

ALCOVA HEIGHTS

Arlington, VA

NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2005

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The Halloween Parade is one of my favorite things about living in Alcov Heights. We live on the corner of 8th and Monroe, and have always had a ringside seat to the pre-parade festivities. Before we had children, my husband and I would set up chairs on our sidewalk and watch the kids and families congregate — comparing costumes, trying to scare each other, and jockeying for position behind the fire truck. A couple of those kids are too cool to march now, but there is a new generation of witches, sailors, pirates and cats to lead us to the party in the park.

This year, we are gathering in the church parking lot at 2:45 pm, and marching at 3:15 pm. The route will follow 8th Street to the party in the park, where we'll have cookies, candies and prizes. Delynn Periandri — our unofficial Parade & Party Master — is looking for volunteers and donations of candy and treats for the party. She will have a box on her porch at 3705 South 9th Street. We also need people to help out at the park at 2:15 for the party set-up before the parade.

Please put out your chair along 8th Street, clap and cheer for the kids, and remember how much fun it was to be a kid on Halloween. Or better yet, put on a mask and join us!

Also of note—

If you like the sleek, new look of the newsletter, be sure to thank Michele Chaves, of 6th Street. Michele, a designer and mother of two-year old Annie, took time out of her busy schedule to do the design and layout. Thanks, Michele!

Are you interested in painting a neighborhood sign? Maura McMahon, who was in charge of the endeavor, is having too much fun with her new addition (baby Ian — not the family room!), and is looking for someone to finish the job. If you are willing to help, contact Maura at pawmer2@starpower.net

It looks like Alcov Heights is leading the way on development on the Pike. Check out Tim Lynch's update in the newsletter, and note the two properties within Alcov Heights — the Alcov Row townhouse project, and the Patent Law building project.

—Susan DuBois

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 29th	Alcov Heights Annual Halloween Parade 2:45 pm Barcroft Elementary Halloween Party and Open House 5-8 pm
November 10th	Alcov-sponsored dinner for Doorways (see article below)
November 15th	Next Neighborhood Meeting (elections, too!)
December	TBD Third Annual Alcov Heights Holiday Caroling Party

NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Our next association meeting has not been scheduled, but will most likely be on Tuesday, November 15th at the Baptist Church — enter from the parking lot at 8th and Monroe. Potluck dinner will start at 6:00 and the program starts at 6:30. Babysitting will be provided. We will be electing a new slate of officers. Elly Merica has been nominated for President, Cliff Anckaitis has been nominated for Vice-President, Marie Van Ness has been nominated as Secretary, and Sara Uzel will serve again as Treasurer. Nominations are also welcome from the floor.

LOCAL SCHOOL UPDATES

October 12th	Wakefield HS College Night at Ballston Commons 7-10pm
October 17th	Come and see the Barcroft Break Dancers perform at Barnes and Noble in Clarendon at 6:00 pm for the kick off to Educators Week!
October 22nd	Beautification Day at Barcroft Elementary 8:30 am to 3pm
October 26th	Wakefield HS Orchestra concert
October 29th	Barcroft's Halloween Party and Open House 5-8pm

For news about Barcroft's Modified School Year Calendar, please go to <http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/schools/barcroft> and click on MSY. To subscribe to the PTA list serve, send a message to: BarcroftPTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

GOOD TO KNOW

Order Online Brush Pick-up:

https://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/swd/brush_pickup.asp

Arlington County Library Online:

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

Columbia Pike Initiative Information:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/forums/columbia/CPHDForumsColumbiaColumbiaPikeInitiativeMain.aspx>

SHIATSU

FAST, FAST RELIEF! Shiatsu massage based on acupuncture points. Tension relief offered for head, neck, and shoulders. 20 minutes for \$20.00. Will visit or be visited. Call Reggie Nixon (703) 685-7496.

ALCOVA GARDEN CORNER

by Master Gardener Alice Nicolson

'Leave' Them Alone: Lawn Leaf Management

Mike Goatley, Jr. Extension Turf Specialist, Virginia Tech

While we enjoy the beautiful colors associated with fall foliage, we also realize that most of those leaves will soon be on the ground. At this time of year, many turf managers quit managing grass and shift their focus instead to leaf management. However, the treatment and/or disposal of these leaves is a time consuming and costly process. Are there reasonable alternatives in leaf management?

