



Neighbor News

VOL 86, No 2

SATURDAY 14 APRIL 2012

What's Wrong with English Ivy?

by Marty Nielsen

Arlington volunteers are removing a lot of English Ivy from county parks these days, along with other invasive plants. Why do we bother? After all it's attractive, cheap, and easy to grow. Once established it requires little maintenance.

English ivy is bad for our parks, as it turns out. Once it 'escapes' into our parks it spreads quickly, overwhelming native vegetation. (Next time you walk through Douglas Park or Doctor's Run look around and you will likely see it everywhere.) It provides little wildlife value. It competes with trees for water, light and nutrients. It inhibits the growth of tree seedlings and therefore threatens our future forests and parks.

How did English ivy get into our parks, you ask? Good question! If English ivy grows up a tree, once it gets a few feet up in the air it will flower and fruit. The berries can be hard to spot from the ground but the birds love them. If you have found a bit of ivy growing in your yard a bird excreted the seed. This is a big reason to cut ivy from trees: to stop the further spread. If your yard adjoins a park it can also spread on the ground from your yard (or to your neighbor's yard!).

This is not to say English ivy should be eradicated completely. But it should probably be restricted to small and isolated spots, such as a courtyard or patio. And having it grow up a tree is bad for the tree and bad for our parks.

Arlington County is so concerned about controlling English ivy and other invasive plants in its parks the county has an Invasive Plant Control Program Coordinator. For more information please contact Sarah Archer at 703.228.1862 or by email at sarcher@arlingtonva.us.

If you need help removing English ivy from the trees in your yard please contact me at mrtylnsn@gmail.com.

Be a part of
your
neighborhood.

Join the Douglas Park Civic Association.

Annual dues are only \$15 per household!

To join or renew, look for the member form on page 3.

And while you're on p 3, please review our annual financial statement for the fiscal year just ended.

Douglas Park noticias abril 2012

REUNIÓN DE LA ASOCIACIÓN CÍVICA

La reunión de la asociación cívica sera el 17 de abril a las 19.30 a **Café Sazon, 4704 Columbia Pike**. Vamos a tener elecciones para la asociación cívica para la posición del vice presidente. Discutiremos el desfile y comida campestre de barrio de Douglas Park del Día de Independencia. ¡Atienda por favor!

NEXT DPCA MEETING

The next meeting of the Douglas Park Civic Association will be held Tuesday evening, 17 April 2012, at 7.30p at Café Sazon, 4704 Columbia Pike (near Goodwill at Columbia Pike and South Buchanan Street.) You can park in that lot or by the recycling center if you drive.

We will be electing a new Civic Association vice-president, hear a presentation on neighborhood non-profit Phoenix Bikes, discuss our annual 4th of July events and review a nomination for the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee. Please see details in the President's Corner on page 2.

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DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION • ARLINGTON, VA

MEETING CALENDAR

The Association meets on the third Tuesdays of February, April, June, September and November at 7.30p. Meeting dates and locations are subject to change; up-to-date information is available at <http://www.douglasparkca.org/> or in the *Douglas Park Neighbor News*.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday evening, 17 April 2012 at 7.30p at Café Sazon, 4704 Columbia Pike (near Goodwill at Columbia Pike and South Buchanan Street.) Please see the full agenda in the 'President's Corner' column in this issue of the *Douglas Park Neighbor News*. All are welcome.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

John Snyder, 703.892.2887, jvsnyder54@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Open. Elections for this office to be held at this month's meeting

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, rita.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

ADVERTISING SALES

Adam Segel-Moss, douglaspark.ADS@yahoo.com

DISTRIBUTION

Jamie Daly, 703.521.4567, jamie22204@yahoo.com

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UPCOMING DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS DEADLINES

	Articles and Adverts Due	Distribution
Issue 86.03:	Fri 1 Jun 2012	Sat/Sun 16/17 Jun 2012
Issue 86.04:	Fri 31 Aug 2012	Sat/Sun 15/16 Sept 2012

DOUGLAS PARK ON THE WEB

WEBSITE

<http://www.douglasparkca.org/>

LISTSERV

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President's Corner

by John Snyder

NEXT CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING 17 APRIL

The next Douglas Park Civic Association meeting will be on Tuesday evening, 17 April 2012 at 7:30p at Café Sazon, 4704 Columbia Pike, near Goodwill at Columbia Pike and South Buchanan Street.. The agenda will include:

- **Election of Civic Association Vice President.** Tina Worten and Colin Winkler have been nominated for the position of vice president. The main duty of the civic association vice president is to chair meetings in the absence of the president, but our vice presidents also take on other projects, such as helping with events (4th of July Parade and Picnic, Election Day Bake Sale, etc).
- **Phoenix Bikes.** Our neighbor Henry Dunbar, executive director of Phoenix Bikes, will give an overview of the organization and their ongoing fundraising efforts.
- **4th of July Picnic.** We will discuss preparations for the main event—the 4th of July Parade and Picnic—and appoint a volunteer recruiter/coordinator.



