



DPCA Meeting Topics

CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETS TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 FOR ELECTIONS, NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION

The general membership meeting of the Douglas Park Civic Association will be Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 7.30pm in the cafeteria of Randolph Elementary School (1306 South Quincy St, enter through door number 10).

The agenda will include election of officers. Nominations are open for president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. John Snyder is running for another term as president and Annette Pigott is running for another term as secretary. David Meistrich is stepping aside as vice president and Linda Dye is stepping aside as treasurer. Nominees for these positions are needed. Please contact John Snyder at jvsnyder54@comcast.net or 703.892.2887 if you are interested. Also on the agenda:

- **Doctors Run Park.** A Neighborhood Conservation project to improve the trail from George Mason Dr to Randolph School and S Quincy St, including clearing underbrush, lighting and improving the trail for walking and biking.
- **Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update.** It's time to get to the writing of our new plan, based on the old plan and the data compiled from our neighborhood surveys. This is a neighborhood-written plan for what we would like to see (and not see) in our neighborhood for the coming years.
- **Housing and Land Use Study.** As the county studies the housing areas on Columbia Pike, what are the elements we need to ensure we have the kind of community we want? What steps should we take to preserve affordable housing on the Pike and in Douglas Park? If additional density is to be built within existing apartment building sites, what

limits and features should there be, and what changes in infrastructure and services will be needed to support it?

- **Independence Day Parade and Picnic.** Yes, planning starts in February. We will need someone (hopefully a group of people) to buy food and drinks for the picnic. We need someone to arrange for a color guard to lead the parade. And we need to confirm, — since July 4 falls on a Sunday — the date of the event.

Last DPCA Meeting Notes

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

The last civic association general membership meeting focused on crime prevention, particularly burglaries. We had a series of break-ins in Douglas Park in September and October of last year. Typically, thieves gained access to homes during the day, when they expected no one to be there, by breaking through windows or sliding glass doors, sometimes by kicking in the doors. They usually knock on the door first to try to verify that no one is home before they break in. Some arrests were made; the break-ins stopped. Apparently the police got the people responsible. How do we prevent these crimes in the future?

The Arlington Police Department, including our district commander, Capt. Nuneville, told us important ways to focus on prevention. First and foremost, as a community, we need to keep our eyes open. As we are walking dogs, running errands, or just looking out the window, be alert to what is going on around our neighbor's houses. Two important phone numbers:

- **911.** — If we see someone breaking into a house or car, or any other crime being committed or any other emergency.
- **703.558.2222.** — The police non-emergency number, if we see something suspicious. If you see a vehicle driving slowly through the neighborhood for no particular visible reason, you can give the police a call, with as complete a description of the vehicle as possible.

Which to use? If you feel there is danger, call 911. Some key points in burglarly prevention:

- **You do not need to confront anybody.** Burglars might be armed, and remember, unless you or another person are in immediate danger, safety of people is paramount. Thieves are taking stuff—it is just stuff—you and your safety are much more precious. We can get more stuff; we cannot replace you.
- **Next, secure your house.** Make sure the locks work, that you have locks on your windows. The police do not recommend one alarm system or company over another, but do recommend that responsiveness is better if the service (the people who react to alarms from a service center) is local.

Douglas Park noticias febrero 2010

LAS DONACIONES PARA LA NAVIDAD AYUDARON A CUATRO FAMILIAS

Gracias a todos de Douglas Park por juntar acerca de \$3,530 para ayudar a cuatro familias con necesidades en el vecindario para la Navidad.

ELECCIONES PARA FUNCIONARIOS PARA LA ASOCIACIÓN CÍVICA

Vamos a tener elecciones para la asociación cívica para funcionarios nuevos el 23 de febrero a las 19.30 horas en la cafetería de escuela Randolph, 1306 Calle Quincy Sur. Entre a través de la puerta número 10. Se puede nominar a cualquier persona para los posiciones. John Snyder es candidato para presidente y Annette Pigott es candidata para la posición de secretaria. Las posiciones del tesorero y vice presidente son puestos vacantes. Contactase con John Snyder 703.892.2887 o jvsnyder54@comcast.net para hacer una nominación para uno de los puestos.

