



Neighbor News

SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2010

2010 Holiday Fund Drive Underway

ANNUAL APPEAL SUPPORTS NEEDED NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILIES—PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

by John Snyder

This is the best thing we do as a civic association, and certainly the most important.

Every year the Douglas Park Civic Association Holiday Fund Drive raises thousands of dollars for needy families of Randolph Elementary School. Last year we raised a record amount—over \$3000—all from your generosity. All funds collected go for clothes, toys, winter coats and food for those in need as identified by the Randolph staff. As this has been a tough year economically, the need will be great and many families in our community are struggling. As in past years, we are Christmas for these families.

All you have to do to join in this effort is open up the envelope enclosed in this newsletter, put in a check and put it in the mail. Any amount will be welcome and very helpful. Volunteers from our community do the shopping and the wrapping for the several families we are able to help. If you would like to help with that, please contact me at 703.892.2887 or at jvsnyder54@comcast.net.

I love living in Douglas Park for many reasons, but first among them is living among people who care about each other and look out for each other. Year after year Douglas Park shows its heart and spreads the joy of the holidays to children of families who can't do it without our help. Please give generously.

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NEXT DPCA MEETING

The next meeting of the Douglas Park Civic Association will be Tuesday evening, 16 November 2010, at 7.30pm in the Randolph Elementary School Cafeteria, 1306 South Quincy Street. Please enter through the door marked 'No 10'.

Our main topic will be an update on the Columbia Pike Housing and Land Use Study. Please see details in the 'President's Corner' on p 2.

Douglas Park noticias noviembre 2010

REUNIÓN DE LA ASOCIACIÓN CÍVICA

La reunión de la asociación cívica sera el 16 de noviembre a las 19.30 en la cafetería de escuela Randolph, 1306 Calle Quincy Sur. Entre a través de la puerta número 10. Hablaremos sobre el estudio de uso de la tierra y la vivienda de Columbia Pike. ¡Atienda por favor!

Election Day Bake Sale Wrap-Up

CIVIC ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER A BIG SUCCESS

Thanks to our baking and coordinating leader, Enid Dunbar, chief salesperson Annette Pigott, the set-up and take down crews and especially our all-star bakers, our annual Election Day Bake Sale at Randolph School was a big success, raising nearly \$1,000. Thanks to all for your help, and to all our loyal customers and contributors.



Photographs courtesy Enid Dunbar



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DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION • ARLINGTON, VA

MEETING CALENDAR

The DPCA executive committee has scheduled regular meetings on the third Tuesdays of February, April, June, September and November at 7.30 pm in the cafeteria of Randolph Elementary School, 1306 South Quincy Street.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday 16 November 2010 at 7.30 pm in the cafeteria of Randolph Elementary School, 1306 South Quincy Street. Please see the agenda on page one of this issue of the *Douglas Park Neighbor News* for further details. All are welcome.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

John Snyder, 703.892.2887, jvsnyder54@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Sean Epstein, 646.284.2468, seanepstein@gmail.com

TREASURER

Al Fox, alfox.dpca@verizon.net

SECRETARY

Annette Pigott, Annette.Pigott@verizon.net

AT LARGE

Lane Nemirow, 703.271.1111, lane@pop.net

RANDOLPH LIAISON

Rita Wiggins, 703.521.4725, roserrita_wiggins@apsva.us

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

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION DELEGATES

John Snyder, 703.892.2887, jvsnyder54@comcast.net

Lane Nemirow, 703.271.1111, lane@pop.net

Debbie Falco, 703.919.5131, falcodl@verizon.net

CIVIC FEDERATION DELEGATES

Linda Dye, 703.979.6276, wwwcdyels@starpower.net

Reid Goldstein, 703.697.4941, reidgoldstein@gmail.com

Rebecca Krafft, 703.553.4140, rebecca_krafft@hotmail.com

DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS

EDITORIAL, DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Adam Henderson, 703.608.8615, douglaspark.news@gmail.com

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DISTRIBUTION

Jamie Daly, 703.521.4567, jamie22204@yahoo.com

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NEXT DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS DEADLINE

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President's Corner

COLUMBIA PIKE HOUSING AND LAND USE STUDY

Our next civic association meeting will include an update on the ongoing Columbia Pike Housing and Land Use Study. This project, which includes County staff and representatives of all neighborhoods along the Pike, is examining residential areas along the Pike, particularly apartment complexes, with the goal of setting a plan for what we would like to see in the coming decades. A lot of what we would like to see in the future of the Pike is what we see today. We want to preserve the good things about the Pike, like affordability, diversity, and all the single-family-home neighborhoods. But we also need to recognize that we are very close to Washington, the Pentagon, Crystal City and other job centers, and people are starting to realize what a prime location we have. That will bring pressure for redevelopment. We need to be ready.

