

ALCOVA HEIGHTS



The Newsletter of the Alcova Heights Neighborhood, Arlington, Virginia

October 2016

Pets of the Month: Cuddles & Cleo



Robyn Carter of 8th St. says her “cat ‘**Cuddles**’ turned 18 this past May 8th and is more like a loving dog than an independent cat. He follows me everywhere and just lives to be loved. Has to keep me in sight all the time and will seek me out if I’m out of his view for very long. He is so gentle that he doesn’t even chase or hunt small animals, but he will come greet you if you come into our home.”



‘**Cleo**’ Manlove of 8th St. is “Always delighted to say hello during her numerous walks. Loves a belly rub. Never leaves poop behind in your yard”

Thomas Jefferson Middle School: New Elementary School on Grounds

by Lander Allin

Planning for the new elementary school on the Thomas Jefferson Middle School site continues to move forward at a steady pace. The design process began back in April and has already passed the conceptual design stage with approval of the schematic design by the School Board expected on October 20. The design process is to be completed by next June with construction beginning during the summer. The new school will be ready in time for the start of school in September of 2019.

The school is being built as part of the effort to provide additional capacity to accommodate rapid growth in the school-age population across the County. When completed the neighborhood school at Patrick Henry Elementary School will relocate to the new facility. The Patrick Henry structure will then become the new location for the Montessorri program that is now co-located with the Model Program at Drew Elementary. *Cont’d. on p. 3*

Join the Halloween Parade!



Halloween is just weeks away and our annual parade and party is set for the day before the holiday. This year, the parade is a block shorter and begins on OAKLAND and 8th Sts. Melissa Daddio and Jessica Barker of 7th St. are organizing the celebration, which is always a favorite with our younger neighbors. “This annual event is one of the reasons our neighborhood is so special - we’re hoping for a great event this year!” notes Melissa while asking for assistance.

Because this falls on the same day as the Marine Core Marathon, we’re going to need a few extra bodies to help with traffic control. Candy donations can be dropped off at The Barker’s house on their porch (3829 7th St. South). If a monetary donation for candy/snacks is easier than getting to the store, you can do that too - via PayPal to Melissa at daddiomelissa@gmail.com. Just make a notation that it’s for the Halloween Party.



**Sunday, October 30, 2016
3 - 5pm**

**(Parade line up starts at 2:45 at the corner
of Oakland and 8th Street)**

Link to Needed Items & Help:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0548aba823a3fc1-alcova>

Feel free to reach out to Melissa at daddiomelissa@gmail.com or Jessica at jessicasayersbarker@gmail.com with any questions.



Arlington Presbyterian Church Redevelopment Moving Forward

by Lander Allin

On Sunday, June 5, Arlington Presbyterian Church held its last service in its building on Columbia Pike. In July it completed the sale of the property to the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH).

These actions came after years of struggling with a declining membership, and a decision by the congregation in 2011 to explore the possibility of redeveloping the site for affordable housing. The church formed a partnership with APAH in 2013 to pursue the redevelopment and the project was approved by the Arlington County Board last December.

The existing structure will be razed to allow the construction of a new building which will contain 173 affordable housing units and 8,900 square feet of ground floor retail space. The housing will be made up of 22 studio units, 83 one bedrooms, 49 two bedrooms and 19 three bedrooms. All units are planned to be affordable: 9 at 40% of area median income (AMI), 32 at 50% of AMI and the remaining 132 at 60% of AMI. See <https://housing.arlingtonva.us/income-rent-limits/> for further information.

APAH's project team is currently processing engineering and building permits. Construction is expected to begin in 2017. The exact timing has not yet been determined. When completed, the project will be known as Gilliam Place in honor of the church's first African-American member and his community activism.

