



# Neighbor News

VOL 90, No 1

SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2016

## Thank You Douglas Park for Another Successful Holiday Fund Drive

by Rita Wiggins

**T**hank you to all of the Randolph neighbors who made the Douglas Park Civic Association Holiday Fund Drive a great success again this year. This program, which has been going strong for over 25 years and is an integral part of DPCA annual activities, gives a hand to needy families at Randolph Elementary School. Each year DPCA works with counselors and teachers at the school to identify families who are in severe financial need. Neighbors generously contribute their time, money and efforts to help. In terms of outreach, this was our biggest year yet; we helped seven families, with a total of nine adults, and sixteen children, ages four through seventeen. Because of the generosity of DPCA members, their holiday seasons were much brighter.

This year we collected just under \$2,500 in donations, and had an outflow of just over \$3,000. So we ran a little short, but luckily had some funds available to cover the deficit. Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed.

All families received many gifts, including necessities and special treats. The children were given clothes, pajamas, coats, and shoes in addition to books, toys, games and other wish list items. Parents were given coats, hats and gloves, and household goods such as pots and pans, and even a microwave. The families were very grateful for the gifts and sent thank you cards to express their appreciation. They said: "Thank you for all the presents. This means a lot to us. We appreciate everything that you have given us. Thank you!" And, "We would like to tell you of the tremendous gratitude that each of us has in our hearts for all of the gifts we received. Words fail to express how grateful everyone in the family is for these beautiful gifts. They brought immense joy to our children. On behalf of our entire family, thank you for this beautiful surprise. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year." And, finally, "Many thanks. I am very grateful for the gifts that we received for my children. God bless you. Blessings to all."

We would like to recognize those who found time in their busy holiday schedules to shop and wrap presents for the families. Thanks to Irene Wittig, Marian MacGilvray and Mina Stanard who have volunteered for this program several years in a row. Your commitment to the children of our community is to be commended. Thanks also to our new shoppers: Lisa Twedt, Jes and Jody Olson, and Jennifer Cook. We hope this was a fun and rewarding experience for you and want to say that your time, efforts and generous spirits are greatly appreciated. Thanks to Randolph counselor, Jennifer Baitinger, Bi-lingual Resource Assistant, Jackie Garcia, and other staff members who identified the families, collected wish lists, and ascertained sizes to assist the shoppers. Thanks go out to all those who helped with preparation of fliers and envelopes; to the dedicated newsletter deliverers; and a final, special appreciation to DPCA president, Adam Henderson, and treasurer, Al Fox. I am very proud to be a part of such a generous and caring community!

Wishing a happy and healthy new year to you all!

## NEXT DPCA MEETING

The next meeting of the Douglas Park Civic Association will be Monday evening, 22 February 2016, at 7:30p in the downstairs meeting room of Arlington Fire Station No 9; corner of South Walter Reed Drive and 19th Street South.

We will have an open forum to discuss future Association activities. **This meeting will also include our annual election of officers.** For details, please see the President's Corner on p 2. All are welcome to attend.

## Douglas Park noticias febrero 2016

### LAS DONACIONES PARA LA NAVIDAD AYUDARON A CINCO FAMILIAS

**G**racias a todos de Douglas Park por juntar acerca de \$2,500 para ayudar a siete familias con necesidades en el vecindario para la Navidad.

### ELECCIONES PARA FUNCIONARIOS PARA LA ASOCIACIÓN CÍVICA

**V**amos a tener elecciones para la asociación cívica para funcionarios nuevos el 22 de febrero a las 19.30 en las estación de bomberos numero 9 (Walter Reed y calle 19 sur). Se puede nominar a cualquier persona para los posiciones. Contactase con Adam Henderson ([president@douglasparkca.org](mailto:president@douglasparkca.org)) para hacer una nominación para uno de los puestos.

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## DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION • ARLINGTON, VA

## MEETING CALENDAR

The Association conducts general membership meetings 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

Monday evening, 22 February 2016 at 7.30p in the downstairs meeting room at Fire Station No 9, 1900 South Walter Reed Drive at the corner of 19th Street South. 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

Adam Henderson, 703.608.8615, [president@douglasparkca.org](mailto:president@douglasparkca.org)

## VICE PRESIDENT

Tony Brooks, [vicepresident@douglasparkca.org](mailto:vicepresident@douglasparkca.org)

## TREASURER

Al Fox, [treasurer@douglasparkca.org](mailto:treasurer@douglasparkca.org)

## SECRETARY

Annette Pigott, [secretary@douglasparkca.org](mailto:secretary@douglasparkca.org)

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

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## OTHER COMMITTEES

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## PARKS COMMITTEE

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## DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS

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## UPCOMING DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOR NEWS DEADLINES

	Articles and Adverts Due	Distribution
Issue 90.02:	Fri 1 Apr 2016	Sat/Sun 23/24 Apr 2016
Issue 90.03:	Fri 3 Jun 2016	Sat/Sun 18/19 Jun 2016

