The civic association contributes financially. We have a great time and contribute proceeds over costs to charity.

Fourth of July Parade and Picnic. The civic association throws a big party for the neighborhood—arranging for police color guard and street closings for a parade, prizes for the kids costumes, hot dogs, moonbounce, dunk tank and other amusements, and even music by our talented local musicians. We also provide free soft drinks to go with the pot-luck food contributions. Everybody has a great time honoring this Douglas Park tradition. Volunteers buy the food, decorate the parks and keep the whole thing rolling.

Election Day Bake Sale. We have a bake sale outside the polls at the Arlington precinct at Randolph School. The purpose is to raise money for the civic association, but it is also just fun to stop and say hello to the neighbors as we gather to do our civic duty. We would like to expand the effort to more of our polling places (like Walter Reed and

Barcroft Community Centers) if we get enough volunteers and bakers.

Douglas Park Day at RFK? What do you think? Would it be fun to take in a Nationals game with a bunch of the neighbors? This is the kind of stuff the civic association can do with your support.

The organizers of these events do it because they love it. They choose to put a lot into the events and get a lot out of them. But they need more help, and the civic association needs a small financial contributions from everybody (in the form of dues), to be able to pay for things like moon-bounces, sno-cone machines and church halls for dances.

REPRESENT THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

The civic association is the primary conduit for communication with the county government, developers and others who can have a big impact on the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Parking. When parking became a big problem in parts of the neighborhood, the civic association took the lead in addressing the problem with the county. The civic association was instrumental in getting the first residential overnight parking program in the county. By and large, the policy works, and it has been replicated in other neighborhoods. When the parking policy was up for revision, it was the civic association again leading the way to make sure the policy reflected the needs of our neighborhood.

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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 at Fire Station #9, 1900 S. Walter Reed Dr.:

March 20, 2007: general meeting

Douglas Park Executive Committee

All area codes 703 unless otherwise noted.

President: John Snyder, 892-2887, jvsnyder54@comcast.net

Vice president: David Meistrich, 703-920-4001, meistrichd@yahoo.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, mrtylnsn@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, 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

Layout: Dan Kaufman, 202-639-8570, dan@dkgpromotions.com

Editorial: Sharon Scott, 486-0933, sescottva@yahoo.com

Distribution: Jamie Daly, 521-4567, jamie22204@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Nancy Limprecht, nlimprecht@yahoo.com

Spanish Translation: Benjamin and Angel Ousley, ben_and_angel@hotmail.com

ADVERTISING RATES AND INFORMATION

1/8 page (card) \$25 Full page, \$250

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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.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles/Ads Due Distribution

Issue #2: April 2 April 14/15 weekend

DPCA ON THE WEB

www.arlingtondpca.homestead.com

President's Column

2006 was a good year for Douglas Park. Here is an incomplete list of the happenings around the 'hood:

- Construction started on Halstead at Arlington on Columbia Pike and Walter Reed Drive. The building will include nearly 300 condominiums, street-front retail, a new permanent home for the Arlington Free Clinic, and extra garage parking in addition to the spaces required for the building. It is the first Form Based Code project on the Pike.
- The second annual Douglas Park Winter Dance Fest was another rousing success.
- Finishing touches were made to the construction of new sidewalks, curb and gutter and streetlights along 17th Street, between Glebe Road and Monroe Street.
- The County Board, with the support of the civic association, adopted streetcars supplemented with buses as the preferred transit plan for Columbia Pike. Work is now proceeding to make that plan become a reality.
- Undergrounding work for utilities was completed on the Pike; the overhead power and telephone lines are to be installed in the ducts, and the poles and wires removed, in 2007.
- Our neighborhood high school, Wakefield, was recognized with the 2006 Inspiration Award by the College Board for excellence and achievement in Advanced Placement courses (one of three high schools nationally), won the Altarum Science and Technology Education Program competition (one of two high schools nationally) and again was among the top high schools nationally in the Washington Post/Newsweek "Challenge Index" which measures the extent to which students participate in challenging Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes.
- The Fourth of July Parade and Picnic was another huge success, featuring music by our talented neighbors, amusements, great food, and kids of all ages decked out in patriotic attire.
- VDOT approved plans for a pedestrian crossing with stoplight for Glebe Road at 12th Street (by the post office). Construction is expected in 2007.
- Houses were constructed along Glebe Road in the Majestic Oaks development, and the townhouses across the Pike between Quincy and Randolph Streets were completed.
- The County Board, County Manager and county staff joined the civic association on a walking tour of the neighborhood to see and hear about points of interest and concern to the residents.
- The newly renovated Walter Reed Community Center opened.
- Just down the Pike, the Penrose Square project was approved by the County Board. It will include a new, larger Giant Food store, additional retail stores and/or