The church has been located on Columbia Pike at South Lincoln Street for 86 years. Quite a few residents of Alcov Heights have been members of the church. Some grew up in the church and then raised their own families in the church. Understandably, the decision to sell the property and redevelop it has been painful for many of these individuals and some have left the church. The remaining congregation has relocated temporarily to the Arlington United Methodist Church building on Glebe Road where it is continuing with its worship services and other activities. The Methodist congregation itself recently dissolved, and turned its property over to the larger church; an inactive Facebook page remains at <https://www.facebook.com/Arlington-United-Methodist-Church-193858807307871/>

Announcements & Milestones

John Sheahan and Gillian Ramsey's daughter **Virginia "Ginger" Sheahan** was born February 8, 2016 joining her brother **Jack** (age 9). **Michael and Kristina Wilkis** of 6th St welcomed their first child **Carter Michael Fabio Wilkis** (8 lbs 10 oz) on May 5, 2016 at 11:22 pm. **Alice Smalligan**, born May 15, 2016, to parents **Eric Sandberg-Zakian and Laura Smalligan** and big sister **Charlotte** on S. Quincy.

Born June 10, 2016 at 9:51 pm, **Vincent** (7 lbs 11 oz, 20 inches) is the third child for **Tini and Mike Favila** of Lincoln St. and joins brother **Derek** (5) and sister **Quinn Luu** (2). **Matt and Kylie McCardle** of Glebe Rd welcomed **Graham Matthew McCardle** (8 lb 11 oz, 23 inches) on August 7, 2016 at 7:11am. And the 3800 block of 7th St. alone has at least three other new babies...

Gladys Vidangos passed away on October 7, 2015. Gladys was a 30-year resident of Alcov Heights. She was preceded in death by her husband **Alfonso Vidangos** and son **Norman Vidangos**. Gladys' daughter **Marietta Vidangos Bradberry** and her husband **Trent Bradberry** survive her and remain on 7th St. **Dan Nicholson**, formerly of Alcov House and the Smithsonian Institution, died on June 2, 2016 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Dan's wife **Alice**, survives him.

Anna Ingram of 7th St began freshman year at Wakefield HS. **Emma Burd** of 8th St started college this summer at Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA. **Claire Rhode** of 7th St is attending Chatham University in Pittsburgh as a freshman. **Chabeli Wells** of Columbia Pike is at Arcadia University in Philadelphia for her first year of college. **Lisa Cherkasky** of 6th St published *You're the Chef*, a cookbook for children. **Ian McMahon** and **Alexander Al-Hujazi**, both of 7th St, earned their black belts in mixed martial arts at Evolve All. 8th St's bass player **Pat Kehs** and his original alternative-rock band Jackie and The Treehorns released a new studio album titled "RU4REAL?" on September 30th that was recorded at Inner Ear Studios in Arlington.



Alcov Heights neighbors enjoyed great food and music, and each other's company at the annual block party in June.

Barcroft Elementary

by Maura McMahon



Our neighborhood elementary school adopted a new mascot last spring. We are now the Barcroft Eagles! Don't be surprised if you see a big eagle wandering the grounds or building from time to time or during special events.

There is a Barcroft PTA meeting Tuesday, November 1st at 6:30 p.m. Babysitting and translation services are provided. The Agenda includes a discussion of best practices, including homework, and information from the principal about physical education.

All are welcome to join the Barcroft PTA. You do not need to be a current Barcroft parent or even a parent at all. Dues are \$5/individual; \$10/family to support PTA activities and enrichment programs for students. Donations are always appreciated and are tax-deductible. For questions or other ways to support the Barcroft PTA, contact jody-manning@me.com.

Thomas Jefferson, cont'd from p.1

The new elementary school will be located between South Old Glebe Road and TJ Middle School in the area that is now the asphalt parking lot for TJ. The new building will be a four-story structure with capacity for at least 725 students. Parking for the new school and TJ will be in an underground structure due to the limited space that is available. Total project cost is \$59 million.

