

ALCOVA HEIGHTS

Arlington, VA



NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2006

ALCOVA HEIGHTS MEETING REPORT: SEPTEMBER 14TH

By Marie Van Ness, Secretary

Almost 30 AH neighbors gathered for a potluck dinner and meeting last month. Several topics were discussed, including unofficial reports of harassment and petty vandalism in the neighborhood. Captain Paul Larson has reminded residents to call the non-emergency police number to report suspicious activity. The non-emergency number is 703-558-2222.

In an interesting take on 'your tax dollars at work', AH association President Elly Merica reported that in response to recent sewage back-ups and flooding in the neighborhood, Public Works employees went into the sewage system with video cameras to assess the level of the problem. It turns out your mom was right – don't put grease down the drains.

The skinny on the giant Giant: The Penrose project has been 'scaled down' to 57,000 square feet store with 2 levels of commercial space. A group of involved citizens, including Elly, Sara Uzel and Lois Koontz helped make this grass-roots effort a success. If the project is approved by the County Board in October, it will take 18 months to complete. During the construction, Giant plans to provide free shuttles for the customers to go to the Giant at Bailey's Crossroads.

Sara Uzel reported that we have over \$2,000.00 in the treasury. This money will be used to support neighborhood projects and events. Please remember that your dues are important! You can still drop them off to Sara, if you haven't paid for this year.

Interesting Possibility: Several months ago, the Sun Gazette reported that Arlington County had purchased a post-WWII Lustron steel home. The County plans to store it for several months, until a decision regarding its future can be made. Sara Uzel raised the issue that the Alcov Heights Citizens Association might want to consider asking for it as a community center for the neighborhood. If you are interested in helping the association in this matter, please contact Sara.

UPDATE ON PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE LITMAN LAW BUILDING

By Monica Amparo and Elly Merica

Toll Brothers developers has proposed creating 123 residential condominium units, along with a mix of retail tenants, in the space currently occupied by the Litman Law Building on Columbia Pike. However, Toll Brothers has a contract to purchase the building only if they can get a requested change in zoning that would allow them to complete this project.

At this point, the County's Planning Commission has pulled the project from further Site Plan review meetings because it lacked community support. At the September Alcov Heights Citizens Association meeting, residents unanimously voted to reject the proposal as it does not appear to provide any benefit to the community, and would create a scale of building that would overwhelm the neighborhood's present single-family houses and townhomes. Letters to that effect will be distributed to the AHCA, the Planning Commission and the County Board.

This is another great example of the positive impact of community involvement. While the community supports the concept of redevelopment, the details (or lack thereof) were troubling to many AH residents. The matter will be further discussed at two county board meetings, held October 5th and 14th. Neighborhood statements are still important, and if you want to share your concerns, please consider attending a meeting or sending an email.

NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2006

October 9-31:	Pumpkin Patch at Arlington United Methodist
October 12:	Neighborhood Meeting and Potluck (nominate new Association officers)
October 21:	Fall harvest Festival at Arlington United Methodist
October 28th:	Halloween Parade 2:45 pm
November 9th	Neighborhood Meeting and Election of Officers
December 9th	Holiday Carols by Candlelight in the Park



READ MORE INSIDE:

- Halloween Parade
- Fall Festival
- New Editor

ANNUAL ALCOVA HEIGHTS HALLOWEEN PARADE

It's that time of year again – gather your witches, butterflies, knights, ghosts and fairy princesses and meet in the church parking lot (at 8th and Monroe) at 2:45 pm. Marching will begin at 3:15 pm, and the route will follow 8th Street to the party in the park, where we'll have cookies, candies and prizes.



Dellynn Periandri — serving for the last time as our unofficial Parade & Party Master — is looking for volunteers and donations of candy and treats for the party. We also need people to help out at the park at 2:15 for the party set-up before the parade. Please bring cupcakes or cookies to share with your neighbors. If you can't attend and want to make a donation (food, cups, napkins or money) please feel drop it off at Dellynn's house or call her at 703-851-1711.

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!

PUMPKIN PATCH AND FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Come play and pick out the perfect Jack O'Lantern at our Pumpkin Patch

October 9-31, 10am-7pm. We'll have pumpkins of all sizes, gourds and indian corn, too!

Also, join us on Saturday, October 21st for the annual Fall Harvest Festival, 9am-6pm.

Games, Snacks, Face Painting, and Fun for Kids of All Ages!