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Comic Legend Makes Local Appearance

T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE!

By Rebecca Krafft

A couple of years ago, the DP email list buzzed with our reminiscences of local landmarks and historic spots. Bob & Edith's is one of those places, but with one important difference. It hasn't disappeared. It has survived where most have not because of the dedication of many generations of the Bolton family.

Bob & Edith's received an awesome kind of recognition two days after Christmas. Zippy, the star of the "Zippy the Pinhead" daily comic strip appeared at our favorite all-night diner's original location. The exterior and interior are unmistakable to late-night breakfast fans. Zippy's creator, Bill Griffith, has made t-shirts with the Dec. 27 strip available through Zazzle.com, a custom t-shirt site. In the strip, called "Journalism 101,"

Zippy and Bill discuss newspapers, an endangered species not unlike the mom-and-pop diner.

Why not surprise your main squeeze on Valentine's day with a lovely nugget of local history? Zazzle has plenty of fun styles to choose from, though the cartoon shows up best on white backgrounds. There are lots of styles that combine a white background with contrasting cap sleeves, raglans, and other spiffy looks. Prices start at \$14.95.

To design your own t-shirt, visit www.zazzle.com and type "journalism 101" into the search box to go to the order page.

Zippy has been published daily since 1985. To see the many places that he has visited, go to www.zippythepinhead.com/pages/aarealday.html



Reprinted with permission of Bill Griffith

Why of Homesellers Don't Get the Price They Want for Their Home.

A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 step system that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and – worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, there is a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar". Call my toll-free House Hunter hotline today at 1-800-895-1307 and enter ID# 9071. This is a 24 hour recorded message, call anytime.

How to Buy a Home with Zero Down Payment.

There are home ownership programs that allow qualified buyers to buy a home with absolutely no downpayment.

You may have owned a home before and are presently renting, or maybe you are a first time buyer and need a way to break into the housing market but are holding back because you think you need \$10,000, \$20,000 or more for a downpayment.

Well regardless of your present situation, if you want to get into, or re-enter the housing market without having to make a cash downpayment, then this program may be just what you are looking for. Why pay your landlord's mortgage when you can be building your own equity.

Industry insiders have prepared a new special report entitled, "How to Buy a Home With Zero Down" which reveals how this new and innovative program can get you into the housing market immediately and with absolutely no down payment.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call my toll-free House Hunter hotline at 1-800-895-1307 and enter ID# 9043. Call anytime, 24 hours day, 7 days a week.

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Building a Better Backyard

Are you interested in some tips for making your backyard wildlife-friendly or do you already have a National Wildlife Federation-certified backyard habitat and want to learn more? Join the Arlington Community Wildlife Habitat team and three local experts in native plants, Virginia habitats and wildlife for an educational seminar Wednesday, January 31, from 7 to 9 pm at Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy Street.

Guest speakers will include Susan Jewell of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kevin Munroe of Audubon at Home/Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, and Carla Thomas of the Nature by Design nursery in Alexandria. The program will cover creating residential meadow habitats, tips for a beautiful backyard habitat year round, new and wonderful Virginia native plants, and the strategic importance of backyard habitats to a healthy urban environment.

The event will conclude with a brief panel discussion between the speakers in response to audience questions. The program is free and refreshments will be served. For more information: 703-575-7608, or scwilkerson@netzero.net.