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

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 7.30 pm in the cafeteria of Randolph Elementary School, 1306 South Quincy Street. Entrance is through door No 10. The annual election of officers will occur at this meeting. Please see the full agenda on the cover page of this issue of the *Douglas Park Neighbor News*. All are welcome.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

John Snyder, 703.892.2887, jvsnyder54@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

David Meistrich, 703.920.4001, meistrichd@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Linda Dye, 703.979.6276, www.cdyls@starpower.net

SECRETARY

Annette Pigott, Annette.Pigott@verizon.net

AT LARGE

Lane Nemirow, 703.271.1111, lane@pop.net

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PARKS COMMITTEE

Marty Nielsen, 703.979.8777, mrtynlsn@gmail.com

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Open. To volunteer, contact John Snyder at jvsnyder54@comcast.net

PARKING LIAISON

Lane Nemirow, 703.271.1111, lane@pop.net

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DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS

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NEXT DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS DEADLINE

Articles and Ads Due	Distribution
Issue 85.02: Fri, Mar 26, 2010	Sat/Sun, Apr 17/18, 2010

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Last DPCA Meeting Notes (ctd)

- **Third, get to know your neighbors.** You can tell who does not belong by knowing who does belong. When we look out for each other, we are all safer.
- **Fourth, don't show off stuff thieves would like to take.** The most popular item to steal is wide-screen TVs. Other electronics, like laptops and X-box consoles are also targets. These items are easy for the thieves to sell. If these items are easily visible through windows, the thieves know where to go to get them. If you get a new wide-screen TV, it would be better to recycle the box at the recycling dumpsters at Four Mile Run Dr and the Pike rather than advertising your new electronics by putting the box out on the street for collection.
- **Burglars don't like dogs, because most dogs don't like burglars.**
- **Put ID numbers on valuable items, so if they are stolen, they may be retrieved.** Without identification, the police can't tell your item from any other.
- **Beware of solicitors.** Legitimate solicitors have a solicitors ID from the county that they should display. Others, like 'woodchucks' who may offer to sell firewood, are posing as solicitors to get up close to houses and check them out. If the person is suspicious, you don't have to answer the door, and you can call the police non-emergency number.

Take a look at the Crime Prevention Council website for more information. Finally, remember that Douglas Park is a safe neighborhood. The criminals apparently responsible for the break-ins last fall lived in Maryland; they targeted our neighborhood at this particular time as a place to steal electronics and get away quickly. Nice houses (apparently with nice stuff inside) convenient to major roads—unfortunately, these things make a neighborhood attractive to thieves too. The more we get out, see our neighbors and make our streets a busy place where people look out for each other, the better we protect the safety of our neighborhood.

OFFICER ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 23

Election of Civic Association Officers is at the top of the agenda for the next Douglas Park Civic Association meeting. This year we do not have incumbents running for the offices of Vice President and Treasurer.

Due to other commitments, Linda Dye, our treasurer for the last 17 years, is stepping aside. Linda has been the glue holding the civic association together all that time, not only keeping meticulous records of our finances, but offering the steady wisdom needed to keep us on track. She has volunteered for the hard and detailed work of designing the Columbia Pike streetscape, the Columbia Pike Form Based Code review working group, and other efforts to implement the vision of our community. Words cannot express the depth of gratitude of our community for Linda's service.

Linda will continue to work for Douglas Park in other ways, but is giving up treasurer duties. So we need someone to step into the role. We are not expecting a 17 year commitment, and you do not need to be an accountant, but we do need someone who can



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keep meticulous records of the dues, donations and expenses of the civic association, remembering that this is the community's money—and we need to take good care of it. However, whoever takes over can be assured that the accounts are in good shape now. The hours are flexible; the compensation (completely non-monetary) is great.

Our vice president, David Meistrich, is also stepping aside due to increased work commitments. David has served both as our vice president and as food and beverage buyer for the Fourth of July picnic. As you can imagine, buying lunch for hundreds of people is a big job, and David has done it for years. The Fourth of July parade and picnic is the envy of many other Arlington communities. Our delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, Adam Ebbin, when asked by the Washington Post, described it

as the most fun event in his district. David has made it happen. We are so grateful for his work, and the other things he does for our community, like leading an effort to reduce illegally overcrowded housing.

