

ALCOVA HEIGHTS

The Newsletter of the Alcova Heights Neighborhood | Arlington, Virginia

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SEPTEMBER 2008

AHCA MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 25

The Alcova Heights Citizens Association will meet Thursday, September 25 at Arlington Baptist Church, South 8th and South Monroe Street. Potluck starts at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7 p.m.

Items to be discussed will be Alcova Heights Charter and proposed officer additions; update of the Conservation Plan; update on the Walking Town Tour responses and working plan; a report on the meeting with the State Department regarding parking issue; a report on the meeting with Arlington County Code Enforcement; and the Halloween Parade. Neighbors who have issues to add to the agenda can contact Sara Uzel at suzel@tectrendsgroup.com or 703-979-2517.

A DELUGE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT NEIGHBORHOOD DAY BLOCK PARTY

By Marie Van Ness

"This has been so much fun!"

"Let's do it again next year!"

"What a nice party!"

These were just a few of the many favorable comments from the 80-plus neighbors who attended the July 13 Alcova Heights Neighborhood Day Block Party. The neighbors of the 800 block of South Lincoln Street hosted, the weather cooperated (until the very end, and even that turned out to be a fun time), and it would be hard to believe anyone left disappointed.

Those in attendance included one of our most senior neighbors, at 90+ years old, and one of our newest

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2008 ALCOVA HEIGHTS HALLOWEEN PARADE



DATE: Saturday, October 25, 2008

LOCATION: Baptist Church (Corner of South 8th and South Monroe St.)

TIME: 3 p.m.

NOTE: Neighborhood Helpers Needed!! Please call Dellynn Periandri at 703-271-0241 or email at dperiandri@designcuisine.com to help out.

The Annual Alcova Heights Halloween Parade is set for Saturday, October 25 this year. Thanks to Dellynn's tireless efforts, this event has become a true signature event in our neighborhood.

Start time is 3 p.m. Put on your best costume and gather at the parking lot of the Baptist Church at the corner of South 8th and South Monroe Street.

The parade will go down 8th Street to Alcova Park, first pavilion on the right side.

Please bring snacks, cookies, and candy.

Dellynn is amazing, but she can't do it all. Please help out!! Volunteers are needed to make signs, decorate, and help with street patrol.

Call Dellynn to find out how you can help at 703-271-0241 or e-mail her at dperiandri@designcuisine.com.

If you can't attend the parade, feel free to leave candy in the red bin at Dellynn's house: 3705 South 9th Street.

Look for flyers around the neighborhood during the week before the parade for any last-minute details.

2008 NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 20: Taste of the Pike, Noon-7 p.m., Arlington Mill Community Center

SEPTEMBER 25: Citizens Association meeting, 6:30 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting, Baptist Church

OCTOBER 25: Alcova Heights Halloween Parade, 3 p.m., Baptist Church

NOVEMBER 1: 2nd Annual Alcova Heights Hacktacular Golf Tournament, 9:30 a.m. Hains Point Golf Course, Washington, D.C.

NOVEMBER 20: Citizens Association meeting, 6:30 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting, Baptist Church

DEC (TBA): Caroling in the Park

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additions, at just two weeks old. It was wonderful to not only see familiar faces but to meet new neighbors. The fire truck on site was a big hit with the kids, and several of the police and firemen even felt so at home, they joined the party and stayed quite a while.

Having the street blocked off was wonderful, giving everyone room to roam, plunk chairs down, and talk to



one another. The kids showed off their boundless energy and enjoyed the games and prizes. And the biggest hit of all with the kids was the face painter, who will certainly be called on to return next year. Horseshoes and volleyball were available in some of the back yards, and the "frosting on the cake" was the music from our home-grown band set up on the Jones's front porch.

As always the food was plentiful and delicious. The association provided the burgers and hot dogs, fixin's, lemonade, ice tea, and water. Lots of neighbors must have been in a cooking mood because we had an abundance of delicious salads, sides, and desserts. As always the Alcova neighbors were beyond generous.

The afternoon ended with a hardy downpour. Some stayed on porches to watch as the kids and grown-ups had a terrific time playing in the puddles and rain. Clearly some didn't



want the party to end!

There are many people to thank: Dellynn Periandri for buying the food, providing and setting up equipment, and bringing all that ice; Lynn Gant for getting the permit; Matt Henneman for organizing the grills and grillers: Chris Marquez and Mark Manlove; Chris Marquez for organizing the tables; Mary Ann Orecchio for getting the balloons; Julio and Patricia Basurto for setting up the volleyball net and getting the players together; Steve Schaible for orchestrating the band; Ken Krafcheck for making sure that horseshoes were ready to go; Suzanne Manlove for organizing the children's games and arranging for the face painter; and John and Dana Pulley for running the sack races. And a huge thanks to all the South Lincoln Street neighbors who made sure their respective lawns were mowed and trimmed.

