



NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2006

JANUARY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING UPDATE FROM MARIE VAN NESS

The meeting of the Alcova Heights Civic Association (AHCA) Planning Committee was held on January 12th, at the home of Marie Van Ness, our association secretary. The most important outcome of the meeting was to set the schedule for the neighborhood activities and meetings in the coming year.

NEIGHBOR MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of every month, except when there are holiday conflicts or a special community event. Potluck dinners will be held when there are general meetings, unless otherwise noted. All general meetings will be held at the Baptist Church (located on the block between 7th Street and 8th Street on Monroe), and will feature a 6:30 pm potluck, with the meeting to start at 7:00 pm. Babysitting will be available during the meetings.

To advertise the meetings, the association will make ten signs to be placed in the traffic circles and the main entrances to Alcova Heights. E-mail announcements will go out the Sundays before the meetings, and the newsletter will also feature an updated "Calendar of Events" for the neighborhood.

KEEPING UP WITH COLUMBIA PIKE DEVELOPMENT

Columbia Pike is slated to undergo a radical transformation in the next few years. Will there be trolleys, more buses, lots of condos, a skate rink or a slow build-up? Will it look like Clarendon, Seven Corners or Del Ray? We won't know unless we have an ear to the ground.

There are regular monthly meetings regarding Pike development, and it would be good to have an AHCA representative present to advocate for the residents, and report back to the association. Perhaps we could establish a committee with several members who rotate attendance at these meetings. Elly Merica will attend the January meeting, and provide an update at the next neighborhood meeting. Lander Allin, an Alcova resident who has been very involved in Columbia Pike development, is willing to do a information session on the subject of Form Base Code at a spring meeting. If you are interested in being a part of a Pike Development Committee, please contact Elly Merica, or speak up at the next association meeting.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS A FEW GOOD MEN.... AND WOMEN

While we have had an increase in neighborhood activity, we have had a poor response to the directory request, and a relatively static number of dues-paying members. We have over 600 households in Alcova Heights, and less than 200 members. Membership in the neighborhood association costs only \$10 a year, and helps fund all of our activities. A committee tasked with increasing membership, including listserve members and directory responses, would be a great way to increase community participation.

We also need to folks to revisit our neighborhood conservation plan, to plan the Spring Park Clean Clean-Up, and to be responsible for placing signs in the circles for our meetings. If you'd like to help out, please contact an association officer, or speak up at the next meeting.

RUNNING AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

We knew that kids kept parents on their

toes, but now a decidedly non-scientific survey of residents in the 3800 block of South Seventh Streets suggests that living with children can lead to ... running marathons. Among a stretch of six houses on the west side of the street, all three homes with children have a marathon-running parent. None of the residents of the adult-only homes are distance runners. Kristen Laufenburg and Laura Cunningham completed the Marine Corps Marathon last fall. It was the first marathon for Laura, whose son is Will.Kristen has run multiple marathons. Her children are Chaise and Gray. At press time, John Pulley, father of Henry and Charlie, was completing final preparations for the ING Marathon in Miami on January 29-his first. His goal is to cross the finish line in a dignified and upright position. Like Laura, he is running to raise money for the Whitman Walker Clinic, the region's top provider of HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and treatment. The Washington-based clinic has an office in Arlington. The neighborhood has submitted grant applications to the National Institutes of Health and Ripley's Believe It Or Not seeking funds to study the link between parenting and running. A provision of the application would allow the funds to be used for sidewalk construction and maintenance, including a symposium on proper snow-removal technique and a forum for discussing the ethical imperative of cleaning up after pets.

For information on sponsoring John with a donation to Whitman Walker, call (703) 892-7025 or send e-mail to johnlpulley@yahoo.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2006

February 9th: General Meeting with Potluck Dinner.

March 9th: Special Event: Neighbor and naturalist Sue

Johnson will present a workshop on Gardens, Yards and Wildlife.

April 20th: General meeting with Potluck Dinner;

neighbor Lander Allin will speak on

Columbia Pike Development.

May TBD: Special event: Neighborhood Day. The

Association will sponsor an Alcova Park and

Stream Clean-up and Picnic.

June 8th: General Meeting with Potluck Dinner.

June TBD: AHCA House and Garden Tour.