The primary duty of the civic association vice president is to chair meetings and act in the absence of the president. In past years, each has taken on other projects or tasks. It really depends on what you would like to do for the community. We need a new vice president, and we need folks to step forward to help us get the food and goodies for the picnic. These are separate jobs, but we need help with both. We already have a shopping list for the picnic, honed with years of experience, and the tasks can be easily divided among several people.

If you are interested in being nominated for either of these important officer roles for our community, or would like to nominate someone, please contact John Snyder at jvsnyder54@comcast.net or 703.892.2887. If you would like to help out for our 'main event' on Independence Day, please also contact John Snyder.

Nominations are open for all offices, including president and secretary. John Snyder is running for president, and Annette Pigott is running for Secretary. Please contact John Snyder (contact information above) regarding any additional nominations. Voting will be Tuesday, February 23, at the civic association meeting at Randolph Elementary School cafeteria (1306 S Quincy Street, enter through door number 10) at 7:30pm.

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Record-Breaking Holiday Fund Drive

Holiday Fund Drive chair Rita Wiggins is pleased to report the success of this year's DPCA Holiday Fund Drive. In these difficult times, the generous residents of Douglas Park came together to donate a record \$3,530 to help needy families in our community. In addition to the substantial outpouring of money, we welcomed a wealth of volunteers who worked to ensure that each sponsored family received the items they needed and some extra treats to brighten their days and make for a happier holiday season.

On Tuesday, December 22, a 'sleigh-full' of presents were delivered to four Randolph Elementary School families, including 12 children, ages 15 years through 8 months old, and their parents. Gifts included coats, hats, gloves, scarves, pajamas, socks, underwear, shoes and clothes. The children received books, games, art supplies, school supplies, sporting goods, puzzles and craft kits. The families were given towels, sheets, comforters, and other housewares and each family received gift cards for local grocery stores. The parents were overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity and grateful that their children would benefit from such kindness. They sent messages of thanks and blessings to you, their benefactors.

There are many people who should be thanked for their roles in the success of this effort. Gina Cappello, the counselor at Randolph, worked with teachers to identify families who would benefit from the civic association's help. Jackie Garcia, Bi-Lingual Resource Assistant and Halima Bensaada, Instructional Assistant

at Randolph, contacted the families to identify family members, obtain wish lists and ascertain sizes. Traci Pietra purchased and artfully packaged grocery store gift cards for each family. Debbie Hill located used bikes. The Golstein/Freysinger family donated the bikes and Rachel and Lydia Dunbar delivered the bikes to the school. Ellen Menown, Mina Stanard, the Gallegos family, Heather McPhail, Emma McPhail-Snyder, and Rita and Melanie Wiggins did the shopping. Enid Dunbar wrapped many (MOST!) of the gifts. Linda Dye collected the donations and provided reimbursement to all of the shoppers, and John Snyder provided his constant support and leadership.

So...THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! to everyone who helped and everyone who donated. We live in a great neighborhood!

Changes On Columbia Pike

UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING

Work will start this spring on utility undergrounding on another section of Columbia Pike, between the bridge over Four Mile Run and S Wakefield St. The first part of the project will be installation of duct banks under the road. The power, telephone and other communications cables will then be installed in the duct banks and the utility poles taken down. The project will also include straightening out the intersection at S Buchanan St and the minor portion of Four Mile Run Dr next to Goodwill and adding left turn lanes on the Pike at that location. It will mean lots of digging and traffic disruptions for a while, but a better

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intersection and streetscape when it is done.

ARLINGTON MILL COMMUNITY CENTER

Just on the other side of the bridge over Four Mile Run, the new Arlington Mill Community Center project will be restarting, with construction commencing about a year from now. The project was planned as a community center, with a gymnasium and a public plaza, along with about 200 apartments, with about 60 units committed as affordable housing. Funding for the project would come in part from bonds approved by the public in 2006 and from a private developer partnering with the county. With the near-collapse of the financial markets, however, lending on such projects has essentially ceased. The developer could not obtain financing. The county board decided in December to push ahead with the community center portion

of the project. The community center will be at the corner of the Pike and S Dinwiddie St. The north portion of the site will not be developed at first, while the county seeks a partner to develop it as affordable housing. Presently, financing for affordable housing is easier to obtain than for market-rate development. The community center will be the same as planned through the public process, with participation of representatives from each of the neighboring civic associations.