Arlington United Methodist Church
716 S. Glebe Road

All proceeds benefit the many ministries of AUMC.



NEIGHBORHOOD 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.

To advertise the meetings, the association will place signs in the traffic circles and the main entrances to Alcov Heights. E-mail announcements will go out the Sundays before the meetings.

EDITOR'S NOTE...

WE'RE A 'MÉLANGE' COMMUNITY

I remember feeling vaguely smug when Doug and I moved out to Alcov Heights from DC, and I found out that our new Zip code was more ethnically diverse than the one we had just departed from. I am proud to live in this community, and I read with interest the following item that our neighbor Vince Miller recently shared on the list serve from Blair Ruble in the Summer 2006 Wilson Quarterly:

"Twenty-first-century Washington is already dramatically different from the "Chocolate City, Vanilla Suburbs" days of the 1970s. New arrivals from El Salvador and Ukraine, Ethiopia and Vietnam, Brazil and India, and dozens of other countries, as well as other areas of the United States, have fanned out. The region as a whole is an incredible polyglot blend. The neighborhoods in the inner-ring Virginia suburb of South Arlington defined by zip code 22204, as well as zip code 20009 in the city's trendy Adams Morgan—Mt. Pleasant area, are each home to residents from more than 130 different countries, according to a group of Brookings Institution analysts led by Audrey Singer. Yet not very many Americans or even Washingtonians appear aware that their capital has become a mélange city."

ALSO NOTED: NEW EDITOR!

I am pleased to announce that Margaret Rogers has volunteered to take over the newsletter next year. Margaret is a life-long Arlington resident, and was raised in Ashton Heights. After a stint near Seattle teaching junior high school math, she and her husband Richard bought a home in Alcov Heights. Richard and Margaret have lived in the Dundree Knolls part of the neighborhood for one year, and have a six month old daughter named Katherine. Welcome, Margaret, and thanks for keeping the newsletter going!

The newsletter still needs someone to handle the advertising. No solicitation is necessary — we began turning away outside advertisers in March of last year to keep room for neighborhood businesses. What is needed is for someone to create a spreadsheet of advertisers, coordinate the format, and send out invoices. This should take no more than six hours every other month. In fact, it will probably take less time than that — I never got it organized, and had to re-invent the wheel for every issue! Please let me know if you are interested in helping out.

ALCOVA NEIGHBORHOOD INTEREST GROUPS

New Restaurants: Want to try out new, local restaurants with neighbors? Contact Rene Jones/Charlie Causey at 703-892-1317 or email rjones@fics-llc.com

Book Club: Like to read, and share your perspectives? If you are interested in joining the Alcova Heights Book Club, contact Judy James at judyhames@yahoo.com

Simplicity Circle: Interested in a forum to discuss the choices we make every day? Wondering why it is so hard to let go of stuff? If you say 'I'm working for my family', but you don't spend much time with them, what's the point? If you're interested in exploring this topic further, contact Elly Merica at merica@erols.com.

Toddler Group: For parents of the 0-2ish set, get out for a little while and to connect with other parents in the neighborhood at a toddler play group. If you are interested, contact Maura McMahon at pawmer2@starpower.net or 703-979-9321 for information.

Welcome Group: Meet new neighbors and invite them into our community! Anyone interested in helping out, please contact the Welcome Group coordinator, Michelle Larsen (703-920-1050; webmonkey@alcovaheights.com).

MILESTONES: WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND ALCOVA HEIGHTS

A new baby in the neighborhood!

His full name is **Chase Evan Danzenbaker**, and he was born on August 24th. Proud parents are **Becky and Mark Danzenbaker**, of 6th Street.

Rumor has it that there is a new set of twins in the neighborhood, but no details were available at press time. Welcome, Mystery Twins!

Any news to report? Call or email Lisa Cherkasky at (703)731-6575, or spudnut59@comcast.net.

AH COMIC BLOG

Mike Rhode, Alcova Heights Yahoo group moderator, has started ComicsDC, a new blog at <http://comicsdc.blogspot.com/>. ComicsDC is for events relating to cartoons and comics including comic books, comic strips, political cartoons, animation and caricature in Washington, DC and its environs. A companion Yahoo group also exists. If you're interested in cartooning events around AH, check them 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 next 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 .

HELP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL!