The answer is yes. And the technique is one that many of you have used for years — leaf mulching directly into the turf. There are several university research reports detailing how leaf mulching affects turf performance. In almost every instance, the results show that chopping up deciduous leaves as part of a regular mowing schedule is an effective means of managing them without harming the turf.

There are some important considerations before using leaf mulching in turf as a method of leaf disposal. While mulching mowers are preferred because of special deck and/or blade designs to mulch clippings, almost any rotary mowing unit can suffice. However, think safety first. Inspect the site and remove sticks and limbs before mulching. This greatly reduces the chance that you or someone else can be hurt, and improves the performance and life of your mower. Wear safety goggles and an air mask over your mouth and nose to protect from debris and dust. Mulch leaves when they are suitably dry rather than soaking wet.

Consider utilizing your rotary or mulching mower as a leaf disposal tool this fall. Mulching leaves directly back into the turf has proven to be a cost (and time) effective means of leaf disposal, does not negatively impact turf performance, and helps reduce the volume of landfill waste.

OLD AND NEW NEIGHBORS

A Remembrance by Chuck Pill

I used to see Jose most everyday. Then I didn't. I'd see him most every month. He would look like Ho Chi Min sitting on his porch smoking his long-stem pipe, along 7th Street just before Quincy. He'd walk with a crutch, mostly. Sometimes, not.

Some days we'd talk. He was a naval engineer, I think. Or was it agriculture. He'd go and have a meal at Ft Myer. I took Jose to vote last November.

It was fun to get the vote out. The last I heard from Jose was in his very nice 'thank you' note he'd left me. It was a note of thanks and a summary of the rest of his day.

Jose passed away after a week at Arlington Hospital. I did not know until a couple weeks later. He died as my son Joshua was born, the same day, at the same place. It was March 14, 2005.

LATVIA BY WAY OF ARLINGTON AND CALIFORNIA

by Lisa Cherkasky

Alcova Heights has new neighbors at 3917 8th Street South. David, Senja, Mira, and Ari Holahan, arrived here from Carlsbad, CA in early August, en route to Riga, Latvia, where they will head next summer. David, a Marine, is in training to become the Defense Attaché at the American Embassy in Riga.

Mira, age 7, and Ari, age 5, both attend Barcroft Elementary and are very happy there. A native of Finland, Senja has shared her language with her children, speaking Finnish at home and taking them to classes at the embassy. Mira and Ari are both bilingual. If you see the Holahans around the neighborhood, the word for 'hello' in Finnish is 'hei' (pronounced "hey").

BARCROFT BUDDIES

Barcroft Elementary School is looking for community volunteers to participate in the Barcroft Buddies program. Starting last year as a part of its efforts to respond to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, the school is continuing after a successful first year with over 50 volunteers.

Barcroft Buddies volunteer for one hour each week and work one-on-one with a 3rd, 4th or 5th grade student. The school can accommodate volunteers before, during or after school or on Saturday mornings. The school provides an individualized packet of reading materials, training, supervision and matches volunteers with a student. While the focus of the program is on reading, the hour sessions allow time for assisting with homework or writing. No specialized skills are needed and volunteers speaking English or Spanish are welcome.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call Barcroft's principal, Miriam Hughey-Guy at 703 228-5838 or Suzanne Day at 703 271-9383.

VOLUNTEER WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!

Alcova Heights Supports DOORWAYS For Women And Families

On the second Thursday of each month, Doorways clients come together for a meal and an educational program designed to help them on their way to self-sufficiency. Each month a volunteer group prepares a meal for 30-40 people as well as plates, utensils and "to go" containers clients can use to take home leftovers. Alcova Heights families will sponsor dinner on November 10th. We need volunteers to cook, serve and purchase food and utensils. If you are interested, email Beth Connors at beth@connorsofcourse.com.

This is a great neighborhood opportunity! Groups collect donations, cook the food at their own location, then bring the food to Clarendon United Methodist Church to heat and serve (buffet-style) on the second Thursday evening at 6 pm. If you're interested in volunteering for a meal in 2006, please contact Jennifer Greenfield at jgreenfield@doorwaysva.org or 703-522-8858, ext. 13.

ALCOVA HEIGHTS RESIDENTS WIN PRIZES AT THE COUNTY FAIR!