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- **Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee.** Community development block grants and certain county programs are targeted to particular neighborhoods with large numbers of people with low incomes (Neighborhood Strategy Areas). Part of Douglas Park is an NSA, so we get representation on the committee that advises the county on how to provide the funding. Neighbor Chani Wiggins has been nominated for that position, and we will take up her appointment.
- **Bike Boulevards.** County Transportation Department staff will update us on the creation of 'bike boulevards' on 12th Street South (and 9th Street South) to provide a route for bikes parallel to Columbia Pike.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- **Elections.** At the last civic association, the following officers were re-elected by acclimation:

John Snyder, President
Annette Pigott, Secretary
Al Fox, Treasurer

- **16th Street Traffic Calming.** An update on the plans for traffic circles on 16th Street South was presented by County Transportation staff. The circles at the intersections of South Nelson, Oakland and Pollard Streets with 16th Street, will be slightly smaller than previously planned, to allow room for traffic to pass by, while extending the street corners to accommodate ramps on the sidewalks compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Under the new plans, no property will need to be taken from the yards of any residences. Clearances for vehicles will remain sufficient for easy passage of emergency vehicles.
- **Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Study.** We received an update from County Planning Department staff on ongoing efforts to develop the Neighborhoods Plan for the Pike. The goal is to develop a plan to govern redevelopment in the areas of the Pike between the major intersections and commercial areas. Those areas are governed by the Form Based Code, which allows more density (bigger buildings) than would otherwise be allowed, provided the building is built to the standards required by the Form Based Code. These standards require ground floor retail, dictate the size of the building, etc. The Neighborhood Plan will dictate how big any new buildings along the Pike will be allowed to be, and also where within the development the height will be allowed.

CONTINUED ON P 4

DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION • ARLINGTON, VA
MEMBERSHIP FORM—FY 2013
MARCH 2012 — FEBRUARY 2013

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 Fourth of July Picnic and Parade Election Day Bake Sale
 Holiday Fund Drive Writing newsletter articles
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MAIL YOUR CHECK, PAYABLE TO 'DPCA', ALONG WITH THIS FORM TO:

Treasurer, Douglas Park Civic Association
 1609 South Quincy Street
 Arlington, VA 22204-5051

Thank you!



DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION • ARLINGTON, VA
FY2012 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
MARCH 1, 2011—FEBRUARY 29, 2012

OPENING BALANCE	\$9,330.12
INCOME	
Membership Dues	\$2,670.00
Contributions.	1,541.00
Newsletter Ads	6,328.25
Newsletter Printing Underwriting	1,900.00
Election Day Bake Sale	1,010.38
Holiday Fund Drive	2,961.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,410.63
EXPENDITURES	
Newsletter Printing	\$5,411.72
Membership Dues Drive Materials	59.82
Fourth of July Community Parade and Picnic	2,335.61
Holiday Fund Drive	3,020.52
Dues.	130.00
Wakefield H S PTA—Senior Graduation	300.00
Wakefield H S Scholarship	150.00
Washington-Lee H S PTA—Senior Graduation	75.00
Miscellaneous.	21.46
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$11,504.13
ENDING BALANCE	\$14,236.32

/s/ Al Fox
Treasurer, Douglas Park Civic Association

President's Corner

CIVIC ASSOCIATION UPDATE

(CONTINUED FROM P 3)

A larger building along the Pike would intrude less than one on a back street next to single family homes, so the location of the main part of the building, and tapering to be closer to the size of the neighboring houses, are expected to be part of the plan. The plan will also address issues like where to locate green space, such as plazas, and where retail would be allowed/required, so that shops are within walking distance of residences.