Barcroft Elementary raises money for special events and projects in a variety of ways. You may have purchased wrapping paper recently, or attended our Spring Fair. There are several ways you can help – without having to buy any more hot dogs or wrapping paper. All you have to do is link Barcroft to your local grocery store, and the school earns money based on your purchases.

HARRIS TEETER

Register online at <http://www.harristeeter.com/default.aspx?pageId=32>

Or, simply give the cashier Barcroft's identification number when you check out with your VIC card. Barcroft's number is 4238. The program runs from August to May 31st, and must be renewed each year.

GIANT FOOD

For Giant, please use our Barcroft Giant ID# 02199, and link at the store or online at www.giantfood.com/aplus, or over the phone at 1-877-366-2668. The program runs October 6th to April 2nd each year, and must be renewed each October. Barcroft's identification number is 02199.

SAFEWAY

Register at the store or online at www.escrip.com (go to "sign up"), and link up using Barcroft's identification number: 6472509. You must link your card by November 1st for contributions this year. If you have designated Barcroft in previous years, just go to the eScrip website and go to "renew now".

RECIPE CORNER BY ZURAIDAH HOFFMAN

Mr. Stripey's Shrimp Linguine

This meal began a something-out-of-nothing recipe when I had to incorporate these delicious Mr. Stripey tomatoes from a friend's garden that was about to get over-ripe. Perfect timing for all those tomatoes that are just begging to get off the vine in the back yard...



- 1 pound linguine/other type of pasta
- 1/2 tbs butter or enough oil for sauté-ing
- 1 1/5 lbs or more uncooked large peeled, deveined shrimp
- 1 onion, chopped
- 6 cloves or more garlic, chopped
- 1 lb mushrooms, quartered
- 2 large Mr. Stripey, heirloom or other tomatoes — peeled and quartered
- 1/2 cup dry white wine or sweet vermouth
- 2 tsp grated lemon peel
- 10 oz clam juice (or chicken broth)
- 1/2 cup cream (or milk)
- 1/c cup chopped fresh basil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cook pasta and drain. Melt butter in large skillet over medium high heat. Add shrimp, sprinkle with salt and pepper. Sauté shrimp until almost opaque in center, about 2 minutes. Transfer shrimp to bowl. Add onions, garlic, mushrooms and Mr. Stripey to same skillet, and sauté for a minute. Add wine and lemon peel, boil until reduced to a glaze, about two minutes. Add clam juice and cream; boil until sauce thickens, about 8 minutes. Return shrimp and juices to skillet, add pasta and toss to coat. Mix in basil, adjust seasonings (salt & pepper) and serve. YUM!!!!!!

TODDLER PLAYGROUP

The Toddler Playgroup is back on track and has begun meeting in the park at 3:30 on Tuesdays. Now that schedules and naps are settling in after the summer, we hope to be meeting regularly at this time and also have some occasional weekend gatherings for those who cannot join us during the week. If you are interested, please join us, or contact Maura McMahon at pawmer2@starpower.net or 703-979-9321 for information.

CARSHARE ON COLUMBIA PIKE

In our car culture, you seldom see one-car families. In fact, three-car families are increasingly common. A new trend may help to reverse this, particularly with gas prices soaring ever higher. Carsharing is a good alternative for those who do not need a second car on a full-time basis.

It's a lot like car rental, but more convenient. With carsharing, you can rent the car for as little as a half-hour. Cars are self-service and parked nearby. Here's the best part: when you carshare, the price includes gas, insurance, and maintenance and you only pay for the time you use.

Carsharing began in Switzerland in the 1980's and has expanded throughout Europe to include 450 cities. The concept is relatively new, but growing, in North America with carsharing organizations located in Seattle, Chicago, Portland, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Denver, San Diego, Toronto, Boston, New York, and Washington, DC. In these cities, for-profit or non-profit organizations maintain the carsharing fleet and reservation website. To become a member of the organization and use the vehicles, you must complete an application and usually pay an annual fee and security deposit. Vehicles may be reserved either on-line or by phone. Payment is based on per hour and per mile fees.

Membership in a carsharing service includes gas, insurance, and maintenance. Membership fees vary based on the how you plan to use the service and which provider you choose. Two companies have cars in Arlington available for carsharing: Flexcar and Zipcar.

After a successful, one-year pilot that saw a 150 percent increase in usage and a 116 percent spike in membership, Arlington, Flexcar and Zipcar are further expanding the program. In a first for the region, Flexcar and Zipcar added cars to Shirlington and Columbia Pike, areas not within walking distance to Metrorail. Prices start at \$9 an hour, or \$65 a day. Both companies have membership fees and applications fees, but with the cost of owning a car growing more expensive, carsharing represents an interesting — and green — alternative.