Alcova Heights had several winning entries in this year's County Fair produce competition. Teddy Telzrow, a 5-year old Barcroft kindergartener, won Second Place for his potatoes. Nick and Katy DuBois (ages 5 and 3), won an Honorable Mention ribbon for the "surprise corn" that grew in their front yard this summer. Laurie Miller won Grand Champion for her "mulch" pumpkin. The pumpkin was deemed the best pumpkin for the adult age bracket. It went on to win as best specimen for the adult age bracket for the Vegetable, Fruits, Herbs and Nuts category, competing against the winners of all the other items in that category. The pumpkin was tenderly nurtured after Laurie found the vine growing out of her compost pile in July. She will be donating the pumpkin seeds to Barcroft Elementary School for its own Outdoor Classroom. Lesson learned - don't throw away this year's pumpkins. Put them on your compost pile and grow your own for next year! You may even have a prize in your future for the effort.



RECEIPE CORNER BY LISA CHERKASKY

Almond-Cherry Granola

3 - 4 cups rolled oats
2 cups dried cherries
1/2 cup sliced almonds
1 1/2 - 2 cups banana chips, broken
2 tablespoons butter, melted
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1/3 - 1/2 cup honey

Preheat oven to 350. Cover a sided sheetpan with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, stir together rolled oats, cherries, almonds and banana chips. In a medium bowl, whisk together butter, oil and honey.

Pour liquids into granola mix and stir thoroughly. Spread granola on parchment-lined pan and bake 40-45 minutes, stirring occasionally.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION UPDATE

First the good news: a project to install sidewalks, curb, gutter, and landscaped utility strips on 7th Street between Oakland and Quincy finally received approval by residents after four decades of attempts! Now the bad news: it STILL remains in the funding queue!

The project received the necessary quorum of signatures by affected homeowners in March of 2004. It became our neighborhood's first priority project and moved on to the next phase in the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) process — funding. Funding of NC projects is a process whereby projects from neighborhoods across Arlington queue up to receive bond monies earmarked for NC projects (thanks to Arlington voters for approval of the last bond!). The process is made civilized by project prioritization with projects assigned points according to established NC criteria. There are two funding rounds per year.

The 7th Street project has languished in the "Land of the 20-Pointers," along with several fellow 20-pointers from other neighborhoods, for 3 funding rounds now. In a process designed to expedite projects that have been in the queue for a long period of time, after 4 funding rounds we will receive a whopper in bonus points. The hope is that our total points will then allow us to finally receive funding, in the Spring of 2006. After experiencing long project construction periods in the past, the NC program is making a concerted effort to complete projects in a two-year time frame after funding. Pencil in that sidewalk ribbon-cutting for the Spring of 2008!!

Alcova Heights has two other projects in the works through NC. A project to fund Carlyle-style street lights on 1st Road, 2nd Street, and 3rd Street in the section of Alcova Heights north of the Fire Station has the requisite signatures and is ready to go in the funding round next. Cliff Anckaitas is the Block Rep. for that project. Suzanne Manlove, Block Rep. for a sidewalk project on 8th Street from Monroe to Quincy, reports that they have reduced the scope to include the north side of the street only. New petitions have been circulated, and they are attempting to drum up the signatures needed. As Suzanne says, "With homeowner's support, we could walk all the way down 8th Street from Glebe to George Mason on a sidewalk!" If you haven't signed your petition yet or if you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Manlove at 703.892.1462 or suzannemanlove@yahoo.com. We need to hear from you, 8th Streeters!

Karla Hagan

Alcova Heights' Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Rep.

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ALCOVA HEIGHTS NEW PARENTS GET-TOGETHER

Do you have a little one two years old or younger? Would you like to meet other new parents in Alcovia Heights? The first New Parents Group get-together will be hosted by Reidy Brown and John Fountaine on October 22, at 5:00 pm (so little ones can go to bed early), at 3514 8th Street.

It's a potluck, so please bring a covered dish. Contact Reidy Brown at reidybrown@comcast.net or 703-892-8974 with questions. Please RSVP to Reidy by October 19th.

MESSAGE FROM CAPTAIN PAUL LARSON

Now that summer is over, the Police Department is gearing up for the cold weather and the start of accident season. Car accidents increase over the winter, mostly because of the weather, but also because people are distracted and busy.

Let's pledge that we will concentrate on our driving by not talking on cell phones, reading the newspaper or attending to personal grooming as we drive. While some of you may think that I am crazy, these things happen everyday. Plan ahead, and take a little extra time before you get in the car, and you can get to your destination without causing an accident. A motto we have in the Police Department is, 'if you write an accident report, everyone goes to court'. In other words, the person at fault in the accident will receive a ticket and the other driver(s) will get a subpoena to testify in court.