Study of Glebe Road and I-395 Interchange

Arlington County is sponsoring a study on ways to improve safety and traffic management at the Glebe Road interchange with I-395. The area being studied extends from Glebe and 24th Road to the intersection of South Glebe Road and West Glebe Road. Glebe Road is under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Department of Transportation and I-395 is a federal highway, but the county is trying to expedite improvements by conducting the study. Arlington County Transportation staff made a presentation to the civic association on Jan. 16, and received information from the residents on particular safety and traffic issues to be addressed. If you would like to comment, you can contact Margaret Freeman at 703-228-3655 or mfreeman@arlingtonva.us.

Code Enforcement

The Arlington County Office of Code Enforcement made a presentation on the code enforcement process and on some particular issues pertinent to Douglas Park to the civic association on January 16. To report an apparent code problem (overcrowding of a dwelling, unkempt property, junk cars, etc.), you can contact Code Enforcement at 703-228-3232 or CodeEnforcement@arlingtonva.us. They are most effective when you provide them detailed information on the problem. Reports can be anonymous, and the identity of the person reporting the problem is kept confidential in any event.

African-American Festival

Celebrate the rich culture and history of African Americans at the 15th annual Feel the Heritage Festival Saturday, Feb. 17 from noon to 5 pm at the Charles R. Drew Community Center, 3500 South 23rd Street in Arlington.

Regional performers will include R&B artists Taste of Nu Era, steel pan music group Pan Masters, dance troupe Culture Shock, African Heritage Dancers as well as community dance groups and choirs.

The event is presented by the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. For information, call Kathy Harris Thomas at 703-228-5315.

Put on Your Dancing Shoes— And a Tropical Shirt

If it's been a while since you've had a night out . . . then "Dance Away the Winter Blues at the Beach" with your friends by boogieing to tunes by Douglas Park's favorite DJ, Sabra Flaherty.

It'll all be happening Saturday, Feb. 3, from 8 to 11 pm (snow date Feb. 10) at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, at 4444 Arlinton Blvd. (Rt. 50 and S. George Mason Drive).

Admission is \$12 per person in advance; \$15 at the door.

Contact one of the following ticket committee members:
Janine Finnell: jafinnell@yahoo.com
(Chair of Dance Committee)

Jackie Cubero-Fritts: jackiecubero@verizon.net

Corinne DeJesus: corinne.dejesus@gmail.com

Sabra Flaherty: djsabra@hotmail.com

Debbie Hill: debbie.hill@fsn.usda.gov

Heather Mcphail: gooseacre@comcast.net

Rita Wiggins: rmwiggins@verizon.net

Organizers ask that those attending bring finger food or dessert to share and a beverage (no hard liquor, please). Wear a tropical shirt or beach outfit.

The dance, for adults only (not just couples) is sponsored by the Douglas Park Civic Association. Net proceeds will be donated to the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network.

**Douglas Park Integral Yoga ad
(need this)**

President's Message from page 2

- restaurants, a public square, and apartments. A mix of ground floor retail and apartments was approved for the Safeway site next door. Just around the corner from Douglas Park, another phase of the Shirlington complex is opening.
- Across the Pike, plans for a new building at the Litman Law Office building were turned down because they departed from the community's vision for development of the Pike.
- The "Douglas Dogs" organization is leading the way on plans for revamping the Ft. Barnard Dog Park, including lights for evening use.
- Halloween decorations around the neighborhood were even MORE over the top this year.
- Our neighbor, Chris Zimmerman, was re-elected to the County Board.

- Our Pike community is now on the Washington skyline, as the Air Force Memorial was completed and dedicated at the east end of the Pike.
- The new ice complex opened in Ballston—at only 10 minutes away, the kids, (including the grown kids) are getting a lot more ice time these days.
- We had caroling and a bonfire again in Douglas Park.
- The civic association raised over \$2,000 to help local disadvantaged families at the holidays.
- The Washington Post recognized in a front-page story what we have known all along, that one of our elementary schools, Randolph, is a jewel, one of the only schools in the Washington area certified by the prestigious International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the Primary Years Program.

