



## DPCA Meeting Topics

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009**

**T**he next meeting of the Douglas Park Civic Association is tentatively set for Tuesday evening, September 15, 2009 at 7.30 pm at Walter Reed Fire Station 9 at the corner of South Walter Reed Drive and 19th Street South. Please look for the meeting agenda in the September issue of *Neighbor News*. As always, all residents of Douglas Park are invited to attend.

## ART Bus Service Comes to Walter Reed Drive

**NEW WEEKDAY ART 77 SERVICE BEGAN JUNE 8TH**

**A**rlington Rapid Transit (ART) has begun a new bus service to Clarendon, Court House and Shirlington running along Walter Reed Drive. The new ART 77 buses run every thirty minutes, Monday through Friday, from Shirlington, up Walter Reed Drive to 6th Street South (near Patrick Henry School) where they cut over to Washington Boulevard for the ride to Clarendon and Wilson Boulevards and the Clarendon and Court House Metro stations. More details, including a schedule and list of stops, are available at the Arlington County transit site at <http://www.commuterpage.com/ART/77main.htm>.

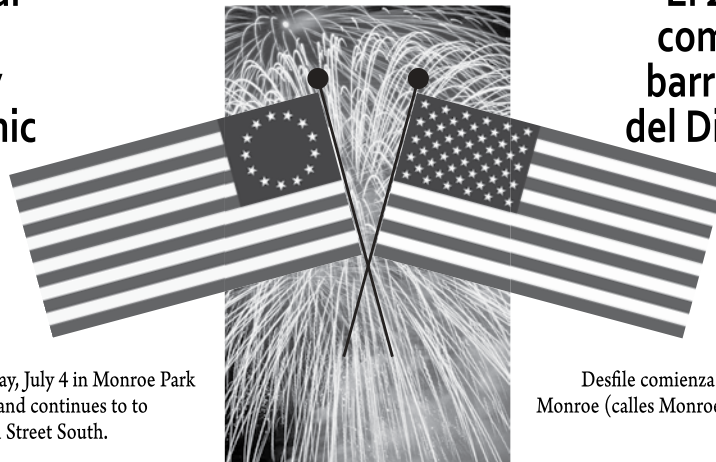
## 14th Annual Columbia Pike Blues Festival

**GREAT BLUES MUSIC, DELICIOUS FOOD, COLD BEER, ARTS AND CRAFTS, KIDS' ACTIVITIES AND MORE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 20**

**T**he Columbia Pike Blues Festival returns on Saturday, June 20 from 1.00 to 8.00 pm, on Walter Reed Drive between the Pike and 8th Street South, featuring — guess what? — the blues; with performers Memphis Gold, Nadine Rae, Paul Mark & the Van Dorens, Danny Blew and the Blues Crew, and the West Memphis Music Club.

You can also shop among local artisans, enjoy food from Big Daddy's BBQ and our favorite local restaurants, and maybe have a beer or glass of wine while mingling with the neighbors and enjoying the day. Don't miss it! More details are available at the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization's (CPRO's) website at <http://www.columbiapike.org/>.

## The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Douglas Park Fourth of July Parade and Picnic



The parade kicks off at 10.00 am, Saturday, July 4 in Monroe Park (South Monroe and 14th Street South) and continues to Douglas Park at South Quincy and 16th Street South.

Picnic in Douglas Park until 2.00 pm

Prizes for best parade floats, decorated bikes and costumes!

Free Moonbounce, Superslide, Dunk Tank and Sno-Cones at Douglas Park!

Music by Douglas Park Musicians!

Please bring a food dish to share.

Hot dogs, soda, juice and water will be provided free.

## El 27<sup>o</sup> anual desfile y comida campestre de barrio de Douglas Park del Dia de Independencia

Desfile comienza a las 10.00 horas el 4 de julio del parque de Monroe (calles Monroe sur y 14ª sur) al parque de Douglas (calles Quincy sur y 16ª sur).

Comida campestre (Picnic) en el parque de Douglas hasta las 14.00h.

¡Premios para mejor flotas, bicicletas adornadas y disfraces!

¡Brinca brinca y raspados gratis en el parque de Douglas!

¡Música por los músicos de barrio de Douglas Park!

Por favor trae un plato para compartir.

Perros calientes, refrescos y agua estarán gratis.

**Details on page 2**

**Detalles en la página dos**

## DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION • ARLINGTON, VA

## MEETING CALENDAR

The DPCA executive committee has scheduled regular meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm at Arlington's Walter Reed Fire Station No 9, 1900 South Walter Reed Drive at the corner of 19th Street South.

