



Neighbor News

November–December 2007

Please Give Generously to the Douglas Park Holiday Fund Drive

It is time again for the Douglas Park Holiday Fund Drive. Each year we collect money to help some of the families from Randolph Elementary School through the Holiday Season. Students in need are identified by the school staff. We provide presents, coats, and other needed items for the children—all from your generous donations. I am proud to report that we have raised in excess of \$2500 per year recently. I think we can do better this year. Please make a donation with the attached donation slip and envelope, by making a check to “Douglas Park Civic Association,” marking “Holiday Fund Drive” in the comments section. Many thanks in advance!

Volunteer opportunity: We will need some help shopping for the children's gifts. If you can help, please contact me at jvsnyder54@comcast.net or at 703-892-2887.

HELP NEEDED—DPCA SECRETARY

The office of DPCA Secretary is vacant. The primary duty is to maintain the list of Douglas Park Civic Association members. Like other officers and board members, you can also take on projects on behalf of the civic association. Please contact me at jvsnyder54@comcast.net or 703-892-2887 if you are able to help.

HEROES OF THE MONTH

We have two neighborhood heroes to honor this month, Katherine Bates, who relentlessly reminded the county about the traffic light to be installed at Glebe Road and 12th St. (at the post office), as county staff worked through the tortuous VDOT process. The light is now in and operational! Unfortunately, Katherine moved away from the neighborhood (to Wisconsin) but we hope she comes back to visit soon so we can visit and walk across Glebe together. Thank You!

Our other hero is Wendy Block Stanford, who lead the effort to obtain “Missing Links” funding for the sidewalk at the foot of Randolph St. at Walter Reed Drive. The sidewalk now extends all the way to the corner of Four Mile Run Drive. Thank You!

And many thanks to the county staff for jobs well done!



*Neighborhood girls greet everyone at the Randolph Fall Festival.
Photo by Heather McPhail.*

DID YOU NOTICE?

- New sidewalk approaches to the tot lots, swings and picnic pavilion were installed in Douglas Park to make it more accessible for people in wheelchairs.
- The old Safeway is at Adams Street and the Pike is turning into hole, to be filled with a six story apartment building with ground floor retail.
- The old “Bad Habits” lot at the Pike and Greenbriar St. is also turning into an apartment building, 10 stories, with ground floor retail.
- The Halstead Building, at Walter Reed and the Pike, is coming out of the ground—how could you miss it?

ARLINGTON MILL COMMUNITY CENTER

Well, you could not see it, but the Arlington Mill Community Center (Pike and Arlington Mill Drive, just west of Four Mile Run bridge) is going through the review process with the Planning Commission. The conceptual design, developed in conjunction with citizen representatives from each of the surrounding neighborhoods, is moving toward approval as a Form Based Code project. The center will include a gymnasium, multi-use rooms and other facilities designed in conjunction with the community, as well as a plaza at the present Arlington Mill Drive, opening toward the parkland at Four Mile Run. The project is a public/private partnership, which will include retail on the ground floor and apartments, with a substantial number of affordable units. The plan is to have county board approval early in 2008 with groundbreaking before the end of next year.

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 Drive.

Next meeting: December 18

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: open

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

Reid Goldstein, 697-4941, rgoldstein@stratsight.com

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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 #1: January 10 Feb. 1-2

DPCA ON THE WEB

www.arlingtondpca.homestead.com

En Español

Por Favor, Da al recaudador de fondos de la temporada de Douglas Park

Es hora para el recaudador de fondos de la temporada de Douglas Park. Cada año juntamos dinero para ayudar a unas familias a la escuela Randolph durante la temporada. Los estudiantes están identificados por los maestros de la escuela. Damos regalos, abrigos y otras cosas para los niños con el dinero que recibimos de las donaciones suyas. Juntamos \$2,500 cada año en los años pasado. Queremos hacer mejor este año. Haz una donación con la hoja y el sobre incluidos. Escriban los cheques a “Douglas Park Civic Association” y escriban “Holiday Fund Drive” en la sección de comentarios. Muchísimas gracias de anticipación.

Oportunidad para ser voluntario: Necesitamos ayuda en hacer las compras para la ropa de los niños. Si puede ayudar, por favor contáctame a jvsnyder54@comcast.net o a 703-892-2887.

NECESITAMOS SECRETARIO PARA EL DPCA

Necesitamos un voluntario para ser secretario del DPCA. Si tiene interés, por favor contáctame a jvsnyder54@comcast.net o a 703-892-2887.