For more information, see <http://www.commuterpage.com/carshare.htm>



HOLIDAY CAROLS & BONFIRE

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Holiday Caroling Party in the park! We'll have a great bonfire again, hot chocolate and baked treats. Santa had so much fun last year, that he has promised to come back and visit the kids again this year. Plan for Saturday, December 9th, from 6:30 to 8:00pm. The rain date will be Sunday, December 10th. Please email Lisa Cherkasky at spudnut59@comcast.net if you would like to help with this fun event.



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Real Estate Auctions — A Growing Trend in Marketing Real Estate.

To keep up with trends in creative marketing, RE/MAX Allegiance has affiliated with Homeland Auctions, and is offering the Certified Auction Specialist (CAS) Designation Training. Gloria Lynn Gardner is the founder of The Institute For Auction Learning and is considered to be the national leader in pro-broker auctions. Since 1994 she has sold and settled in excess of 4,000 properties using the auction method of marketing through various brokers across the country.

According NAR (National Association of Realtors) 30% of all real estate transactions will be auction transactions by 2008. NAR realizes that agents need training in the auction method to ensure that they are not leaving business on the table, simply because they do not understand the auction tool. NAR has asked LYNN to be the new Vice Chair of the NAR Auction Forum, for which she has accepted.

Visit www.homelandauctions.us and you can get more information about the auction process. Both Catherine and I have taken training and have the CAS designation.

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The Real Estate Market in Alcova Heights

Over the summer, home sales in Alcova have continued at a steady pace. There were fewer homes on the market. Homes have sold on average in 30 days for 98.6% of list price. Average price was \$650,900.

This is great news, as the number of days on the market is fairly steady and the average price has increased.

Call Jan Kennemer for a free market analysis of your home. I can give you tips on how to market your home in this changing and challenging market.

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Call **Jan Kennemer** for:

- More details on statistics
- Virtual Tour information
- Copy of "Selling Tips" or of "Buying Tips"
- Copy of Jan's restaurant guide "Pike Guide to Fun, Food & Entertainment"

Recent Alcova Heights Sales

3829 7th St.	\$570,000	3BR, 2BA	8,246 SF
3830 7th St.	\$610,000	3BR, 2BA	8,256 SF
3904 9th St.	\$597,000	3BR, 3BA	10,947 SF
3901 7th St.	\$622,500	3BR, 1BA	8,246 SF
3913 8th St.	\$899,900	4BR, 2BA	8,256 SF



Jan Kennemer

Alcova Heights Specialist

Office: **703-920-2047**

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ALCOVA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

President	Elly Merica (merica@erols.com)	Layout	Michele Chaves (michele@michelechaves.com)
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Newsletter	Susan DuBois (dougnsusan@msn.com)	Special Events	Dellyn Periandri and Lynn Gant
		Environment	Sue Johnson

DUES ARE DUE

Have you paid your civic associations dues yet? Many of you must have that check sitting on the mantle waiting for the next time you take a run or walk the dog. The dues are \$10.00 per household payable to AHCA. You can drop them off at our Treasurer's house or mail them to Sara at 3709 South 6th Street (side door).



VISIT THE ALCOVA HEIGHTS WEBSITE

Check out the Alcova Heights Citizens Association website at www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/7326/. You'll find past issues of the newsletter, a calendar of events, interesting information about our neighborhood, and some great photos. Please send your comments, suggestions, photos and hellos to our web mistress, Michelle Larsen, at reg3504@att.net.

"A SEAMLESS TRANSACTION!"



Thank you for the referrals!



Dear Lynn and Lois,

Robin and I want to thank you for making our sale and purchase go so smoothly. It was really unbelievable-there wasn't a single glitch and the whole process was stressless. We know you went the extra mile to keep everyone happy and ensure a seamless transaction, and we really appreciate your efforts. We have bought and sold property numerous times, but no sale or purchase has ever gone as well as the ones we closed on today. Please use us as a reference any time.

Thank you, thank you.

Martin and Robin

Lynn Gant

Contact me today!

Cell: 703-898-7205

Website: www.ListWithLoisandLynn.com

Email: Lynn.Gant@LongandFoster.com

Long & Foster, Arlington