We can't forget the neighbors who delivered the newsletter and flyers to assure everyone knew about the picnic. And finally endless appreciation for the neighbors who came ahead of time to set up, those who helped during the party, and the many who made sure all was cleaned up. From start to finish, it was a very special Alcova Heights afternoon.

Some recommendations for next year's picnic have been to extend the hours, rotate the site to another Alcova street, have name tags, and to recruit more volunteers!



AHCA LOOKS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION

By Sara Uzel, AHCA Treasurer

The Alcova Heights Citizens Association held an open meeting on June 18 to discuss the association's leadership structure, how it governs, and how to improve both participation from and representation of our community.

We are currently examining several options and are looking for feedback from the community. One structural change being considered would be to expand the neighborhood leadership to include three additional at-large members that would serve either a one- or two-year term.

We feel this would give us a larger leadership pool, facilitate

transition and knowledge transfer, increased opportunities for participation, and provide finite and reasonable commitments by community leaders.

Please feel free to start a discussion of these recommendations on the neighborhood listserv, email me or Marie Van Ness with responses, or bring your thoughts and comments to the September 25 citizens association meeting at the Baptist Church.

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GARDENING: TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING SUN!

By Alice Nicolson

HANNA'S RAIN SPELLS GOOD NEWS FOR FALL

Is time flying faster or am I just getting older? When I look back at the things I said I was going to do in the garden this summer, it seems as though I never got around to doing many of them at all! What about all the weeds that have crept into the flower beds, the brick paths, and the veggie garden, and the ivy that seems to spread everywhere even though Dan pulls some from time to time? And the Weigela that I was going to move, and the air-layering I was going to do, and the clump of Miscanthus I was going to reduce in size before it takes over the daffodil bed?

Well, it's hard to weed when the ground is dry as a bone, for one thing. And until Hanna our rains were pretty few and scanty, just enough to wet the foliage but not the ground. Even running the sprinkler for three hours on a wilting flowerbed left only the top two to three inches moist. Below that, powder! It's pretty hard to dig a new hole and plant a new shrub and keep it watered enough so it won't die when nature doesn't help with the watering. Thank goodness for

the 4.3 inches that Hanna gave us! Now we can look forward to a decent fall.

After a nice rain is a great time to think about spreading corn gluten or other germination inhibitor on those sections of the lawn that are full of summer annual weeds like crabgrass now, but will shortly be greening up with the winter annuals like chickweed and annual bluegrass. It's a good time to core-aerate the lawn as well, followed by a light application of county leaf mulch. Remember that if you use your lawnmower to mulch the fallen leaves, you won't have to rake them up, and they'll feed the lawn as they, and the fine grass clippings, decay.

Did anyone else have trouble with squirrels this year? Again I found my squash and melon plants shredded before they had a chance to grow at all, and only one cucumber vine survived unchewed. As the tomatoes grew and began to ripen, the squirrels feasted on them! I've had to pick fruits much greener than I like and try to ripen them inside. Peppers and beans remain untouched. Squirrels have also partaken of the figs, assisted by the birds, so vigilance has been required to harvest much there.

Did I mention that the birds got the raspberries again? Guess I'm going to have to figure out how to cage them next year. Maybe Nature's trying to tell me something, and I'm a slow learner! However, I still have pawpaws to enjoy, and the persimmons that are just starting. You win some, you lose some.



MILESTONES

Arlington Baptist Church is celebrating its 80th Anniversary! "Alcova Heights neighbors congratulate them and thank the church and its members for their generosity to our community." - Marie Van Ness

Longtime Alcova Heights resident Helen Bloomburg recently celebrated her 80th birthday.

Seventh Street resident Mike Rhode has just released a book of interviews with Harvey Pekar, author of "American Splendor," the longest-running and arguably most influential autobiographical comic book series produced in America. "Harvey Pekar: Conversations" is out from the University Press of Mississippi and is available at <http://www.upress.state.ms.us/books/1130>.

Do you know of someone celebrating a milestone in the neighborhood? Email editor@alcovaheightsva.com for inclusion in the newsletter.



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But you have to **pay back** the credit over the next 15 years, in equal amounts each year when you pay your federal taxes. That makes this more like an interest-free loan than a true credit.

Redefinition of Jumbo Loans

Under the new housing bill, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have permanent authority to buy bigger loans in areas with high housing costs. (Temporary measures allow them to buy bigger loans, but those expire on Dec. 31.) They can buy loans up to 115 percent of the local median home price, though they cannot buy any loans larger than **\$625,500**. Any larger loan will generally be a jumbo loan, which will cost more in interest. Loans up to **\$729,750** are available through December 31st, 2007

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UPDATE ON THE COUNTY BOARD WALK-THROUGH

By Marie Van Ness

Neighbors,

At the end of August we received follow-up responses to the issues addressed during the May 27 Walking Town Meeting Alcova Heights with the county board and some of the county staff.