One of the goals of the Land Use and Housing Study and Neighborhood Plan is to preserve affordable housing along the Pike. The goal is to preserve 100% of apartments currently affordable for people making 60% of the area median income, and at least half of the apartments affordable for people making 80% of the median. This would preserve affordability for about 5,000 apartments. About 2,300 market rate affordable apartments are in Douglas Park right now. Among the tools for preserving affordability are potential changes in zoning such that larger buildings would be allowed, provided they maintain a high percentage of the units as affordable. The more expensive apartments would subsidize the affordable units. Additional density to

make this possible would be located along the Pike, not looming over the neighborhood. As always, the question is how much density/height of buildings is appropriate in particular areas.

The draft Neighborhood Plan policy is to be released some time in April 2012. The current plan is to present it for approval to the County Board in June. If this policy statement is approved by the Board, County Staff would then develop a new form based code for the residential areas along the Pike, which would regulate future development in that area. Form based codes are established block by block, recognizing that in a particular spot, a larger or smaller building would be appropriate. We should expect this new form based code for the residential areas to borrow elements from the Form Based Code already in force for the commercial areas.

It is important to note that the idea of a form based code is to expedite approval of compliant projects. Since the neighborhood and county have established the requirements in advance, a project that meets the requirements is approved, without the freedom to modify it, and negotiations, that come with a site plan project. So we need to make sure the new form based code is right when it is adopted.

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An issue with the Land Use and Housing Study that requires continued vigilance is the ratio of parking to be allowed in new buildings. A ratio of 1¹/₈ parking spaces is required for new buildings under the current Form Based Code. Some people advocate a lower ratio to make new development less expensive, but it has not been demonstrated that a lower ratio would work. Many worry that the current ratio is too low. In any event, adding any new density means adding more people who need to get around. Therefore, upgraded transit for the Pike is necessary if any substantial amount of density is to be added along the Pike. We can't just add more cars to the Pike and to our neighborhoods.

- **Rosenthal Site Re-Development.** An application under the Form Based Code to re-develop the Rosenthal car dealership site on the southeast corner of Columbia Pike and Glebe Road will be before the County Board at its 21 April meeting. The plan is for a 6 story building on the corner, with ground floor retail all along the Pike and South Glebe Road. On the back (south) side of the building, the frontage will be 3¹/₂ stories, like a townhouse, but with apartments inside. A new block of 44 townhouses, also 3¹/₂ stories, is proposed for the block between South Glebe Road and South Monroe Street, a new 11th Street South, and a new 12th Street South where the post office driveway is now. 12th Street South will not connect to the development until it is re-built by the county, in the same location as the driveway, after arrangements to return that land for county use are made with the post office. The new 12th Street South will extend no further than the driveway does now. It will provide access to the post office, but end short of South Monroe Street. A bicycle and pedestrian path will still be in the same location it is now.



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'The Balloon Lady'

Wakefield H S News

by Katharine Voldal

Will your student be new to Wakefield in 2012-13? Join the PTA/Booster list serve now and become part of our school community. This list serve is the main communication to parents about school events, PTA, Boosters, sports, and the many accomplishments of our students. To join, send an email with 'subscribe' in the subject line to Wakefield_Booster_PTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events will take place at Wakefield High School, 4901 South Chesterfield Road

- **Saturday 21 April, 9a to 1p: Tech Expo.** Wakefield is the only high school in Arlington to sponsor this kind of an event, which is similar to a 'science fair.' Students will design technology-related projects which will be judged by panels of professionals from the community. Parents are welcome to come and view the students' work. Many volunteers make the Tech Expo a success and a photographer is needed for the event. If you have camera skills to share and can volunteer a few hours on the 21st, please contact Theresa Schweser, Wakefield PTA President at 703.271.6221 or via email at

tschweser@gmail.com.

- **Friday/Saturday 27 and 28 April; Friday/Saturday 4 and 5 May: Beauty and the Beast.** Disney's musical sweeps onto the Wakefield High School stage this spring. Tickets may be purchased at the door or reserved by calling 703.228.6705. Performances are on Friday and Saturday nights at 7p with Saturday matinees at 1p. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults.
- **Saturday 5 May, 11a to 3p: Wakefield PTA Flowering Plant Sale Fundraiser.** Flowering plants for your garden beds will be on sale on 5 May. Items include annuals, perennials, herbs, and gorgeous flowering baskets. Pre-orders are encouraged (and are due by 19 April) with pick-up on Saturday 5 May at the high school. Details and order forms are available on the Wakefield PTA's website at <http://www.apsva.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=17411>. Please come out to support this new fundraising event!

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