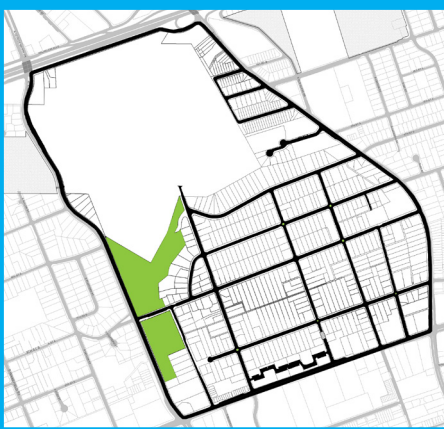


ALCOVA HEIGHTS

The Newsletter of the Alcova Heights Neighborhood, Arlington, Virginia

June 2015



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Alcova Heights Citizens Association Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Baptist Church,
8th and Monroe

Program:

Joint meeting with Douglas Park to discuss Arlington Presbyterian Church redevelopment plan. Send questions to ahca.mail@gmail.com

Potluck to precede meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Kelly's Column: Summer Warmth Brings Change to Alcova Heights

by Kelly Bulliner Holly, AHCA President

Dear Neighbors,

It was a long, rough winter, but summer is almost here, and it's a great time to live in Alcova Heights. As I look around the neighborhood, it seems we're in a time of change. On just about every block, there is new construction, new houses, and new neighbors. Please make it a point to welcome these newcomers to the neighborhood and let them know about the great resources we have for communicating with our fellow Alcovans:

- Our bimonthly citizens association meetings
- This newsletter
- Our community website (alcovaheights.com)
- Our Facebook page (facebook.com/groups/alcova/)
- And the neighborhood listserv (Alcova_Heights@yahoogroups.com)

Church Update

Speaking of our bimonthly meetings, the next Alcova Heights Citizens Association meeting will be THIS Tuesday, June 16 at 7 p.m. at the Baptist Church (714 S Monroe Street). This will be a special joint meeting with our friends from Douglas Park to receive a presentation from Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), in conjunction with the Arlington Presbyterian Church, to discuss the redevelopment plans for the church property at 3507 Columbia Pike.

I know a lot of you have been following developments on this topic very closely knowing the result of this process could have a large impact on our neighborhood. This is a great opportunity to get the latest news on the church property and ask questions of APAH and church officials.

Please note:

- This will be a moderated discussion. Please consider submitting your questions to me ahead of time at ahca.mail@gmail.com or to another member of the board to get it on our list of issues.
- APAH's submission, plans, and status are now available on-line on the Arlington County website: <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/arlington-presbyterian-church>.



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Potluck

For those that are interested, we will also be hosting a potluck dinner at the church prior to the meeting, starting at 6:30. The association will provide paper plates, napkins, cups, and utensils. We ask that families with last names beginning with A-K bring a main dish, L-R bring a side, and S-Z bring a dessert.

Speeding Concerns

On another point, as the mother of two young boys, and in light of the recent accident near TJ Middle School where a 14-year-old boy was hit by a car, I'd like to make a plea to our neighbors to obey the speed limits and traffic laws and to keep a watchful eye out for our children, pedestrians, runners, and bikers.

Volunteer!

And finally, as always, we need volunteers from throughout the community to make our special projects and events work. Please let me know how you plan to help.

Happy summer!

All my best,
Kelly

Abuzz in Alcova Heights



photos by Susi Lill

So far so good: These Italian honeybees managed by Fred Brandell replaced a hive of Russian bees that did not survive the winter. This successful hive has already been split in two. Reducing the size of a colony discourages swarming and also increases the number of producing hives. This is a top-bar system that uses a simple box with slats of wood laid across the top to which the bees attach their wax comb. Bees are insects and therefore greatly affected by insecticides as well as pesticides.

Traffic Report: Watch Out! New Red Light Cameras Around Alcova Heights

by Mike Kigin (mikekigin@gmail.com)

1. **WATCH OUT!** Red light cameras are or soon will be installed at intersections bordering our neighborhood at the following locations:



- Eastbound on Columbia Pike at S. Glebe Road
- Westbound on Columbia Pike at S. Glebe Road
- Eastbound on Columbia Pike at S. George Mason Drive
- See <http://www.wusa9.com/story/news/local/arlington%20/2015/02/27/new-red-light-cameras-to-be-installed-in-arlington-co/24155645/> for explanatory info and a list of other Arlington locations.

2. One of the Columbia Pike Bike Boulevards is now marked through Alcova Heights from Glebe Road west on 9th St. to Quincy St., then north to 7th St., then west to George Mason Drive. The Glebe Road and 9th Street South intersection will have a rectangular rapid flashing beacon and crosswalk installed with no turn restrictions and no HAWK beacon, as was originally planned.

3. The years-long storm sewer project at 8th Street and Monroe is now completed, and the secondary project on Monroe looks to be in the final stages of completion.