AXUMITE VILLAGE

A project of 12 townhouses containing 36 stacked flats has been approved just off of Highland Street, between 12th St S and Columbia Pike. The townhouses will be along a new short section of 11th St S, perpendicular to S Highland St. Each three story townhouse will contain an English basement, a one story flat and a two story flat above. The project is sponsored by the Ethiopian Community Development Council, a non-profit organization that assists the settlement of immigrants, and will sell the flats as condominiums, trying to keep the prices affordable.

COLUMBIA PLACE

A project for apartments, ground floor retail and townhouses was approved for the vacant land on Walter Reed Dr, just behind the Rite Aid Drug Store, extending to S Edgewood St. A new section of 11th St S will be built behind the drug store. Small retail spaces will be along Walter Reed Dr, across from BB&T bank. Construction is expected to start some time this year.

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Changes On Columbia Pike (ctd)

SIENA PARK (OLD SAFEWAY)

The Siena Park building (the old Safeway site near Bob & Edith's) is now open and people are moving in. There is apparently a lot of interest in the retail space on the ground floor as well.

HALSTEAD BUILDING.

The Halstead building, on the corner of Walter Reed Drive and the Pike, is filling up with new Douglas Park neighbors. In addition to the Arlington Free Clinic and Lost Dog Café, a gym will be opening in the building, and construction is now underway on P. Brennan's Pub in the old Arlington Hardware storefront. It will be an Irish pub—which, knowing our neighbors, will thrive.

PENROSE SQUARE

Construction continues at a furious pace on the site of the old Giant Food on Columbia Pike. A new 57,000 sq ft Giant — about the size of the store on Jefferson Street at Baileys Crossroads — will open there, along with other retail shops and about 300 apartments. Completion is currently scheduled for early 2011.

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (ACFCU) OPENS PIKE BRANCH

Arlington Community Federal Credit Union has opened a new, state-of-the-art headquarters branch at 5666 Columbia Pike. ACFCU will be celebrating with member rewards and promotions, culminating with a Grand Opening Celebration on April 10, 2010. ACFCU is a member-owned, not-for-profit

organization that has grown through the years into a full-service financial institution. Those who live, work, worship, go to school, volunteer or consistently do business in Arlington County can belong to ACFCU. More information is available at <http://www.arlingtonvafcu.org/>.

ARLINGTON FREE CLINIC WINS DESIGN AWARDS

The new environmentally-friendly Arlington Free Clinic facility just off the Pike on 11th St S has picked up four prestigious design awards! The kudos come from the Washington Business Journal, the Health Care Facilities Symposium, and the local chapters of the American Society of Interior Designers and the American Institute of Architects. The new facility was designed by Perkins + Will Inc and built by Bognet Construction Associates. During FY2009, the organization served 1,614 patients in over 9,000 clinic visits. Congratulations to the Arlington Free Clinic!

4TH ANNUAL ARLINGTON HOME SHOW & EXPO IN APRIL

On Saturday, April 10, more than 50 exhibitors will be on hand at the Walter Reed Community Center at 2909 16th Street S to offer valuable information, products and services to those seeking home improvement solutions. The 4th Annual Arlington Home Show & Expo is presented by the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) in partnership with Arlington County's Housing Division. The show includes a variety of seminars. Exhibitors from Arlington County and area non-profits will also be available to offer advice and assistance. To learn more, call CPRO at 703.892.2776 or visit http://www.columbiapikepartnership.com/HomeShow/index_E.html.

COLUMBIA PIKE FARMERS MARKET WINTER HOURS

The Farmers Market in Pike Park at the corner of S Walter Reed Dr and Columbia Pike will be open every Sunday from 10am to 1pm through March. In-season hours will resume in April.

Wakefield HS Activities Fair

MEET COACHES, ATHLETES, CLUB AND ACTIVITY SPONSORS AND STUDENTS

Wakefield HS will host its inaugural student activities fair to help build participation and interest in all its extracurricular activities. Current and prospective students and parents can meet and talk to the people who sponsor and coach the various clubs and teams at Wakefield. This event is open to the public.