A pretty good year, eh? It will be hard to top in 2007!

AIM Youth Program Scholarships

The Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources has created an incentive system to encourage middle- and high school-age young people to become more involved and engaged in appropriate leisure and recreation activities.

The AIM Scholarships are another way to get young people Active, Involved, and Motivated. The scholarships are designed to help middle and high school-aged youth in Arlington pay for classes, workshops, conferences, league fees, etc. The scholarship can pay for up to 90% of registration or other fees.

Applications can be submitted at any time, but it takes at least two weeks to process them. An application form for the youth and a mentor to complete appears on the County Web page www.arlingtonva.us (search for AIM). For more information about the scholarships, contact Edson Bravo, at 703 228 7783 (habla español), or ebravo@arlingtonva.us



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Becas Para el Programa Juvenil AIM (Activo! Involucrado! Motivado!)

El Departamento de Parques, Recreación y Recursos Culturales de Arlington ha desorallado un programa para motivar los niños de secundaria y colegio a involucrarse en actividades recreativos y diversión apta. Las becas representan otra manera para los jovenes a estar Activo, Involucrado, y Motivado (AIM). Las becas son para los niños que viven en Arlington para pagar los gastos de clases, conferencias, e inscripción de ligas. Se puede usar las becas para pagar hasta 90% de los gastos de registración y inscripciones. Se puede solicitarlas en cualquier momento pero se tarda por lo menos dos semanas en procesarlas. La solicitud para los jovenes esta disponible en el sitio del internet del condado www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/teens/scholarship/ParksRecreationTeensScholarship.aspx

Para mas información acerca de las becas se puede comunicar con Edson Bravo 703-228-7783 (habla español) o por correo electronico ebravo@arlingtonva.us



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Join the DPCA from page 1

Development. The civic association represents the neighborhood regarding development plans in and near the neighborhood. A recent example is the Majestic Oaks project along Glebe Road. With civic association help and leadership, the project was improved considerably to include fewer residences, better traffic management, and higher quality design—good things for us, as neighbors, for the developer with a higher quality project, and for our new neighbors who will be moving in.

Every time there is a development, the County Board and the Planning Commission ask “what do the neighbors think?” It is the civic association that communicates with the neighbors, pulls together consensus, and represents the

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views to the county board and other government agencies. Such issues arise all the time:

1. **Majestic Oak.** Civic association involvement improved the site plan development on Glebe Road.
2. **Litman Law office development**—turned down, in part due to civic association objections.
3. **Penrose Square.** Civic association representatives spent many hours on the details of this huge project. It is not right next to the neighborhood, but it will be the grocery store for many of us, and the decisions made can be precedents for developments to come later. (The civic association will be represented on the task group designing the public square at the project.)
4. **Arlington Mill Center.** Civic association representatives are on the steering committee for the design of the community center, and to make sure the county keeps to the community vision as the center is developed through a public/private partnership.
5. **Form Based Code.** An innovative code applies on Columbia Pike that allows developers some additional density if they follow the code setting forth the development vision of the community. Because the rules are set in advance, developers can take advantage of the certainty and time savings. But that means the community has to be sure the code is right. The civic association represents the community in discussions on changes and interpretations—to make sure the code is right, so we get development we like.
6. **Use Permits.** Many businesses and buildings require county use permits to operate, (such as for live entertainment at the Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse), and for changes to their buildings or signs (such as the Nissan dealership on the Pike). The civic association reviews all the use permit applications affecting our neighborhood, and makes our opinion (if any) known to the county.

PROJECTS

The civic association is the voice of the community pushing for new infrastructure and traffic calming projects in the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Conservation. The civic association has been instrumental in obtaining funding for improvements to the streets, such as new sidewalks on Pollard Street and 17th Street, a large traffic island at the corner of Randolph and Walter Reed to slow traffic coming onto Randolph, and streetlights on Pollard, 14th, 16th, and Quincy. The civic association will also be involved in strategic planning for such projects on a county-wide basis, to ensure that the rest of our needed projects are constructed.