## NEXT REGULAR MEETING

TENTATIVELY — Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7.30 pm at Arlington's Walter Reed Fire Station No 9, 1900 South Walter Reed Drive at the corner of 19th Street South. See our next issue for the agenda.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## PRESIDENT

John Snyder, 703.892.2887, [jvsnyder54@comcast.net](mailto:jvsnyder54@comcast.net)

## VICE PRESIDENT

David Meistrich, 703.920.4001, [meistrichd@yahoo.com](mailto:meistrichd@yahoo.com)

## TREASURER

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## SECRETARY

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## RANDOLPH LIAISON

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## PARKS COMMITTEE

Marty Nielsen, 703.979.8777, [mrtynlsm@gmail.com](mailto:mrtynlsm@gmail.com)

## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Open. To volunteer, contact John Snyder at [jvsnyder54@comcast.net](mailto:jvsnyder54@comcast.net)

## PARKING LIAISON

Lane Nemirow, 703.271.1111, [lane@pop.net](mailto:lane@pop.net)

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION DELEGATES

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## DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS

## ADVERTISING SALES

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## SPANISH TRANSLATION

Ivan Santos, [ivanjosesantos@gmail.com](mailto:ivanjosesantos@gmail.com)

## ADVERTISING RATES AND INFORMATION

1/8 page (business card)—\$25

1/2 page—\$100

1/4 page—\$60

Full page—\$250

Sponsorships and discounts are available, call Mitch for information.

Send check (payable to DPCA) and ad information to

Mitch Opalski, 3129 12th Street South, Arlington, VA 22204.

He will provide information on preparing and submitting your ads.

## NEXT DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS DEADLINE

Articles and Ads Due

Distribution

Issue 83.04:

Fri, Aug 21, 2009

Sat/Sun, Sept 12/13, 2009

## DOUGLAS PARK ON THE WEB

## WEBSITE

<http://www.arlingtondPCA.homestead.com>

## LISTSERV

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# The Douglas Park Fourth of July Parade and Picnic

## NEIGHBORHOOD TRADITION IN 27TH OUTING

**T**his is the don't-miss event of the year! Douglas Park's 27th annual Parade and Picnic on July 4th will happen right in our own home town neighborhood.

10.00 am — We will all meet at Monroe Park (14th Street South and South Monroe Street) for judging of the best-decorated floats, bikes and people (see contest details below).

10.30 am — The Arlington County Police Department Color Guard will lead us through the streets of Douglas Park in front of the flag waving throngs of Douglas Park residents and guests.

10.45 am — The parade will end at Douglas Park (16th Street South and South Quincy Street), followed by the picnic, music and amusements until 2.00 pm.

### FOR THE PARADE:

- **Float Decorating Contest.** Cash prizes will be awarded to the most creative, elaborate and patriotic floats created by Douglas Park residents. Last year's winner was 'Washington Crosses 16th Street.'



ABOVE: Winner of the 2008 prize for float decorating, 'Washington Crosses 16th Street'

- **Bike Decorating Contest.** Bikes are a major feature of the parade —the best decorated will win prizes.
- **Patriotic Costume Contest.** Show your patriotism and come decked out for the 4th! I hear red, white and blue are the new red, white and blue.
- **Mr and Ms Douglas Park.** We will have a drawing from among our youngest neighbors for this coveted title.
- **Classic Cars.** The parade would not be complete without our classic car friends. Please bring yours!

**AT THE PICNIC:**

- **Food — All Your Favorites!** Please bring your favorite pot-luck side dish or dessert to the Douglas Park pavilion to share with your neighbors. The civic association will provide plates, napkins and all that stuff, FREE hot dogs with the fixin's plus FREE soda, juice and water!
- **Sno-Cones!** All the finest flavors and brightest colors for that special post-Sno-cone look — FREE.
- **Moon-Bounce, Super Water Slide and Dunk Tank.** Send your kids in to bounce off the walls in the moon bounce. Or have them slide down the water slide and make a big splash!
- **Music!** We will have live music by Douglas Park's own talented musicians!
- **Declare Independence!** Following a new tradition started last year, we will read the Declaration of Independence. That is what the holiday is all about.
- **Douglas Pond 'Fishing' for prizes for the little ones.**



**ABOVE:** The 2008 Douglas Park Fourth of July Parade Kickoff.



**ABOVE :** Fun at the 2008 Douglas Park Fourth of July Parade..

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- **Like to help decorate either Monroe Park or Douglas Park?** Just come by either park starting at about 8.00 am and help turn our parks red, white and blue for the occasion.
- **Cook hot dogs?** We could use your help taking a turn at the grill as an assistant chef.
- **Watch over the moon-bounce or water slide.** We need adults to make sure the kids stay safe. We need one at the front and one at the back (splash) end of the water slide, and one to handle the entrance of the moon-bounce. With enough helpers, we can limit shifts to about half an hour.
- **Clean up?** We always leave our parks spotless, and can use your help picking up.