Two public committees have been involved in the design process. The Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) and the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) are made up of individuals from the surrounding neighborhoods and other constituency groups to ensure broad-based public participation in the planning and design of the new school. Alcov Heights is represented on both committees by Lander Allin.

Detailed information on the schedule, process and schematic design can be found at: http://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/DC-NES-Jefferson-160921-BLPC_PFRF.pdf.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Lander at landerallin@gmail.com.

Wakefield High

by Lois Koontz

The school board plans to make boundary adjustments to Washington-Lee to redistribute projected enrollment to Wakefield and Yorktown by HS night on December 12th. Washington-Lee is projected to be too far above capacity. The objective is to re-balance enrollment as a near-term solution until a larger redistricting takes place in County high schools with the planned opening of 1,200 new seats in a new school. This adjusted boundary should affect about 100 students per year -- rising 9th-graders -- and no current students will be moved. AH's default high school is Wakefield, and approximately 25 students per year transfer to Washington-Lee's International Baccalaureate (IB) program. There has been a series of public meetings on the subject throughout October. Interested families can learn more and provide feedback at www.apsva.us/APSboundaries. That number of 100 students affected per year is annual and cumulative so the impact potential on Wakefield includes not just numbers but also demographics, depending on what districts get moved. Access to the IB program may change. At present, only 1 in 3 qualified applicants are accepted from Wakefield or Yorktown.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION

As always, please feel free to contribute your annual dues of \$10 to Karen Osterloh of 8th St. You can also pay the Alcov Heights Civic Association annual dues by transferring funds from your PayPal account to our PayPal Account.

1. Sign into your personal PAYPAL Account,
2. Make payment to "alcova.treasurer@gmail.com"
3. In the notes section, include your name, street address, email address, phone number

Although, annual dues are \$10, we would appreciate it if you would include an additional \$1.00 to cover the PayPal transaction fee.

A Neighbor Profile: Rodrigo Abela, Landscape Architect



Rodrigo Abela of 9th St was a member of the team that worked on the new Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture. He is the first participant in a new feature of getting to know our neighbors professionally, as well as personally.

How long have you lived in AH?
We moved to AH in 2010.

What do you do professionally, and whom do you do it for?
I am a landscape architect. Our firm, GGN, is based out of Seattle, but I run our DC office in Georgetown.

What's your training for that?
I have master's degrees in landscape architecture and architecture and a bachelor's degree in engineering, but just as important are the years and years of practice drawing.

For the past few years, you've worked on the new Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture. Can you describe your work on that?
The project started in 2008 as a competition, which we won as part of a large multidisciplinary team. I am one of two principals from the firm responsible for leading the site design and coordination from concept through construction.

The scope includes all of the exterior elements: plantings, grading, paving, site walls, benches and a large fountain, as well as the responsibility of getting all the relevant federal and local agencies to agree and approve our designs. This site is really part of the larger composition of the national mall. It's a composition that's been developing and evolving since L'Enfant envisioned it in 1792. Being a part of a larger history like this is one of the pleasures of job, but obviously it is also a tremendous responsibility.

What's your favorite project you've worked on?
I work on projects all over the country, and even overseas, but the ones here at home are special. I can take my kids and family there, I can visit them multiple times over the years and watch them evolve and grow - they are landscapes after all.

How cool is it to go to Italy or Turkey to select stone?
I've been very lucky to have been able to visit some amazing places and call it "work." That said, with stone trips in particular, I'm always inspired by the people who work in these places and the culture of "making" that is so clearly visible. It's another rich link to a history that, in this case, dates back thousands of years.

Nominate your neighbor for a profile in the next issue by emailing the editor, Mike Rhode, at mrhode@gmail.com.

ARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH



**JOIN US
ON SUNDAYS
FOR WORSHIP
AT 10:30 A.M.**

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. — 1 John 4:10

714 S. Monroe Street, Arlington, VA 22204

www.arlingtonbaptist.com