

# ALCOVA HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER – Special Edition

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ALCOVA HEIGHTS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION!

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 June, 2002

**Time:** Meeting at 7:30 PM

**Where:** Arlington Baptist Church (S. 7th & S. Monroe St.)

Next Tuesday, June 25, at 7:30pm, we will be holding a special meeting of the Alcovia Heights Citizens Association to discuss the potential impact of the elementary school boundary changes on Alcovia Heights. The meeting will be at the Arlington Baptist Church (S. 7th & S. Monroe St.) - our usual location. Sorry - no food this time!

The boundaries for the elementary schools in South Arlington are being re-drawn to help alleviate the overcrowding at Barcroft Elementary (our current neighborhood school), Randolph Elementary and Carlin Springs Elementary. The process to select new boundaries is already underway and is being led by a committee made up of representatives from all of the South Arlington elementary schools. In November, the committee is supposed to forward recommended boundaries to Arlington Public School (APS) staff. APS staff will then go out for public review and comment. The final recommended boundaries are supposed to go to the School Board for action in February. The new boundaries will go into effect in September 2003.

There is a possibility that Alcovia Heights may be shifted into another elementary school district. If you are, or will be, a parent of an elementary school student in the fall of 2003, you should plan to attend this meeting to learn more about the potential impacts on Alcovia Heights and your family.

The primary objective of the meeting is for the Association to adopt a position on the boundaries issue. While the recommended boundaries won't be determined until November, we need to begin staking out our position on the subject now if we want our voices to be heard. *Everyone who is interested in this matter should plan to attend the meeting.*

### School Boundaries Background Information

- ♦ Overcrowding of South Arlington elementary schools has been an issue for the past 5 years.
- ♦ To alleviate the overcrowding, two new elementary schools have been created. Additional capacity has been added to 5 other schools.
- ♦ Five schools are now under capacity, but 3 schools are still above capacity – Barcroft, Randolph and Carlin Springs.
- ♦ The capacity at Barcroft is 437 students, but with trailers it currently houses 563 students.
- ♦ Earlier this year the School Board created the Boundary Development and Program Planning Committee comprised of representatives from the South Arlington elementary schools
- ♦ This committee is charged with recommending new boundaries to the School Superintendent in a process that ensures wide community engagement.
- ♦ 7 planning guidelines are being used in the Boundaries Process:
  - Keep neighborhoods together.
  - Avoid creating boundaries that do not contain the school where students will be going.
  - Minimize transportation times
  - Minimize capital expenditures and operating budgets
  - Avoid making students change schools who have already been moved because of recent boundaries changes at Patrick Henry and Hoffman Boston.
  - Avoid separating a small number of students from their classmates at the next level. (For example – Barcroft students currently move on to different middle schools – Alcovia Heights attends TJ. Barcroft attends Kenmore.)
  - Promote demographic diversity.

## COLUMBIA PIKE PLANNING PROCESS MOVES FORWARD

What a difference two years makes. In two years Columbia Pike has moved from the forgotten corridor of Arlington to become a National laboratory for urban revitalization. From July 12 through July 18, the internationally acclaimed urban planning firm, Dover-Kohl will lead the Columbia Pike community through an urban design charrette.

The past two years have helped to define a concept for growth on Columbia Pike. The charrette is the last step in the process. In order for those dreams and ideas to become reality, a code to guide growth and development is essential. The charrette process will produce an Urban Design of heights, streetscapes, building styles, locations and uses that clearly defines the community's desires for the future.

The Columbia Pike charrette will be an intensive, seven-day public planning process. Our team will include urban designers, transportation planners, economic-development experts, business owners, property owners, residents, County officials, County staff and you.

The first night of the charrette people will learn the ground-rules and review the concept for growth on the Pike the County Board adopted on March 12 this year. The morning of the next day will be a hands-on design exercise. Groups of 8-10 people, including an architect to facilitate, will use a Pike map, pens, pencils and

crayons to draw their specific vision of Columbia Pike. In the afternoon, each group will share their vision with the rest of the community.

These visions will become the basis of a specific code for growth on Columbia Pike. Over the next five days the Dover-Kohl team will run an open design studio on Columbia Pike as they polish the community's vision. People will be invited to drop in on the work in progress. Various groups will be interviewed for additional input. By the end of the week, the community will see the detail of the future for Columbia Pike.

The charrettes will be held on the following dates, times are still being decided. For more information call the CPRO office at 703-892-2776 or go to the CPRO website, [columbiapikepartnership.com](http://columbiapikepartnership.com)

- Friday July 12, at the Sheraton National Hotel, 900 S. Orme St. the ground-rules meeting.
- Saturday July 13, at the Sheraton, the hands-on meeting.
- Sunday-Thursday July 14-18, at the CPRO office, 2611 Columbia Pike, the open design studio. Thursday evening July 18, at the Sheraton, the code presentation.

This is a Special Edition of the Newsletter. A full edition of the Newsletter will be distributed in the beginning of July. If you have any information you want included in the newsletter please contact Gretchen Carter or Lander Allin at 703 553 9286 or at [Allin-carter@starpower.net](mailto:Allin-carter@starpower.net).