

# ALCOVA HEIGHTS

Arlington, VA



NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2006

## NOTES FROM THE ASSOCIATION SECRETARY

By Marie Van Ness

The most recent Alcova Heights Neighborhood Association meeting was held November 9th, and was attended by approximately 25 residents. Dave Johnson, Managing Director of CPRO (Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization), gave a brief report on the progress being made with respect to Pike projects, and noted that the Pike's 200th Anniversary will be celebrated in 2008. Mr. Johnson also solicited opinions on how to improve the Sunday Farmer's Market. Please visit the CPRO website at [www.columbiapikepartnership.com/](http://www.columbiapikepartnership.com/) for more information and to share your opinions on development on the Pike. The recent issues surrounding changing the form-based code to amend the rules concerning multi-family dwellings was not discussed. A meeting on this topic was held on November 28th, and more information can be found on the AH list serve, or CPRO's website.

Another topic of discussion was the effort to put together a new directory for the neighborhood. So far, volunteer coordinator Raina Tagle has had an underwhelming response – she has received information from only 50 families for the new issue. The directory has been popular in past editions. It is particularly important for those who are not on the AH list serve, as it provides them with a resource for community information. The directory has never been used for commercial purposes, and will not be published online.

A suggestion was made to solicit volunteers from different blocks to go door-to-door asking for participation. If you are interested in helping, please contact Marie Van Ness or Raina Tagle (contact info in masthead). We also discussed distributing copies only to those who filled out forms, and whether or not it would still be useful with only 50 participants. No final decision has been made, but our goal is to increase participation before publication. If you have not filled out the form, please consider it, and return to Raina Tagle.

Finally, there was an interesting discussion on the use of the Alcova Heights Yahoo list serve for "political discussion". During the recent political campaigns, people offered thoughts on some of the Arlington Bond issues and the Virginia Marriage Amendment. It was agreed, although there were differences of opinion, that the exchange was civil and respectful. A question was raised as to whether etiquette guidelines should be developed by the list serve moderator.

The list serve was created several years ago by AH resident Mike Rhode; who still maintains the list serve, and is the moderator. The list serve is not sponsored by the Alcova Heights neighborhood association, which does not provide any support or oversight. In response to the request for written guidelines, Mike stated on both the list serve and at the meeting he would prefer to err on the side of free speech, and preserve the informal nature of the community. He notes that members are encouraged to post local news, discuss concerns and trade tips on home improvements. A basic level of civility towards one's neighbors is expected and posters are responsible for the content of their messages. A limited amount of commercial speech for or by local businesses is permitted. He can be reached at [mrhode@gmail.com](mailto:mrhode@gmail.com).

This was the last meeting for the year – see you next year!

Elections for the officers of the neighborhood association were recently held. Our new officers are:

**Elly Merica- President**

**Cliff Anckiatiss- Vice President**

**Mark Cole- Treasurer**

**Marie Van Ness- Secretary**

Many thanks to Sara Uzel, who has been a terrific treasurer. Thanks to Elly, Cliff and Marie for being willing to serve again, and welcome to Mark Cole, our new treasurer.

## THE ALCOVA HEIGHTS FOURTH ANNUAL BONFIRE AND HOLIDAY CAROLING NIGHT – DECEMBER 9TH AT 6:30PM

Follow the candlelit luminaries down to the Alcova Park Fire Ring on Saturday, December 9th for some hot cocoa and holiday cheer. We'll have song sheets, beverages and a roaring fire.... you bring some cookies to share and your singing voices. **Rumor has it that Santa will be visiting!**

We need volunteers (with those fire clicker-things) to help light the luminaries at 6:00 pm, as well as folks to help clean up afterwards at 8:00 pm.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Susan DuBois

We all know that Alcovia Heights is a close-knit community with a lot to offer. There is a long-standing and active neighborhood association with regular potlucks, enthusiastic representation on the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, a baby-sitting co-op, several monthly card games, a toddler playgroup, lots of generous avid gardeners, and a terrific website. We also have an annual late-summer ice cream social, a regular newsletter, a popular Halloween parade, a spring park clean-up, holiday toy drives, and a terrific park and playground.



More importantly, we are a neighborhood of caring, involved people. Neighbors are always ready to help with tools, time and advice. I hope that this coming year brings more involvement from a broader group of people. Please consider taking the time to come to a neighborhood meeting – you will meet folks who have been here for decades – and you might make a new friend. Join us for the park clean-up next spring, and look for all of the flowers and bulbs planted by your neighbors last year. I also think the newsletter can be an effective tool in bringing the neighborhood closer together, and I hope you consider writing something for Margaret Rogers, the new editor.