As you may remember the issues included: pedestrian safety and traffic control at South 8th and South George Mason; traffic issues at South 7th and South Glebe; maintenance of the north side of Alcova Park; the increasing traffic and commuter parking at South 6th and South Quincy caused by construction at the Foreign Affairs Training Center; concerns associated with the Army National Guard expansion; the disposition of alleys, including maintenance and storm-water drainage; the request to block the alley between South 6th and South 7th Street; and storm water management on South Randolph.

None of these issues has a quick fix, although there have already been improvements in the care of the trees in the park as well as graffiti and kudzu removal. And the "slimy"

sidewalk on South 8th has been fixed.

The intersection at Glebe and South 7th is due to be upgraded in 2009. There has not been a final decision on the request to block the alley between South 6th and South 7th. The county is gathering usage and speed data. And the longstanding storm water drainage problem on South Randolph could be addressed by the county's newly funded storm water program.

The Foreign Affairs Center and Army National Guard issues will be more challenging as they involve the federal

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government. On 25 August 20-plus neighbors met with staff from the State Department, the Training Center, and the Arlington County BRAC liaison. Stay tuned for a full report on that meeting. The issues of the construction workers parking on South 6th and South Quincy and the noise from the construction were heated topics. More concerns like these can be expected as the Army National Guard moves forward with their expansion in 2009 to accommodate 1,200 relocating workers. AHCA has placed our concerns in writing and in person. The real work will be to actively be a presence with the BRAC personnel as these projects move forward to realization.

As we can all see, the squeaky wheel will have the best chance of getting the oil. All issues need attention and continued monitoring. We need to let the county staff know we take our community seriously and want to work with them to resolve our concerns. That's where you come in. Consider being a part of Alcova's effort to get the work done. We have a lot of talented people in our community. I envision developing small ad hoc groups who will take on an issue and work with the county staff solve it. Come to the September 25th AHCA meeting to see how you can be a part of the solutions. You can also e-mail me at mjvness@aol.com or call at 703-979-1589.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Arlington County Board Approves Accessory Dwellings

On July 19, 2008, the Arlington County Board approved changes in the zoning ordinance that will allow accessory dwellings in single-family homes and non-relatives to live in family/caregiver suites in single-family homes. The board also enacted strict requirements for accessory dwellings, including a cap that will restrict the number of new accessory dwellings to no more than 28 a year. In addition, the board directed staff to prepare, before the end of the year, a proposed Zoning Ordinance change that would provide for civil penalties for zoning violations, including overcrowding.

The changes came after months of public discussion and review by civic associations and county advisory boards.

For more information, visit the county website at <http://www.arlingtonva.us>.



Fire Department Canvassing for Fire Preparedness

The Arlington County Fire Department will be



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canvassing neighborhoods through September 15, 2008 to make sure families are prepared in the event of a fire. Firefighters will be offering free smoke alarms and home fire escape planning materials as part of this Get Alarmed, Virginia! grant program. Fire stations will be notifying residents of their impending visits with green yard signs, which will be located along easements on side streets and in local.

Additionally, the department will hold its annual Fire Prevention Week Open House at all county fire stations on October 11, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a free event, and all citizens are welcome to attend.

More information on these and other outreach efforts is available at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/Fire>.



Recycling Now Includes #1-7 Plastics

Arlington County announced that plastics with #1-7 recycling symbols will now be accepted through curbside and school recycling programs. The only #1-7 plastics that should NOT be put in the bin are plastic bags and Styrofoam. Leave the plastic caps on because they can be recycled too. Contact Kristen Rannels at Arlington County Recycling at krannels@arlingtonva.us with any questions.

Election Day is Coming; Are You Ready?

The Arlington County Electoral Board has released its "Election 2008 Survival Guide" with the 12 things that every Arlington voter needs to know on Election Day. Here's a summary, but be sure to check out the county's website for full details:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/VoterRegistration/ElectionInformation/Election2008Info.aspx>

- Election Date: November 4, 2008
- Voting Hours: 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Voter Registration Deadline: Monday, October 6, 2008
- Many polling places have changed. Check yours online here:
<https://www.voterinfo.sbe.virginia.gov/PublicSite/PublicMain.aspx>
- If you work outside of Arlington, you can vote absentee.
- There is a long ballot this year. Make sure you know what's on it.
- Expect long lines.
- Campaigners outside the polls have a right to be there.
- Please be patient. Election returns may be delayed.

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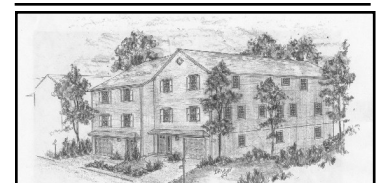
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