Redevelopment comes when somebody gets an idea for a project. The developers' ideas typically set the agenda and everybody reacts to it. What we are trying to do is to describe our vision of what we want for our community in advance, so we set the agenda. When developers know in advance what we like and what we don't like, they are better able to propose something that the community will welcome. The Columbia Pike revitalization planning concentrated on commercial areas at the major crossroads. We now have a Form Based Code that dictates the location and size of buildings, requires ground floor retail, underground parking, and other elements. It is planned block by block, to fit within the requirements of each block.

Now we would like to do the same sort of planning for the residential areas in between the major intersections. If new buildings are built, how tall would they be on the front along the Pike? How tall on the back, next to the neighboring townhouses? Should they have underground parking? If so, where should the entrances be? How many spaces per apartment unit? Do we want retail on the ground floors? Do we want to preserve green space? Do we want pedestrian and bicycle access through the property? These are the sort of land use planning decisions we would like to make in advance. Many people are also concerned about how to preserve affordability on the Pike. There is concern that new development would push out current Pike residents who could not afford the higher rent, changing one of the things we love about our community. Figuring out how to maintain affordable housing on the Pike is one of the other goals of the study.

Please join us at the next civic association meeting on Tuesday 16 November 2010 at 7.30pm in the Randolph Elementary School Cafeteria for an update on the Housing and Land Use Study.

Like to Learn a Foreign Language?

NOT-FOR-PROFIT OFFERS LOW-COST OPTIONS

by Alex Kirk

Interested in learning a new language, but short on cash? Checked Northern Virginia Community College and found that they don't offer the language you're interested in? Thanks to a volunteer group based at George Washington University in DC's Foggy Bottom neighborhood, residents of the Washington area have a unique option to pursue their linguistic studies.

Established in 2005 as a GWU student organization, then incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2008, The Global Language Network (<http://www.thegln.org/>) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to expanding access to foreign language and culture. Since its inception, GLN has offered classes in over fifty different languages, including mainstays such as French, German, and Chinese, as well as less mainstream options like Farsi, Malay, and Swahili. Availability in a given semester will vary, as teachers are volunteers, but typically includes 20-30 options.

As someone who has recently begun fairly frequent business trips to Brazil—I will be making my fourth such trip in November—I have developed a strong incentive to learn Portuguese, particularly since the number of English speakers in Brazil is very low, even in major cities like Sao Paulo. In addition to studying Pimsleur audio lessons (available at the Arlington County public library), I chose to enroll in Beginning Portuguese I during the

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Like to Learn a Foreign Language?

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fall 2010 semester, along with my wife Holly Kirk. In addition to being the only place in the Washington area we could find that taught a formal Portuguese course, GLN was an attractive option because of its price: members of the general public put down a \$160 deposit, \$150 of which is refunded upon successful completion of the course. Alumni and students of GWU and other affiliates make a deposit of \$110, \$100 of which is refunded post-course. As the course does not require the purchase of books or other materials, this makes it essentially free.

Our particular experience has been mixed. While GLN's stated goal is a fully immersive experience, our course has been a mixture of Portuguese and English. This is likely due to the fact that our teacher, who was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, is by day a high school Spanish professor, and is structuring our Portuguese class in a way similar to the way she teaches her Spanish classes (other classes we have observed while on GWU campus have been full immersion—as one might expect of a volunteer organization, your mileage may vary). As we near the halfway mark in the semester, lessons have focused on practical issues that would confront someone traveling to a Portuguese-speaking country: numbers and time, food, entertainment, etc. While fluency after a single semester—particularly given that the course meets for two hours once per week—is obviously out of the question, a motivated student could expect to come away

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Like to Learn a Foreign Language?

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prepared to handle basic interactions in any country speaking the language they are studying.

For those interested in achieving full proficiency in a particular language, a GLN course is best taken in conjunction with other lines of study. This has been made clear by comparing my experience in the course to Holly's. While I came in with a strong background in French and many hours of study via Pimsleur audio lessons, Holly started the class essentially from scratch. As the only student in the class who does not speak another Latin-based language (every other student speaks either Spanish or French), she has found herself challenged to keep up with the pace of the course; conversely, I have been able to expand my existing knowledge of Portuguese at a comfortable pace.

As a parting note, if you'd like a touch of Brazil without the commitment of learning a language, consider a meal at The Grill from Ipanema in Adams Morgan - DC's most authentic Brazilian restaurant - or a stop by the European Foods market at the corner of Washington Boulevard and Pershing Street, which specializes in imported Brazilian, Portuguese, and South American foods.

More Photos from the 2010 Election Day Bake Sale



From left to right:
John Snyder, Rita Wiggins, Reid Goldstein

This year's Election Day Bake Sale at Randolph Elementary raised nearly \$1,000 for Civic Association activities.



Photographs courtesy Enid Dunbar

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Thank you!



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