HÉROES DEL MES

Gracias a Katherine Bates y Wendy Block Stanford por sus esfuerzos para mejorar nuestro vecindario. Katherine luchó para obtener el semáforo en frente del correo. Wendy busco los fondos para continuar la banqueta del Randolph St. en el área de Walter Reed Drive. Ahora el camino siga hasta Four Mile Run Drive.

NOTASTE?

Hay caminos nuevos en el Douglas Park para ayudar a los menos validos. Los varios proyectos de construcción en el Columbia Pike sigan . El viejo Safeway va a ser sitio de un edificio de apartamentos de seis pesos. En la esquina de Columbia Pike y Greenbriar construyen un edificio de apartamentos de 10 pisos. Y como es obvio sigue la construcción del edificio Halstead en la esquina de Walter Reed y el Pike.

CENTRO COMUNITARIO ARLINGTON MILL

Sigue el proceso de planeación para el centro comunitario Arlington Mill (Pike y Arlington Mill Drive al oeste del Puente Four Mile Run.) El diseño incluye unos apartamentos y un gimnasio y otras cosas para la comunidad.

Free Holiday Concert Dec. 16

The Columbia Pike Musikids and the Columbia Pike Community Chorus present “The World Sings December!” celebrating December festivals with music from around the world, Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4 pm. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 2217 Columbia Pike, across the street from the original Bob and Edith’s Diner. Admission is free. For more information call 703-920-7077.

Seminars on Real Estate Tax Help for Seniors

The Arlington County Treasurer’s Office is offering seminars to explain the options available to seniors who are having trouble paying their real estate taxes. They explain the homeowner grant, tax exemption and tax deferral programs, including eligibility requirements and how to apply. The program also covers reverse mortgages. The County is partnering with PNC Bank, who provide one staffer to help with the explanations but do not make a sales pitch.

The 45 minute seminars are available as presentations to civic associations and other organizations, and there is of course no charge involved. For scheduling and other info, please contact Crystal Dade in the Treasurer’s office at 703-228-4016 or cdade@arlingtonva.us



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Robert and Cynthia Wood

Avoid These 3 Mistakes When Pricing Your Home

When you decide to sell your home, setting your asking price is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Depending upon how a buyer is made aware of your home, price is often the first

thing seen, and many homes are discarded by prospective buyers as not being in the appropriate price range before they’re even given the chance of a showing.

Your asking price is often your home’s “first impression”, and if you want to realize the most money for your home, it’s imperative that you make a good one.

This is not as easy as it sounds, and a pricing strategy should not be taken lightly. Pricing too high can be as costly as pricing too low. Looking at recent sales in your neighborhood is only a small part of the process, and on its own is not nearly enough to help you make the best decision.

A recent study of industry research, has resulted in a new special report entitled “Homesellers: How to get the Price You Want (and Need).”

This report will help you understand a pricing strategy from three angles, and will help you price your home to not only sell, but sell for the price you want.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your copy of this FREE report, call **1-800-895-1307** and enter ID# 8016. Call anytime, 27 hours day, 7 days a week.



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Friends of Randolph Neighborhood School

By Tori Bayer

On the first day of school for students in Arlington County, My husband and I walked our 7-year-old daughter, along with her younger siblings, to her first day of second grade and her first day ever at Randolph.

Our daughter started kindergarten at a private school two years ago; however, I wanted her to have more of a sense of community between our neighborhood, Douglas Park, and the school she attended. I was envious of friends in other Arlington neighborhoods who sent their kids to their neighborhood schools as though it was a given. It seemed that the decision should be easy.

As many parents know, the process of choosing a school for a child can be a tedious one. There are many options in Arlington, five or six when I last counted. My husband and I went through the whole process over two years ago when our daughter was in preschool and found ourselves this spring again hashing through what we wanted for our daughter in terms of an education and what school scenario worked best for our family. Randolph always was an option for us since it's our neighborhood school, however we had concerns about past overcrowding, the school not making Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) and how it would affect our daughter going to a school where more than 70 percent of the student body is entitled to a free/reduced lunch and claims English as their second language. Many families in our neighborhood seemed to send their kids to school elsewhere. Despite new boundaries in place that have reduced Randolph's population to a more normal size and rising AYP scores, it appears that many parents still follow the lead of their neighbors and send their children to other schools. We thought and we thought and we thought some more.

What we discovered at Randolph was what we had wanted for our daughter all along. I really wanted to walk my children to school, and Randolph is the only Arlington County school whose students all live within walking distance (location, location, location!). As for educational philosophy, Randolph was accredited in March 2005 as a Primary Years Program of the International Baccalaureate. This means Randolph teaches across disciplines with an international approach in order to develop the whole child (exciting!). And lastly, we found that Randolph's students come from varied socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. My husband and I feel that such an enriching community is important for the happiness and success our children will experience in this great big world of ours.