I've really enjoyed working on the newsletter and I appreciate all of the help and submissions. Many thanks to Michele Chaves, who has always done a great job of making the newsletter look terrific. Thanks also to Rhea Dola and her volunteers, who make sure the newsletter reaches your doorstep. If you are interested in delivering to a block or two, please let Rhea know. I would also like to thank Lisa Cherkasky, whose good humor and contributions have helped fill these pages! I look forward to seeing the newsletter under Margaret Rogers, who can be reached at rogers\_ml@yahoo.com.

## ROAD RAGE: HOW TO TEMPER THE TANTRUM

By Lisa Cherkasky

A recent altercation with an aggressive driver within blocks of home prompted me to get in touch with Captain Michelle Nuneville, the new police contact for our neighborhood. Being the victim of someone else's road rage can throw you for a loop. What to do?

Captain Nuneville suggests, first and foremost, that you stay calm and do not react. If an aggressive driver follows you, pull to the side and let him/her pass. Pulling over will also give you the opportunity to jot down the license plate number and any other pertinent information, such as make and model of the vehicle, who was driving and so on.

Follow up by calling the non-emergency number – 703-558-2222 – and filing a report. If you can call within a reasonable time period, an officer will be promptly dispatched to the location. Once the driver has left the county, it is too late to dispatch an officer, so time is of the essence. On the other hand, it is always wise to file a report even a bit later. Keeping records on aggressive drivers could be helpful in preventing their dangerous behavior in the future.

Should you have an ongoing problem with an aggressive driver, Captain Nuneville would like to hear from you. She will then have members of her district team follow-up on the issue. She can be reached at the non-emergency number or via her email, Mnuneville@arlingtonva.us

Never, ever confront an aggressive driver (it is tempting, isn't it?). Take a deep breath, or a few deep breaths, and steer clear.

## RECIPE CORNER

by Lisa Cherkasky

This is a great snack, and also makes a nice hostess gift for those holiday parties.

### SWEET AND SPICY ALMONDS

1 egg white	2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 tablespoon water	1 teaspoon ground coriander
1 pound (3 cups) whole blanched almonds	2 teaspoons coarse salt
1/4 cup sugar	1 1/2 teaspoons ground red pepper

Preheat oven to 275 F. Line a sided sheet pan with parchment paper. Whisk the egg white and water together until foamy. Add the almonds and toss to coat. Transfer the almonds to a sieve, toss gently and let drain. Stir together the sugar, cumin, coriander, salt and red pepper. Add the almonds and toss to coat thoroughly. Spread the almonds on the sheet pan in a single layer and bake for 30 minutes. Gently stir the almonds with a metal spatula. Reduce the oven temperature to 200 F. and continue to bake the almonds for another 30 minutes, until they are dry and nicely toasted. Set aside to cool completely, about 15 minutes. Eat right away or store airtight for up to 1 week. Makes 3 cups.



## ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD HALLOWEEN PARADE SCARES UP A BIG CROWD

Our neighborhood Halloween Parade has been a hit for at least 10 years. This year, we invited our friends from across George Mason in the Barcroft neighborhood, and had one of our largest gatherings ever! Many thanks to Dellyn Periandri, our intrepid organizer, and her heir-apparent Lynn Gant. Also, thanks to the Barcroft PTA for their help and support!



*David Graves goes wicked!*



*Madeline Periandri-Harrelson is bewitching.*



*The parade begins!*

## MILESTONES

by Lisa Cherkasky

We have lots of artistic talent in Alcovia Heights, and two new neighbors to celebrate! Please send interesting info that you want to share with your neighbors to Lisa Cherkasky at [spudnut59@comcast.net](mailto:spudnut59@comcast.net).

Alcovia high school student **Mallory Uzel** was the Assistant Stage Director for the Washington-Lee High School Theater Department's production of *The Laramie Project*, performed in November.

More art news from 6th Street: **Caesar Chaves'** t-shirt design for the Corcoran College of Art + Design was named one of the top 5 t-shirt designs by the Washington Post for the holiday shopping season. Available for \$20 at the Corcoran museum shop—proceeds go to the design program students!



**Breana and Recep Bayraktar**, of 830 South Monroe St, had a baby girl on Oct 17th. **Ceyda Ecem** weighed 8 lbs 7oz and was 21 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well!

Ceyda joins **Sarah Mariel Baumgarten**, who was born a few days earlier on October 12th. Sarah was 7 lbs., 0.6 oz., and measured 20 inches long. She is vigorous and healthy. Parents **Amy and Jonathon**, of 3928 South 7th Street are thrilled.

Welcome, Sarah and Ceyda!

## BARCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECOND ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE!

Mark your calendars for February 10, 2006 for the Barcroft Rummage Sale. Save those unwanted Christmas gifts and all of the stuff you keep meaning to take to Goodwill – we'll pick it up the first week in February!