Wakefield Activities Fair

Tuesday, March 9, 2010; 7 to 8.30 pm

Wakefield High School Cafeteria

4901 South Chesterfield Road, Arlington

Host a German Student

OR BE A GUEST IN A GERMAN HOME

The Sister City program brings Arlington and Aachen high school students together each year for a two-week home stay. German students come here March 23 – April 6 and are housed by Arlington families while the Sister City program takes them to local sights during the day. We are seeking host families for

the Spring visit from Aachen this year. Contact Reid Goldstein at 703.271.0431 or reidgoldstein@gmail.com to learn more. Several Douglas Park families have already signed up!

The 2010 trip dates to Aachen are July 7-22. Arlington students going to Aachen travel as a group to Germany with teacher chaperones and stay with host families. Students will visit their host student's school and take short trips to neighboring cities and other places of interest. The trip includes daily outings in Aachen, excursions to the Netherlands and a 3-day trip to Berlin. The cost of the trip is approximately \$2,000 which includes airfare and transfers, room and board and excursions. Scholarships are available. The deadline for the high school exchange program to Aachen is fast approaching. For more information on the outbound trip to Aachen this summer, contact Lynette McCracken, ism1007@hotmail.com or Jennifer Wright, jennifer_wright314@mac.com.

President's Notes

I am so glad I live here. Not just my house and the physical things about the neighborhood, parks and convenient location and such. I am most glad to have such wonderful neighbors. You have raised \$3,530 for our holiday fund drive, a new record, and donations are still coming in. You are providing a happy holiday for several families in need, (also our neighbors) in a year when everybody is feeling the pinch financially. How do you find the real spirit of the holidays? In Douglas Park, you just ask—and people give, in good times and in tough times. Thank you. And thank you to our shoppers and wrappers, and Linda Dye who collects and accounts for the donations, and Rita, our leader.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. You are the greatest.

A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR EACH OF US

Sammy is my hero. To protect his privacy, I am not using his real name, but this really happened. Last year, the students at Randolph Elementary School were raising money for a water purification system. These systems cost about \$700, are about the size of a suitcase, but can purify water to remove disease-causing pathogens. It can be the most important contributor to children's health in a village in a developing nation. One of the Randolph teachers is familiar with the devices, and was helping the kids raise the money so that a system could be contributed to a village in Central America. That in itself is a wonderful thing, to see the children—who are not rich by United States or Arlington standards—raising money for people whose needs are greater than theirs.

Sammy heard about this at school. He wanted to contribute along with the older kids. So he went home that afternoon and put up a lemonade stand. He raised \$14. The amount of money is not nearly as important as the example. He saw that somebody needed help, and he immediately did what he could.

A lot of people are going to need help in 2010. People are giving to help Haiti, and the need is going to continue for a long time. Needs in other countries around the world are still there, and still urgent. Close to home, the Arlington Food Assistance Center and other such organizations are facing more challenges than ever before. Our neighborhood shows its generosity time and again. We are going to be asked to do more in 2010. Let's try to be like Sammy.

Northern VA Market Trends

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on December 2009 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton. Below are some figures:

A total of 1,349 homes sold in 12/09, down 10.66% from 1,510 units in 12/08. Active listings decreased by 29% from last year with 5,421 active listings in 12/09 compared with 7,688 homes in 12/08. Average days on market (DOM) decreased 38% to 57 days, from 92 days in 12/08. Sales prices rose 12% in 12/09 to \$474,104 from \$422,674 in 12/08. Arlington County's combined average sales price for condos, townhouses and single family homes increased from \$532,089 in 12/08 to \$560,607 in 12/09.

Home Buyer Tax Credit

Last November Congress extended the tax credit amending it to include some repeat buyers in hopes of securing a more sustained real estate upswing. Fueled by the original November 30, 2009 deadline, sales of existing homes had increased steadily since April. A good majority of all closed transactions involved first-time buyers. The new deadline to use the credit is 4/30/10 for buyers to be under contract.

Current market activity is strong, with lower supply and high demand.

The conforming loan limit for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is still at \$729,750 through the end of this year.

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If your property has been listed for sale with another broker this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing.

Thank you!



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