August TBD: Special event National Night-Out Ice

Cream Social in Alcova Park.

Sept 14th: General meeting with Potluck Dinner.

Oct 12th: General meeting with Potluck Dinner;

nominate officers.

Oct 28th: Special event: Annual Halloween Parade.

Nov 9th: General meeting with Potluck Dinner

and Elections.

Dec TBD: Caroling/Bonfire in Alcova Park.

POLICE DISPATCH

The last few months have been very quiet in Alcova Heights. Crime is down in every category, which gives the Police Department more time to focus on quality of life type issues like traffic enforcement. Several officers have spent a good amount of time in Alcova Heights on S. Monroe St., S. 6th and 7th Sts. enforcing the speed limit. This effort has not produced a high volume of tickets, but it has put the officers in the neighborhood in order to deter other crimes. I believe this effort has helped in the overall crime in Alcova Heights.

Since October 2005, there have only been seven reported criminal incidents: one burglary to a business (unit block of S. Glebe Rd.), one stolen car (3700 blk of S. 1st Rd.), one assault (Columbia Pike/S. Oakland St., arrest made) and four cars that were broken into in different locations. These figures are extremely low compared to other neighborhoods.

Please remember to keep valuables out of your car, and lock your doors! I hope you have a safe and happy 2006.

Captain Paul Larson Third District Commander 703-228-4097 plarso@arlingtonva.us

SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 11th Rummage Sale at Barcroft Elementary

February 24th Summer Activities Fair

March 2nd Children's Book Exchange & Cocoa Hour

at Barcroft

March 12th Hurricane Katrina Benefit at Barcroft

Elementary

March 30-31 Talent Show at Kenmore

For more information about events, locations and times, visit the APS website at http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/.

ALCOVA NEIGHBORHOOD INTEREST GROUPS

Ever wonder if there might be some neighbors who share some of your interests? Neighbors who like to read, go for walks, garden, try new restaurants, play cards — the list could be endless. At the November meeting, a few topics were identified and they caught the eye of some of the people attending. Below are several of those groups. The persons listed have agreed to be points of contact (POC) and would like to hear from others who might want to join them. Give them a call and have a good time.

Walking Group: contact Pam Roach at

pproach@attglobal.net

New Restaurants: contact Rene Jones/Charlie Causey at

703-892-1317 or email riones@fics-llc.com

Cards/Bridge: contact Susanna McIlwaine at

703- 979-0759 or sfrdc@erols.com

Book Club: contact Lynn Gant at

LYNN.GANT@Longandfoster.com

Gardening: contact Laurie Miller at

yahtzqn@comcast.net

If someone wants to start a new group, identify a POC and contact Marie Van Ness at mjvness@aol.com. We'll get the news out!

FOOD DONATIONS

Arlington Baptist Church, where we hold our association meetings, operates a Food Pantry for members of the community. The church has been very generous to the Alcova Heights Civic Association by allowing us the use of their facilities for our general meetings at no cost. Let's show our appreciation by bringing a non-perishable item to the February meeting to donate to the pantry. Donations can also be dropped off at the church (S.Monroe St side, ring bell for administrator) on Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9:30AM to 2:30PM. Right now the pantry needs cereal...we can do this!

ATTENTION AH RESIDENTS WHO LIVE NORTH OF THE FIRE STATION:

We have no volunteers from 1st, 2nd or 3rd Streets to deliver the newspaper. Please become involved in your neighborhood by helping out! Contact Rhea Dola to volunteer.

RECIPE CORNER BY LISA CHERKASKY

Here's a real old timey one — from the days when the role I have now belonged to my mother.

SUPER QUICK PRALINE COOKIES

My introduction to this cookie is from Political Potluck, a fundraising cookbook put together by the Outagamie County (Wisconsin) Democratic Women's Committee (of which my mother was the chair) in 1965. The last line of the recipe reads, "good for campaign emergencies." According to my mother, in the Midwest, in the 60's, you would never have a meeting without offering cookies and coffee. The original version calls for 8 minutes of baking in a 350 F oven, which makes for a crispier cookie. Makes 4 dozen Warning: Extreme humidity will make these cookies sticky.