On the crime front, overall statistics are at there lowest since 1962. However, always call when you see something suspicious. Don't think "the police are too busy" or "I don't want to bother you" — we rely on communication from the people who know what is going on in their neighborhoods. If you see something out of the ordinary, then call. The non-emergency number is 703-558-2222. We will check things out to make sure everything is on the up and up.

I hope everyone had a peaceful and relaxing summer.

Thank You,

Captain Paul Larson
Third District Commander
Arlington County Police Department

DEVELOPMENT ON COLUMBIA PIKE

by Tim Lynch, Executive Director, CPRO

What's the most common question on Columbia Pike? When do we start? Many properties are now under contract with planning underway. The following is a list of projects and their status. Keep in mind that an approved project must then close on the sale of the land (up to six months) apply for and get building permits (currently about an eight month process) before beginning construction. The construction period from first shovel in the ground to key-in-the-door runs 21 to 24 months.

Alcovia Row townhouses have begun excavation and foundation work. This 22 unit development by Centex is pre-sold

and will begin to create an urban street wall leading into Columbia Pike's Village Center Revitalization District. The units will have front stoops on Columbia Pike with two car garages and guest parking off an alley in back. On-street parking along Columbia Pike will enhance the pedestrian environment and provide additional parking. Construction is ongoing.

Columbia Center at the southwest corner of S. Walter Reed Dr. and Columbia Pike is the first Columbia Pike Form Based Code approved project. This 269 unit condominium with over, 40,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space and nearly 500 underground parking spaces is scheduled to begin construction and sales in August 2005.

Patent Law Building at S. Oakland St. and Columbia Pike just went under contract. Initial plans call for a six-story, mixed-use building at Columbia Pike tapering to a 3 - story residential building at the back of the property. No submission schedule is available at this time.

Penrose Square (a.k.a. Adams Square) will be a joint venture with the B.M. Smith Co. and Carbon-Thompson. The current plan includes a full size Giant grocery store with up to 28,000 square feet of additional retail space. Rental apartments above will complete the project. Building height along Columbia Pike will be six stories. The S. 9th St. frontage will be no taller than 3 - stories. Parking will be underground, at grade and in a parking structure wrapped by the buildings. In addition to the parking for the stores and residences, the project will include up 280 additional public parking spaces. The team is working through various site constraints and hopes to submit to the approval process before the end of the year.

Pike Builders I (a.k.a. Capstone) was expected to be the first approved and built project on Columbia Pike. For a variety of reasons it wasn't. A new team, Pike Builders I, has taken up the gauntlet and is working on a mixed-use, retail, residential condominium. Parking will be below ground with 3 - story residential buildings on S. Edgewood St., a new section of S. 11th St. and part of S. Walter Reed Dr. where the property abuts neighboring single family homes. Where called for in the Columbia Pike Form Based Code, a base of retail on S. Walter Reed Dr. will underpin five floors of residential units. Pike Builders I awaits the County's decision on the exact location of the new S. 11th St.

Safeway is under contract with a developer who is drawing up plans for a six-story, mixed-use building. The project will include 25-30,000 square feet of retail on the ground floor with residences or commercial office above. Parking will be underground. The developer hopes to submit to the approval process in the fall.

FAMILY SHOW AT THE BARCROFT COMMUNITY COFFEEHOUSE

Storyteller Jim Weiss — Family Show

Friday, November 18th, 2005 @ 4:30pm

Admission is \$5 — Doors open at 4:10pm

Please call or email to reserve your seat today!

Reservations: 703.486.0457 or
communitycoffeehouse@comcast.net

PIKE TRANSIT INITIATIVE

Is transit really coming to Columbia Pike? The Pike Transit Initiative Report in nearing completion and the "Locally Preferred Option" appears to be a streetcar system connecting Columbia Pike to Pentagon City at the east and Skyline to the west. The system will provide six-minute headway streetcar service during the day and three-minute headway bus/streetcar service during the morning and evening rush. Headway refers to the number of minutes between vehicles.

Go to www.piketransit.com for more information.

List with Lynn

Just Listed 4429 S. 1st Street Barcroft
A Classic Brick 3 Level Colonial on Quiet Street

This home has many (expensive) updates like :

Heating/Cooling, Windows, Paint, Gas FP.
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**MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM**

by Marie Van Ness

Like all senior citizens, Alcova Heights residents age 65 and over, will soon have the opportunity to sign up for Plan D of the Medicare Program. The program has raised many questions for seniors. Some of them are:

- Who is Eligible ?
- What if I Have Retiree Insurance?
- What if I Have an HMO?
- How Do I Apply?
- What Happens if I Do Nothing?