4. The fallen Alcova Heights sign at the corner of Quincy St. and Columbia Pike has been repaired by the county, and several of the directional signs at the traffic circles have been replaced after suffering collisions over the winter.

5. Attempts have been made via the Alcova Heights listserv to inform residents when street cleaning will occur and the approximate hours that the trucks will run (first on the named streets in the early morning and then on the numbered streets later in the day). This was coordinated with the county so that people would have a better chance of moving their cars in a timely manner. The jury is still out on how well that has worked. Comments are welcome.

Please direct questions or comments regarding traffic or infrastructure to MikeKigin@gmail.com or call me at 703-920-4899.

Opinion: Affordable Housing County plan abandons distribution goals

by Maura McMahon

I believe affordable housing is an important part of a vibrant, economically sustainable community. It provides stability that helps individuals and families achieve steady employment and better educational outcomes for their children while sustaining an accessible workforce for local employers. Affordable housing integrated throughout a locality also fosters economically diverse communities and schools, which facilitate upward socioeconomic mobility and help break the generational cycle of poverty.

Unfortunately, Arlington will abandon its current goals for geographic distribution of affordable housing if the county board votes to adopt the proposed Affordable Housing Master Plan in July. As written, this plan does nothing to remove the barriers to affordable housing in areas where there is little or none. It does not serve the interests of Alcovia Heights or the Columbia Pike community and provides a disservice to those who are to directly benefit.

The plan recommends:

- Evaluating the appropriateness of adding an affordable housing element to the Commercial Centers Form Based Code (FBC).
 - NO—The County must honor its commitment to the premises of the Neighborhoods Plan.
- Enacting restrictions on the use of the Affordable Housing Investment Fund or other county funds only in areas designated by HUD as “racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty.”
 - NO—Many impoverished areas do not meet HUD’s definition, some within the Barcroft Elementary School attendance zone.
- Retaining the current housing ordinance as it is.
 - NO—The option for developers to make cash contributions in lieu of providing affordable units must be revised.
- Increasing the amount of bonus density to encourage more new affordable units.
 - NO—Current bonus density incentives have failed to achieve existing goals for new units; future goals will be even higher.
- To consider applying the FBC in other parts of the County.
 - YES – but as a commitment to applying the FBC and other tools to facilitate construction of affordable housing where it is limited or lacking.

I ask you to contact your county board members and tell them to fix the plan before they approve it.

Maura McMahon, pawmer2@verizon.net

Schools Report: You Can Help the County Solve the Overcrowding Puzzle

by Lois Koontz

Do you like to solve puzzles? Play chess? Apply these skills to real-life decision-making and get to know Arlington County in a whole new light.

Summer is here, and the schools let out soon, but Arlington Public Schools (APS) and the county board want to collaborate with you to choose the next site(s) for elementary schools in South Arlington. We need to figure out where everything will fit in our county.

This past Thursday, the School Board appointed Greg Greeley the chair for the new South Arlington Elementary School Site Selection Working Group. The group members will be appointed this week. You can act as a neighborhood advocate, PTA rep, or at-large representative. If your schedule won’t permit regular attendance, you can come to any of the meetings. There will be many opportunities to provide input and feedback.

The school board is also continuing work on a variety of ongoing initiatives ranging from the evolving rollout of new technologies (laptops and tablets), remote language instruction and on-line classes, and the further introduction of FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools) to schools that don’t already have the program.

Finally, the county and APS continue work on a comprehensive facilities study. This process is examining both the facilities needs and costs with consideration of available space now and in the future. Sound big? It is!

You can learn more and share your ideas in a week-long virtual forum June 2 to 9. Don’t be shy. You can check out what’s been going on at <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/>

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Clean-up Crew Tackles Trash at Alcova Park

2015 Alcova Heights Park Clean-up organizer Mikael Manoukian reports that a crew of neighbors pulled more than 30 bags worth of trash and recyclables from the park and along Doctor's Run during the May 30 event. A bike frame, a car tire, shock absorber, and exhaust pipe were also among the haul. The county donated supplies to the team and picked up the trash at the end.



Left to right: Mikael Manoukian, Ingrid Issacs, Derrick Gallardo, Alfred M., Anthony W., Jonathan H., Audrey Sullivan, Steve Perry, Tom & Raina Rose Tagle, and their son. Not pictured: Marie Van Ness, Larry Yungk, Jody Upton, Carlin and Chris Anderson, Gretchen Edwards, Jocelyn & Brian Redmon, and Emily Crews.



Ducks and trash, not a good mix.



PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION

AHCA dues are \$10 per household. Please use the addressed envelope in this newsletter to pay or send a check to: AHCA, c/o Karen Osterloh, Treasurer, 3817 S 8th, Arlington, Va. 22204

Or send through PayPal to alcova.treasurer@gmail.com. Please include your name, street address, e-mail address, phone number in the Notes section and add \$1 to cover the PayPal transaction fee.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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