48 graham cracker quarters (1 sleeve or 1/3 of a 16 ounce box) 1 cup unsalted butter

1 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup chopped almonds

Line a rimmed sheetpan with parchment paper, waxed paper or a silpat.Set graham crackers very close together in sheetpan. In microwave, melt butter. Stir in sugar and microwave on high for 5 1/2 minutes.Stir in nuts thoroughly. Pour glaze over graham crackers and spread evenly to cover all surfaces. Let cool 2 hours before breaking apart.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Your neighborhood Catholic School, St. Thomas More Cathedral School will be holding open houses for prospective students and their parents on Wednesdays, February 1, 15 and March 8. Join us from 9:00 am to 11:00 am for refreshments, tours of the school and to meet our educators. For more information call (703) 528-6781 or visit www. stmschool.org.

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HURRICANE KATRINA BENEFIT AT BARCROFT ELEMENTARY

Featuring Parents Choice GOLD Award Winner STEVE SONGS

Please join your neighbors on Sunday, March 12, 2006, at 5:00 PM for a fundraiser sponsored by Barcroft Elementary School in support of the River Shelter Nursery School in Baker, Louisiana. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door, and are available on-line at www.stevesongs.com/shows.

Family discount tickets are also available for \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. To purchase advance FAMILY DISCOUNT tickets, please send an email to kgracemcgwier@comcast.net with your family name and the number of children attending in the subject headline. You will then receive an email with a mailing address to send checks to and a confirmation receipt to use for admittance to the show. All checks must be made out to the S.W.A.N. Children's Relief Fund. For more information on the pre-school program and the Southern Women's Action Network Children's Relief Fund that supports the community of families in the pre-school please go to www.swanbr.org/program_nursery.aspx

The doors will open at 4:30 for open seating, and there will a first-come, first-served Louisiana Gumbo Dinner after the concert. For more information, please contact Katherine at (703)362-0168 or send an email to kgracemcgwier@comcast.net. All proceeds go directly to the SWAN's Children's Relief Fund!



LIST WITH LYNN Your Alcova Heights Resident Realtor

*Lynn Gant*Cell: 703-989-7205

Website: www.ListWithLoisandLynn.com

Email: Lynn.Gant@LongandFoster.com

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Alcova Heights resident!

VISIT THE NEW ALCOVA HEIGHTS WEBSITE

Our thanks to 6th Street resident Michelle Larsen, who has recently taken charge of updating and maintaining the AHCA website. Michelle welcomes your suggestions for what to keep from the current site - located at www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/7326/ — and things you'd like to see added, as well as any photos from neighborhood events that you would like to submit for display online. Please send your comments, suggestions, photos and hellos to reg3504@att.net.

CHECK OUT ARLINGTON'S HOTSPOTS – GRAB YOUR LAPTOP AND HEAD TO THE LIBRARY!

Arlington Public Library offers unlimited free high-speed Internet access at Central, Aurora Hills, and Columbia Pike libraries. Read an eBook, download audiobooks, chat, catch up on the news, do research, do homework, play a game-on your computer, at your leisure...and at your library. For more information, check out http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/Libraries/cyber/LibrariesCyberWireless.aspx.



NCAC UPDATE

Alcova Heights' highest priority project, sidewalks on 7th Street, was not approved for funding in the last NCAC funding round for 2005. However, our project remains in the queue for the next funding round in the spring, and will receive bonus points for being in the queue for the past 4 sessions. Unfortunately, the upcoming round is the end of a bond cycle, and there remains only \$1.3 million (out of a \$10 million bond) for funding projects.

All NCAC reps have seen their projects skyrocket in cost as they wait in the queue, due to rising construction costs, though the project has undergone no changes or upgrades. Our project began life as an approximately \$260,000 project. It is now priced at \$519,000. Yes, that is in two years, and yes that is with no changes/upgrades to the project!

Our \$519K project represents a significant chunk of the \$1.3M remaining. There will be 15-20 other projects also in line for funding this spring. In advance of the spring funding round, I will be meeting with our NCAC planning liaison to go over our project's numbers and see how we might improve chances of being funded.

Our neighborhood's other two NCAC projects — streetlights on 1st Rd, 2nd St, and 3rd St., and sidewalks on the north side of 8th St. between Monroe and Quincy — stand ready to take their place in the funding queue next. Stay tuned for updates on our current first priority project. We will connect friends and neighbors through more sidewalks in our neighborhood yet!