Donations can include most gently used household items, including toys, clothes, furniture, CDs, housewares and small electronics. If you would like more information, contact Barbara Vierow at [bvierow@npr.org](mailto:bvierow@npr.org).

## VISIT THE ALCOVA HEIGHTS WEBSITE

Check out the Alcovia Heights Citizens Association website at [www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/7326/](http://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](mailto:reg3504@att.net).



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Long & Foster, Arlington

*Thank you for the referrals!*



## *Free Yoga Flow* *demo class*



Wednesday, January 10 | 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.  
Barcroft Community House | 800 S. Buchanan Street

Yoga Flow is a dynamic yoga practice conducted in a vinyasa style — a flowing sequence of movements consciously linked by the breath. Participants nurture mindfulness, gain strength and flexibility, and enhance overall wellbeing. A vinyasa practice is challenging to the body and the mind. (Bring your yoga mat.)

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First eight-week session 1/17/2007 to 3/7/2007; Wednesdays, 10:00-11:15 a.m. Full session advance registration: \$100. Drop-in: \$15 per class. Instructor Info: Sabrina Huffman, a Barcroft resident since 2001, has over 15 years of experience teaching a wide variety of group wellness classes. She holds certifications from Yoga Alliance and the American Council on Exercise. Questions? [sabrinahuffman@mac.com](mailto:sabrinahuffman@mac.com).





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## ALCOVA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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(anckaitisc@comcast.net)

### Treasurer

Mark Cole  
(mcole@usatoday.com )

### Secretary

Marie Van Ness  
(Mjyness@aol.com)

### ACCF Rep

Dave Hurren  
(dphurren@yahoo.com)

### NCAC Rep

Karla Hagan  
(hepcats@comcast.net )

### Newsletter Editor

Margaret Rogers  
(rogers\_ml@yahoo.com)

### Layout

Michele Chaves  
(michele@michelechaves.com )

### Circulation

Rhea Dola (sdola@msn.com )

### Webmaster

Michelle Larsen  
(reg3504@att.net)

### Listserve Manager

Mike Rhode  
(mrhode@gmail.com)

### Traffic

Marie Abarca and  
Mike McMahon

### Directory

Raina Rose Tagle  
(raina@rosetagle.com)

### Special Events

Dellyn Periandri and Lynn Gant

### Environment

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## **Why 3/4 of Homesellers Don't Get the Price They Want for Their Home.**

A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 step system that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, there is a free special report entitled *"The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar"*. Call my toll-free House Hunter hotline today at 1-800-895-1307 and enter ID# 8200. This is a 24 hour recorded message, call anytime.

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## **How to Buy a Home with Zero Down Payment.**

There are home ownership programs that allow qualified buyers to buy a home with absolutely no downpayment.

You may have owned a home before and are presently renting, or maybe you are a first time buyer and need a way to break into the housing market but are holding back because you think you need \$10,000, \$20,000 or more for a downpayment.

Well regardless of your present situation, if you want to get into, or re-enter the housing market without having to make a cash downpayment, then this program may be just what you are looking for. Why pay your landlord's mortgage when you can be building your own equity.

Industry insiders have prepared a new special report entitled, *"How to Buy a Home With Zero Down"* which reveals how this new and innovative program can get you into the housing market immediately and with absolutely no down payment.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call my toll-free House Hunter hotline at 1-800-895-1307 and enter ID# 8043. Call anytime, 24 hours day, 7 days a week.

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## The Real Estate Market in Alcova Heights

Alcova Heights' residents like myself have a lot for which to be thankful. Our neighborhood re-mains a pocket of relative stability along the changing Pike. Our homes have gained an average of 88% in value over the last few years. Today, homes are still selling at reasonable prices. Despite the media alarm, the Na-tional Association of Realtors (NAR) expects prices to rise next year. Mortgage interest rates are near the 40 year low. It's a great time to be in the market!

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tennis courts. \$499,000.00

# ALCOVA HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## Community Directory Information Request

Please provide the following optional information to be included in our community directory! We are still in the process of determining what information will be most helpful, so please complete only the information that you would like to share. This information will be distributed only to residents of our community, and should not be used for commercial purposes.

---

Name(s) of owners and/or residents

---

Home address

---

Resident since (e.g., 1996)

---

E-mail address(es)

---

Home phone number

---

Work phone number(s)

---

Pet(s) (e.g., "Dog=Skip")

---

Child(ren)'s age(s)

---

Employer(s)

---

Hobbies, interests, other information (e.g., tennis, running, civic activities, etc.)

---

Household tools willing to loan (e.g., leaf blower)

---

**Please submit this completed form (or notification if you wish not to be included) to:**

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

If you have any questions or would like your form to be picked up, please call Raina at 202-255-9491.