In the course of picking a new school for our daughter, I spoke with many friends and neighbors who had similar concerns and questions about Randolph. Coincidentally, a friend told me about a group called F.A.N.S. (Friends of Abingdon Neighborhood School). The group was started to connect current and prospective families of Abingdon Elementary and create a positive image of the school. The idea sounded great to me, sounded like an idea that would apply to Randolph and the surrounding Douglas Park com-

munity. Thus Friends of Randolph Neighborhood School (FRieNds) was born. The idea of our daughter going to Randolph really came to fruition and I was getting excited!

FRieNds is a group within the Douglas Park community whose mission is to promote and support Randolph Elementary School. FRieNds hopes to return Randolph to the favored school for Douglas Park. We've had a couple play dates this summer at Randolph's playground—the last one was Dec. 1. Our web page is <http://randolphfriends.tripod.com/friends2/index.html> and we hope to have newsletters appearing soon. I'd love for more children within Douglas Park to attend Randolph but realize there are many different factors a family must consider when picking a school. Nonetheless, FRieNds can be a way to meet your neighbors and for your children to have their main friendship base within blocks of home. Look for us! Randolphfriends@verizon.net.



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Wakefield's Doris Jackson Named Arlington's 2007 "Principal of the Year"

Wakefield High School principal Doris Jackson has been named the Arlington Public Schools 2007 "Principal of the Year" and has been awarded The Washington Post's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award for Arlington.



"Doris is a highly effective, respected, and charismatic leader. Her unwavering focus on instructional results, and her commitment to the belief that all of her students can learn and achieve at high levels have accompanied her work as an outstanding

principal" said Superintendent Dr. Robert Smith.

Jackson is one of 18 principals in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area who will receive the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award from The Washington Post. She was honored at The Post on Nov. 28 and by the Arlington School Board at its meeting on Nov. 29.

A native of Washington, D.C., Jackson received her bachelor's degree in English from the District of Columbia Teachers College in 1968 and a Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis in guidance and counseling from Trinity College in 1973.

She began her career teaching high school English in the D.C. Public Schools in 1968. Jackson was with DCPS for 22 years as a peer teacher and a school counselor at the elementary, junior high and high school levels.

In 1990, Jackson joined the Arlington Public Schools as the director of counseling at Wakefield and served in that capacity until 1998 when she was named assistant principal. Jackson was named principal of Wakefield in 2002.

Jay Matthews observed in his 2005 Washington Post article "High Schools that Work" that Wakefield "has one of the most successful programs in the area for engaging low-income minority students and getting them ready for college—Doris has deepened the tradition with the Advanced Placement Network."

In her years at Wakefield, Jackson has provided leadership to three very successful programs: the AP Network, which affords students the opportunity to take college-level courses in high school and receive credit; the

Foundation for Academic Success for ninth graders, which is designed to prepare students for success in the intellectual, social, and physical domains of adulthood; and the Cohort Program for Minority Males, a group that recognizes the needs of college-bound African-American and Hispanic males that keeps them on the path to higher education.

Under Jackson's leadership, Wakefield was presented with the 2006 Inspiration Award by the College Board as one of three schools in the country recognized for outstanding work with diverse populations. Additionally, it is one of the Washington area's top high schools and consistently scores high in The Washington Post's Challenge Index and has made Adequate Yearly Progress in four of her five years as principal.

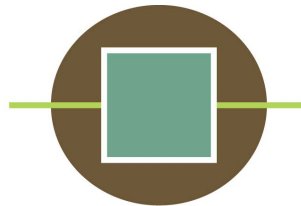
"She never fails to credit the teachers, students and parents for all that we have achieved," said assistant principal Chris Willmore.

"Her relationship with the students is amazing," said Science department chair Maria Johnson. "She knows almost all of their names. As she walks the halls she often has conversations with multiple students just keeping up with their lives and letting them know that not only does she remember them, but she cares about them and is sincerely interested in their lives," she added.

Jackson has been recognized several times for the work she has done in education and the community. In 1990, she was selected to participate in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Teacher Program. Jackson spent three weeks in Japan where she met with teachers and administrators and worked with students. In 2007, Jackson was one of five principals from across the country who were featured in the Newsweek magazine article "The Principal Principle." This past September, Jackson's work in the Arlington community was recognized by the Arlington NAACP, which awarded her its 2007 Outstanding Community Citizen Award.

"Doris Jackson loves her students. She believes in them and has the vision that they can succeed ñ no matter their background," said Catherine O'Malley, a Wakefield parent.

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