Karla Hagan Alcova Heights NCAC Representative 3908 7th St. 703.979.1959 hepcats@comcast.net

GARDEN CORNER BY ALICE NICOLSON

So your garden is looking a bit shaggy and unkempt? Here are some jobs you can do in late winter to get a head start on spring. Cutting back perennials — Did you leave your Echinacea and other seedheads standing to feed the birds? By now they're probably empty and you can cut them off.

Any time your ornamental grasses begin to look a bit beaten down by rain and snow, cut them back to 6"-1'. Do the same with Liriope, which tends to look tired after a year's exposure to the elements. If they still look OK, leave them until March, but plan to cut them back before growth starts (this may be hard to see in the grasses, but in the Liriope just part the leaves and look for the rounded tips of the new growth). I'm always distressed when people chop back these plants in fall; their best feature is as a winter attraction.

A mild day in February is a very good time to prune your grapevines. They put a huge amount of growth on every year but will bear better and be healthier if you prune them hard each year. Cut out dead wood; cut back each (light-colored) one-year-old stem to about 6 buds; if some branches have

gotten12-20' long, you may want to sacrifice these very long vines and encourage ones that are nearer the main stem and roots.

Do you have Forsythia bushes that make long lanky wands that you want to get rid of? Are your azaleas overgrown? This is NOT the time to prune any shrub that blooms in spring!!! Wait until the shrub blooms, and you can prune it by cutting the flowering branches for spring bouquets, or waiting til the flowers are finished before cutting it back or thinning and shaping it.

By the way, when the forsythias are in bloom is the time to spread corn gluten* or other germination inhibitors* on your lawn to reduce (and maybe even eliminate!) those nasty summer annual weeds like crabgrass, goosegrass, prostrate knotweed and spotted spurge. Remember, it's too late to do much about the winter annuals like chickweed, speedwell and most annual bluegrass (though you'll stop the seeds that might germinate in late spring). Try handweeding any big clumps and remember to use the germination inhibitors next fall, when these weeds germinate. Don't use "weed-and-feed" compounds since they usually don't have enough of the weed part to work well, and heavy lawn feeding should be done in the fall (except for zoysia). Perennial grass-like weeds cannot be controlled chemically except by killing the whole lawn with Roundup* and starting over in the fall. Perennial broadleaf weeds like dandelion, ground-ivy, plantain and violets can be reduced by using a broad-leaf herbicide* but don't apply it within the shadow (dripline) of any tree or shrub you value; it can move in the soil and damage the desired plants as well as the weeds. I find it therapeutic to hand dig these weeds; with persistence, you can keep them under control. Remember, a vigorous turf is the best weed control!

*always follow the instructions on the package

BARCROFT RUMMAGE SALE

You've heard the old adage "One Person's Trash is Another's Treasure"! Well...Come and enjoy the fun of "Yard Sale-ing" in the Winter while supporting the Barcroft School PTA at our first Winter Rummage Sale!

When: Saturday, February 11th Time: 8:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Where: Barcroft Elementary School, 625 S. Wakefield St.

Donations accepted can include: Gently used infant and children's clothing, furniture, household items, tools, working appliances, video tapes, DVDs and CDs, and toys and games. We will not sell books at this sale, but save your children's books for the free book exchange on March 2nd, 2006.

You may bring your donations to Barcroft School during school hours the week of February 6th - 10th, or Friday night 6 - 9 pm. All proceeds will benefit Barcroft Elementary School. Any questions, call or e-mail Beth Malks at 703-486-0772 or bethmalks@comcast.net

ALCOVA HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Have you ever wondered who has a rototiller or a leaf blower you could borrow? Or who else is interested in gardening or the right way to make sushi? A neighborhood directory would be a great way to bring our community closer together. Please consider being a part of our new neighborhood directory. Look for the brightly colored insert to the newsletter, or look for an email from the listserve.

Please submit the completed form (or notification if you wish not to be included) by February 24, 2006, to:

Raina Rose Tagle, 809 S. Oakland St., Arlington, VA 22204, via e-mail to raina@rosetagle.com or fax to 202-318-0347.