Fortunately, the Arlington County Agency on Aging has personnel who can answer these questions for interested residents. Marie Van Ness has been in contact with one of the Medicare Specialist, who has offered to come to meet with Alcova Heights residents. If you are interested in attending a gathering in Alcova Heights, in early November to discuss the prescription drug coverage, please contact Marie at mjvness@aol.com or call at 703 979-1589. Please give name, phone number or e-mail address, preferred time of day (day or evening) you would like to meet and the number of people who would be attending. This is also an excellent opportunity for caretakers and adult children of seniors to ask questions. If you want to talk with someone sooner, you can contact the Arlington Agency on Aging 703 228-1700 or Arlaaa@arlingtonva.us.

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Happy Halloween From Jan Kennemer!

ALCOVA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Acting President	Elly Merica (merica@erols.com)
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Sara Uzel (suzel@techtrendsgrp.com)
Secretary	Vacant
ACCF Rep	Dave Hurren (dphurren@yahoo.com)
NCAC Rep	Karla Hagan (hepcats@comcast.net)
Newsletter	Susan DuBois (dougnsusan@msn.com)
Layout	Michele Chaves
Advertising	Vacant
Circulation	Rhea Dola
Webmaster	Jerry Gideon (but needs a replacement)
Listserve Manager	Mike Rhode (mrhode@hotmail.com)

As you can see, we need lots of help to make the Association a success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact one of the above-listed people. In particular, the Alcova Heights newsletter needs a few helping hands — particularly with managing the advertising. If interested, please email Susan at dougnsusan@msn.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Beautiful Velvet Chair — Art deco style easy chair. Dusty rose with honey colored piping and button detail. Excellent condition. \$250 Contact Lisa Cherkasky at 3618 6th Street (703) 486-9553

Four year old white, wall attached **GE microwave**, asking \$50 and four year old Kenmore, **black dishwasher** asking \$75. Call for details or to ask questions: John or Mark — 703.979.2462.

Computer desk: large, two year old computer desk with hutch, keyboard tray and two drawers. Excellent condition, natural wood color. Asking \$80. Call Susan at 703-486-3684 for more details.

Color computer monitor: ViewSonic, UltraBrite A90F+, 19 inch. Less than 2 years old. Excellent condition. Asking \$50. Call Caesar or Michele at 703.979.4151.

JOIN THE ALCOVA HEIGHTS YAHOO LIST SERVE

We have a Yahoo list for residents of Alcova Heights at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alcova_Heights/. Residents are encouraged to post local news, discuss neighborhood concerns and trade tips on home improvements. School events and information is appropriate as well. You don't need to live in Alcova Heights to be a member, but we encourage postings to be on topic. Posters are responsible for the content of their messages, and while respectful debate is encouraged, libel should be avoided. Extremely-limited commercial speech has been tolerated by the members in the past. The list is currently managed by Mike Rhode of South 7th, and he can be reached at mrhode@hotmail.com if you have any questions or need help in subscribing. Like all Yahoo groups, messages can be received individually, as a daily digest or read on the website.

Local Housing Market Cools Off

Homeowners have placed their properties on the market in unprecedented numbers in the past few months. This summer the supply of homes grew to over 20,000 in the DC Metro area, and continues to grow in September. With demand falling, the market has shifted in the last few months and is in a cool-down period, as there hasn't been enough buyer demand to absorb the additional listings. Sales fell in July and August to their lowest level in two years. The housing market seems to be returning to "normalcy" after a frenzied era of multiple contracts, bidding wars and desperate buyers waiving their right to property inspections or appraisals.

Currently in the DC area suburbs, where prices have about doubled in four years, some sellers who expect results within days of posting a for-sale sign have been and continue to be disappointed. Homes are sitting on the market longer, many with price reductions. Buyers now have the time to pick and choose among neighborhoods before buying and carefully consider the

lofty prices they are paying. Pricing and condition are more important in the current climate to capture buyer interest.

Arlington County has seen some incredible price appreciation so far this year, mostly in the first and second quarter. Year to date in Alcova Heights, sales have been steady. As of this writing (9/27/05) there have been 17 homes sold and settled in the neighborhood, with an average list price of \$641,929 and an average sales price of \$643,862.

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