- **Pay bills?** Not all of them—but if you are not yet a member of the civic association, (or have not yet renewed for 2009) please sign up using the Membership Form below and pay your dues.

If you would like to help, please contact John Snyder at 703.892.2887 or [jvsnyder54@comcast.net](mailto:jvsnyder54@comcast.net).

**DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION • ARLINGTON, VA**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
 MARCH 2009 — FEBRUARY 2010

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I'D LIKE TO HELP WITH:  
 Fourth of July Picnic and Parade       Election Day Bake Sale  
 Holiday Fund Drive                       Writing newsletter articles  
 Call me any time and I'll see if I can help

MAIL YOUR CHECK, PAYABLE TO 'DPCA', ALONG WITH THIS FORM TO:

*Treasurer, Douglas Park Civic Association*  
 3621 14th Street South  
 Arlington, VA 22204-5037

**Thank you!**



# Pike 200

**CELEBRATE THE PIKE'S 200TH BIRTHDAY**

**T**he company formed to build Columbia Pike was chartered by Congress in 1810, so the Pike's 200th birthday is coming up next year. Plans are in the works to celebrate the history of the Pike and the neighborhoods around it. Did you know that the Pike started as a toll road to the Virginia border? (Our neighborhood was part of the District of Columbia then.) Did you know that Freedman's Village, a community of emancipated people, was established on Columbia Pike? That a garrison of German-speaking soldiers (recent immigrants) who built two forts located in Douglas Park lived at Glebe Road and Columbia Pike during the Civil War? Do you recall the W&OD Railroad (path of the bike trail along Four Mile Run Drive) that crossed the Pike near the bridge over Four Mile Run?

There is a huge amount of history to be learned (and taught) about the Pike community. We want to gather up all the historical information we can, including all the historical information you may have that is not widely published, and your personal history, from old photos to particular memories. We want to collect this information and make it available to everyone, so people can understand the rich history of our community. And we want to celebrate!

A Pike 200 History Committee has just been formed. More details about the effort will be coming out in the next few months. If you are interested in participating, please contact John Snyder at 703.892.2887 or [jvsnyder54@comcast.net](mailto:jvsnyder54@comcast.net). We are in particular need of someone who can manage a website that could be used to upload information available in electronic form.

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### Real Estate Market Trends

For the local Northern VA & DC area, buyer traffic has increased as affordability improves; with entry level housing seeing the majority of activity. April increased with the traffic index improving to 66 from 54 in March (readings greater than 50 suggest traffic above expectations). Extremely low interest rates and lower prices are driving sales. Buyers are making the best of home prices, and many affordable properties are receiving multiple offers, especially Bank Owned and Short Sale listings. **The \$8,000 first time homebuyer tax credit** is also spurring traffic levels, especially at the lower end. Movement in the upper price ranges is still slower. Sellers are becoming increasingly realistic with their pricing, and are seeing price cuts to better match those of most recent sales in the last 90 days. Inventory levels have stabilized and in some markets there is a shortage of good housing stock. Home prices continued their decline in April but were less broad-based than in prior months, indicating sequentially lower home prices.

Appraisals continue to be an issue, with many coming in lower than expected which is derailing some transactions, or causing sellers to drop their prices to appraised value. While mortgage rates are at or below 5% for conforming, FHA and VA loans, new underwriting criteria and appraisal rules are creating huge challenges for all parties involved in residential housing sales.

As of May 1st, all lenders are operating on the new appraisal law passed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The **Home Valuation Code of Conduct (HVCC)** now requires that Appraisals must be ordered through an approved national appraisal company selected by each lender. The national appraisal companies choose a random appraiser within an area to conduct the appraisal. This applies to ALL conventional transactions.

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## June is Adopt-a-Cat Month

**ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON HAS EXTENDED HOURS SAT, JUNE 20 AND SOME FREE ADOPTIONS**

**T**he Animal Welfare League of Arlington in conjunction with the American Humane Association sponsors Adopt-a-Cat Month each year in June to draw attention to the millions of cats that come into animal shelters every year. Since kittens are usually born in the warmer months, summer is always crowded in our cat room. Both adult cats and kittens are available for adoption. The Animal Welfare League of Arlington will have extended hours to 8.00 pm on Saturday, June 20 for cat adoptions in addition to their regular hours. There is no adoption fee for cats at least five (5) years of age. Reasons to adopt a cat include:

Having a cat fights depression and loneliness.