## DOUGLAS PARK ON THE WEB

## WEBSITE

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## LISTSERV

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[douglaspark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:douglaspark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-Park-Arlington-VA/133420103436696>

## President's Corner

by Adam Henderson

## NEXT CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

**T**he next Civic Association meeting will be held Monday 22 February at 7.30pm in the downstairs meeting room of Firehouse No. 9 at 19th Street South and South Walter Reed Drive. **Pizza and light refreshments will be served.** On the agenda:

- **Elections.** This meeting will include our annual election of civic association officers. All current officers (Adam Henderson, President; Tony Brooks, Vice-President; Al Fox, Treasurer and Annette Pigott, Secretary) are running for re-election. However, new nominations are open for all these offices as well. If you would like information about the role of civic association officers, please contact Adam Henderson at [president@douglasparkca.org](mailto:president@douglasparkca.org).
- **Direction of the Civic Association.** The Civic Association board feels it may be time for a 'reset' of the Association. So we'd like to hear your ideas on what we should focus on in the year ahead and what sort of programs you'd like us to present. Please come prepared with your ideas!

LAST CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING,  
WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER

**O**ur guests at our December meeting were local USPS officials, on hand to discuss the continuing problems with mail delivery in 22204. This was our third meeting in the past year and a half. Unfortunately, neighborhood attendance consisted of the Civic Association board and a reporter for ArlNOW.

The Civic Association board would like to remind residents that postal service delivery issues should be reported directly to the South Station manager and the Arlington Postmaster via email:

Arlington South Post Office Manager, Mr Jeff Simmons:  
[Jeffrey.C.Simmons@usps.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.C.Simmons@usps.gov)

Arlington Postmaster, Mr Walter Daniels:  
[Walter.M.Daniels@usps.gov](mailto:Walter.M.Daniels@usps.gov)

# Henry Highlights

by Megan Haydasz

## Happy New Year, Neighbors!

To kick-off 2016 on an especially positive note, we're thrilled to announce that Patrick Henry Elementary School has once again been named a Title I Distinguished School by the Virginia Department of Education! Henry was one of 46 schools to receive the designation. The school was recognized for meeting all state and federal accountability requirements for two consecutive years and exceeding 60th-percentile SOL pass rates for reading and mathematics. Congratulations to the school's students, families, and staff—keep up the good work!

Kindergarten Information Sessions—Parents of rising kindergarten students should note that Arlington Public Schools hosted its annual countywide Kindergarten Information Night on Tuesday, January 19th, at Washington-Lee High School, and there will be two Patrick Henry-specific sessions held at the school on February 18th, from 9:15am–10:45am, and April 7th, from 12:45pm–2:15pm. Thomas Jefferson Middle School also held its annual Middle School Information Night on Thursday, January 21st. Registration for the 2016-2017 school year officially opens February 1st, and more information can be obtained by contacting your neighborhood schools' administration, or on the Web at <http://apsva.us/domain/167>.

Community Meeting on Potential Move to TJ—Arlington Public Schools convened a meeting on Tuesday, January 26th, in the Patrick Henry Elementary School gymnasium to provide a general overview of the timeline for construction of the new elementary school at the Thomas Jefferson site. This meeting also served as an opportunity for the Henry community (and general public) to offer input on issues related to Henry's anticipated move to this new school in 2019. If you were unable to attend the

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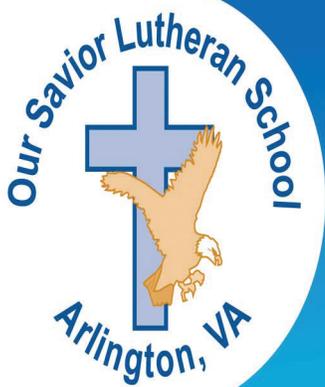


meeting but have additional feedback, please feel free to contact [moreseats@apsva.us](mailto:moreseats@apsva.us) to share your ideas.

Since it seems winter weather has finally caught up to us—brr!—the Patrick Henry community looks forward to the following events to warm our spirits during the cold months ahead...

Career Café—This new program offers an opportunity for children in grades 3 to 5 to hear directly from adults about different career possibilities. We are seeking neighbors who would be willing to give one hour of their time to help inspire kids. Time slots would be during lunch time on Wednesdays or Fridays until May 2016. Please go to this link to sign up for a slot: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10coe4ba4ab2fa3f94-career>, or contact the school's guidance counselor, Erin Upton, at [erin.upton@apsva.us](mailto:erin.upton@apsva.us) or 703.228.8215 for more information.