PHOTOS FROM OUR HOLIDAY BONFIRE

On an unseasonably warm night in early December, Alcova Heights neighbors gathered in the park for the third annual Christmas Carol Sing Along and Holiday Bonfire. The path to the bonfire was lit with more than a hundred luminaries, and there was hot chocolate, cider and lots of baked goodies. We invited out neighbors from Barcroft, built a roaring fire, and sang and ate while we waited for our special guest..... Santa! It was a fun evening, and sure to become a neighborhood tradition. Special thanks to Karla Hagan, Lisa Cherkasky and Susan DuBois for organizing (and making the luminaries!), Gretchen Carter and Lander Allin for helping us set up, Dellynn Periandri for providing the beverages, J Peterson for making sure Santa could be there and Jerry Long from Barcroft, who built and tended the fire. Hope to see you all next year!



Karla Hagan, daughter Erin Ingram and neighbor Claire Rhode sing together

Ken and Lois Koontz and daughter Lucy



AH and Barcroft neighbors enjoy the fire

An Arlington Life: Wayne C. Bloomingburg July 8, 1924 to January 17, 2005

By Jan Kennemer, former student of Wayne Bloomingburg

Wayne Bloomingburg, a life-long resident of Arlington, died January 17, 2006, at the age of 81. Mr. Bloomingburg was a resident of Alcova Heights since his childhood. He was a graduate of Washington-Lee High School, and later a teacher there for the majority of his 35 year teaching career where he taught history and government.



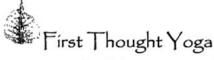
Wayne served his country during WWII as a medic in the Army. His tour of duty took him to North

Africa, Italy, France and Germany. Often, he would delight listeners with stories about his experiences. One of his favorites was about the time he captured five German soldiers using his finger as an imaginary gun. For his bravery he received the Silver Star and the Bronze Star.

Mr. Bloomingburg was an elder and a Bible class teacher at the Arlington Church of Christ. He also helped to develop Camp Wamava, a youth camp near Front Royal. His contribution at Camp Wamava is still recognized with a street within the camp named in his honor. Further, he volunteered his time to Meals on Wheels. His love of history led him to organize history tours of the Washington region for many friends.

After retiring from Arlington County Schools in 1985, Mr. Bloomingburg continued his service to his community. He continued his work with his church and Meals on Wheels. He also became an unofficial neighborhood watchman in Alcova Heights, keeping tabs on the happenings in the neighborhood while feeding squirrels whom would join him on his porch. He was truly a member of "The Greatest Generation".

His wife of 54 years, Helen Bonner Bloomingburg, twin daughters Beth Clark and Brenda Crain, son Jim Bloomingburg, his own twin brother Wendell Bloomingburg and seven grandchildren and one great-grandson survive Wayne. For all of us who knew and loved him, he will be sorely missed.



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ALCOVA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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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.

DUES ARE DUE

The Alcova Heights Civic Association Dues season has started. Dues are \$10.00 per home and pays for great events like the Halloween Parade, Caroling, and

Neighborhood Picnic. You can drop

them in the mail to:

Sara Uzel 3709 S 6th Street

or pay them at the February Meeting

The Real Estate Market In Alcova Heights

In 2005, Alcova Heights saw increases in prices and homes sold. What, now? The Real Estate Market in 2006 won't be so white hot. Yet, our market should remain strong. Forget bubble bursting predictions! Unemployment is still low as are mortgage interest rates. Jobs make our market; and in 2005, this area added 86,000 new jobs and only built 36,000 new homes. Therefore, the present inventory of homes will hardly meet the demand. As buyers who have taken a wait & see approach realize that our market is NOT collapsing, we should see a healthy 5 to 8% price appreciation in 2006.

Sales in Alcova Heights 2004 - 2005

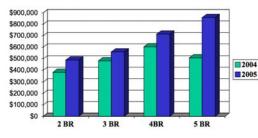


Chart shows average price of homes sold.

Call Jan Kennemer for:

- More detailed statistics
- · Tax assessment information
- Copy of "Selling Tips" or of "Buying Tips"
- Copy of Jan's restaurant guide "Pike Guide to Fun, Food & Entertainment"



Jan Kennemer

Alcova Heights Specialist Office: **703-920-2047**

Email: JKennemer@aol.com

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