Cats are entertaining to watch and fun to play with.

Cats provide companionship and affection.

Cats are independent and can be left alone while you're at work.

Cats are comfortable in small spaces like apartments.

Cats are very clean; they bathe themselves!

You can play with your cat while lying on the sofa; no need for walks in the rain.

Cats are easy to house train, especially adult cats, who are probably already house trained.

Indoor, spayed/neutered cats live long lives, providing up to 20 years of companionship.

Lots of cats need good homes; when you adopt one, you're helping to solve the problem!

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington is located just outside Douglas Park at 2650 South Arlington Mill Drive. For more details on adopting a shelter animal, please call 703.931.9241 or visit <http://www.awla.org/adopt-a-cat-month.shtml>.

## Helpful Telephone Numbers

**HOW TO ACCESS KEY ARLINGTON COUNTY SERVICES**

- **Emergency.** 911 -- Police, Fire and Rescue
- **Police Non-Emergency.** 703.558.2222
- **Environmental Services.** 703.228.6570

**Y**ou might want to keep these numbers handy. If you see something going on in the neighborhood that looks suspicious, give the police a call at the non-emergency number, 703.558.2222. We have a safe neighborhood, but paying attention to what is going on can make it even safer.

If you have a public service issue, (recycling bin, trash pickup?) or see a problem in the street (pothole, broken water main, etc.) give the Department of Environmental Services a call at 703.228.6570. That number is a clearinghouse for the various services.

## Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Study – Now On-going!

In January 1998, the County Board announced the creation of the Columbia Pike Initiative (CPI). Through an extensive community process, a new long-range vision and plan was adopted in March 2002 called the ‘Columbia Pike Initiative: A Revitalization Plan’ and updated in 2005. This new vision revisits and celebrates the more traditional urban ‘Main Street’ environment.

As a follow-up recommendation in the updated CPI Plan (2005), the second planning phase will study the residential areas along the Pike that were not included in the first phase of the plan. The CPI Plan (2005) described the Housing Initiative as one that would enhance the quality of life by improving and expanding housing options through a housing revitalization plan that emphasizes implementation and development strategies. Now, with anticipated market adjustments and redevelopment activities in the Revitalization District, the County anticipates likely change and higher demands on these residential properties. The purpose of this planning study is to anticipate, affect, and manage that change. Further purposes of this study would be to:

- Develop a plan that includes a new vision that coincides with the community’s housing goals and complement the County’s efforts to enhance the quality of life along the corridor with an emphasis on affordable housing preservation and opportunities for revitalization and redevelopment for targeted areas;
- Develop and or improve a housing stock that is diverse in housing type as well as affordability for individuals, seniors, and families; and
- Develop a plan that is compatible with and builds on the adopted vision for the commercial nodes and the future streetcar along the corridor;
- Develop a plan that encourages mixed-use, infill development adjacent to Columbia Pike to promote walkability and use of the future transit; and
- Identify new and/or existing tools and incentives to help implement this new vision.

The geographic focus of the study would be concentrated on the areas within the civic association boundaries within the Columbia Pike Planning Area. The study would also include the neighborhood known as Foxcroft Heights on the eastern end of Columbia Pike.

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The Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Study will be conducted in phases:

• **Phase 1a: Planning for the Plan**

This first phase is primarily the preliminary work conducted by County Staff to commence the study of the residential areas of the Columbia Pike corridor.

• **Phase 1b: Economic Analysis**

During this phase, County Staff and consultants will examine issues and identify opportunities and constraints. An economic analysis will then be conducted on various development scenarios for achieving community and County housing objectives, including the use of density and other housing and economic incentives.

• **Phase 2: Visioning and Urban Design/Plan Development**

This phase will take the recommendations of the Economic Study and develop alternative scenarios of what the 'development envelope' could physically look like.

• **Phase 3: Implementation**

After the adoption of the Columbia Pike Residential Plan, County Staff would then develop the tools needed to implement the vision and recommendations of the Plan with the assistance of the consultants.

For more information about the Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Study, please contact Reid Goldstein at [reidgoldstein@gmail.com](mailto:reidgoldstein@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/forums/columbia/current/page66547.aspx>.



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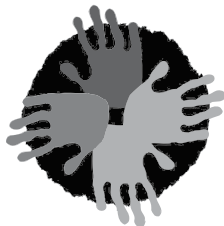
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# Thank you!



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