(CONTINUED ON P 4)



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## Henry Highlights

(CONTINUED FROM P 3)

**Silent Auction**—This much-anticipated annual event will take place at the school on Friday, February 26th, at 6pm, offering parents and neighbors alike the opportunity to bid on donations from a wide variety of local businesses, teachers, staff, parents, and students. This year's auction theme is "Carnival," and you can expect fun decorations and favors for the kids, along with a staff-supervised movie in the gym to keep them entertained while parents place their bids! Many items will be available for online bidding with "Buy now!" options in the week leading up to the event as well – please monitor the AHCA email listserv for further details.

**International Night**—This showcase of the Patrick Henry community's broad cultural diversity will take place on Friday, May 13th, from 7:00pm-8:30pm. Neighbors are invited to help us celebrate by "traveling" to different countries—i.e., visiting tables hosted by various Henry families – sampling food, playing games, and participating in activities related to each of the nations represented. Our students look forward to getting stamps in their "passports" as they learn about important traditions/holidays, currency, food, clothing, and geography from all around the world. We hope to see you there!

Finally, the Henry community would like to say a big "Thank You" for your generous support of our students during the holiday season! Our Thanksgiving Food Drive in November collected 10 baskets of food (including a turkey, fresh fruits and veggies, canned and boxed goods, and a Giant gift card) for our families in need. In December, each one of our Secret Snowflakes were claimed – many by neighbors without children at Henry—providing several students in our community with a wonderful surprise this holiday. Thanks again!

Be our friend! Keep up with all of the goings on at Patrick Henry by visiting our website <http://patrickhenrypta.org>, subscribing to [PatrickHenryFriends@yahoo.com](mailto:PatrickHenryFriends@yahoo.com), and liking us on Facebook – Patrick Henry Elementary Friends & Families.

## Neighborhood Listserv Reminder

by Rachel Berkey

**Want to hear about the happenings** in the neighborhood more frequently? Looking for a great doctor or restaurant? Join the official Douglas Park Civic Association email list! Members can recommend local businesses, post notices about items they're giving away or selling, and receive Arlington County news and updates.

To join send an email to [douglaspark-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:douglaspark-subscribe@yahoo.com) with your name, street and block number.

## South Arlington's Acoustic Café Launches Spring Season

by Gus Guthrie and Rebecca Krafft

Photographs courtesy Marty Guthrie

**There aren't many venues on Columbia Pike** that have live music...and there are even fewer that provide a beautiful listening environment that both musicians and audiences appreciate. We have one right here in our neighborhood. The Walter Reed Recreation Center at Walter Reed and 16th St. S has a new program that showcases local musicians in a relaxed setting, dedicated to listening. It's called the Acoustic Café, and it happens on the third Tuesday of the month, in the spring and fall.

After a winter break, the Acoustic Café opens its 2016 season on Tuesday, March 15th with a lineup headlined by Martinez & Guthrie. This duo features the vocals of Douglas Park resident Gus Guthrie. You may have seen Gus at the 4th of July picnic with his band NoBetterOff... or Sunday mornings at the Farmer's Market. He teams up with songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist Joe Martinez, playing the original folk-pop that has landed them on Sirius/XM satellite radio, as well as numerous placements in TV shows and movies.

The next café takes place on April 19th, and it will feature the Dandelion Gang. The Gang has worked up a set of classic Dixie Chicks cover songs, with great vocals, fiddle and Douglas Park's own Rebecca Krafft picking the five wire (aka the 5-string banjo).

May 17 and June 21 are the next two dates, followed by a summertime hiatus.

The music starts at 7pm and runs til 8:30. Each evening consists of two opening acts, plus the featured band. Light refreshments – cookies and coffee – are available.

So check out the Acoustic Café, and support (really) local music...fresh from our own neighborhood. And if you are a musician looking for audience, the Acoustic Café is for you.

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Acts are still being signed up for the spring season. More information is available on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/acoustic.cafe.arlington](http://www.facebook.com/acoustic.cafe.arlington). If you are interested in playing send an email to [acousticcafe4@gmail.com](mailto:acousticcafe4@gmail.com)

See you at the Acoustic Café!

*The Acoustic Café is a free community concert series of newcomers and accomplished players that takes place at Walter Reed Community Center. The center is a beautiful green building in south Arlington. The cafe is officially part of the county's 55+ Program, but folk of all ages may play and attend.*

**When:**

**Third Tuesday of the month, March through June,  
7-8:30pm**

**Where:**

**Walter Reed Community Center,  
2909 16th St South, Arlington**



Chris Anderson and friends



Susie Theobald

Some of last year's Acoustic Cafe performers.  
Photographs courtesy Marty Guthrie



Gary Davis and friends



Martinez, Guthrie and Miller



Joe Maestri



Rebecca Krafft and Val Stewart

## *What I Do to Sell a Listing*

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[douglaspark.news@gmail.com](mailto:douglaspark.news@gmail.com).

## **Did You Know?**

That the digital edition of the Douglas Park Neighbor News is now published in color on the Civic Association website at <http://www.douglasparkca.org/newsletter/>. Take a look today!