Glebe Road and Columbia Pike left turn signals. The support and activism of the civic association led to the installation of these signals, improving traffic on the Pike, and pushing less traffic into the neighborhoods.

Traffic Calming. The civic association helped obtain traffic calming on Quincy Street, Monroe Street and 18th Street to slow down traffic and make it safer for pedestrians, including students walking to school at Randolph.

Glebe Road Crossing Lights. Traffic signals to allow safe crossing of Glebe Road at the Post Office and 12th Street has been a civic association priority. These signals will be installed in 2007, and work continues on crossings of Walter Reed Drive, and better crosswalks at other locations on Glebe.

Streetcars and Transportation. The civic association has been active in dialogue with Metro and the county on approval and design of the streetcar system for Columbia Pike. Our civic association has been active on the Master Transportation Plan (the only civic association directly represented) as we are bounded on three sides by major roads. We have also been active in the Arterial Transportation Management program, seeking to get safer pedestrian crossings of Four Mile Run Drive.

Columbia Pike Streetscape. Our civic association has been deeply involved in designing the streetscape of Columbia Pike, some of which is being built with new development, some of which is being built by the county (such as undergrounding utilities and new signals along the Pike).

We have accomplished a great deal on projects and transportation because certain individuals decided to devote their time to the efforts. They decided to make something happen, and they did!

POLICE

The civic association has an excellent relationship with the police department. They work better when they know about our concerns, so we stay in constant contact.

SCHOOLS

The civic association supports our excellent neighborhood and county-wide schools. We also make a point of hosting debates with school board candidates, in a format that consists primarily of questions from the people who attend—us. In this way the new school board members hear directly from us about our views and concerns on schools.

PARKS

The civic association takes particular care with our parks, including the park that shares our name. Volunteers work on obtaining small grants to improve certain areas, to improve the community gardens, and to remove invasive plants. We are particularly lucky to have such wonderful parks in our neighborhood; it takes community support and action to maintain them. On a related subject, our neighborhood won honors for the most backyard wildlife habitats in Arlington (notwithstanding demands for a recount by the second-place neighborhood).

COMMUNICATION

The civic association hosts the Douglas Park email list-serve (douglaspark@yahoogroups.com), the Douglas Park website (www.arlingtondpc.com) and publishes

this newsletter to help communicate news of interest. The list serve also serves as a forum for exchanging information on everything from pediatricians to available furniture. We use dues to defray the expense of the newsletter and website. And individuals contribute their time to maintain the electronic media and to publish this newsletter.

YOUR PART

All of these efforts require individual contributions. We need contributions in the form of dues to fund these activities. We need contributions in the form of time to make these projects happen and to make our community voice heard. You can put in as much time as you would like (or can contribute). You need not attend a lot of meetings; you can pick a project or topic of interest and take it as far as you care to go. You will find that Arlington is still a small enough place that an individual can make an impact.

A membership form is printed below. Please clip it out and send it in. We want you to be a part of the Douglas Park Civic Association.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

THROUGH 2/08

DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

YES! Count me in!

- Enclosed is my payment of \$10.00
Dues year runs from March to February.
 I'm donating the additional amount of \$ _____

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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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Arlington Public Schools to Host Montessori Information Night

Parents of preschool aged and elementary school children can learn more about the preschool and elementary Montessori program in the Arlington Public Schools during Montessori Information Night on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 7-8:30 p.m., at Drew Model Elementary School, 3500 South 23rd Street.

During the information night program, parents can learn more about:

- The Montessori curriculum,
- Enrollment deadlines and procedures for Arlington's Montessori programs, and
- The orientation process.

Spanish translation will be provided. There is no admission for the event and free parking is available. For more information, contact the APS Office of Early Childhood Education at 703-228-8632.

Note: Children may enter an Arlington Public Schools primary Montessori program if they are age three or four and are toilet trained. They must have turned three years old on or before Sept. 30, 2007. Entry into elementary level Montessori programs (grades K-5) requires preschool Montessori experience. Only the elementary Montessori principal can make exceptions.



Douglas Park gets a dusting of snow.