

News for Alcova Heights

Published by the Alcova Heights Citizens Association

April 30, 2003

SAVE the DATE! May 13, 2003

The Alcova Heights Citizens Association will meet Tuesday, May 13, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room of the Arlington Baptist Church. The proposed agenda follows:

- I. Call to Order/Introductions**
- II. Minutes/Treasurer's Report**
- III. New Business**
 - Election of Vice President/President
 - Capital Land Rezoning Request
 - Community Emergency Response Training
 - Traffic Calming for 8th Street
 - Columbia Pike Tiered Bus Service
- IV. Old Business**
- V. Announcements/ Open Discussion**
- VI. Adjournment**

The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. (please enter the Arlington Baptist Church from the parking lot at S. Monroe and 8th Street S.)

National Capital Land will discuss plans for the development of 20 townhomes along Columbia Pike between S. Randolph and S. Quincy. (See story below.)

A citizen volunteer, Cynthia Kellams, will present information on Community Emergency Response Training, a program wherein local residents receive training to supplement the emergency services of the local, state and federal first responders. Alcova Heights may elect to participate in this training.

There will be a brief report on the progress of traffic calming efforts for 8th Street. The AHCA is grateful to Project Leader Tom Schelstrate, who is leading current petition efforts and to former Traffic Chair Ruth Yamamoto and the Traffic Committee for their efforts in this endeavor.

A representative of the Arlington County Department of Public Works will provide a brief presentation on ART and Metro bus service for Columbia Pike.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Jerry Gideon has been called to active military duty and has elected to step down at least for a while so that the affairs of the Association can continue to go forward. We thank Jerry for his dedication and commitment to Alcova Heights and wish him well as he confronts new challenges. Nominations for president will be

received at the May 13 meeting, as will nominations for the vice presidency. The vice presidency of the Association has been vacant for some months due to the resignation of Lander Allin, whose considerable time commitments to a plethora of community service endeavors did not allow him to continue as vice president.

This will be an important meeting of the Association as we begin to set the direction for the remainder of the year. Please plan to attend, and, since we have so many new folks in the neighborhood, please make a special effort to bring them with you.

NEIGHBORHOOD DAY

You've seen banners and read about National Neighborhood Day in the newspapers. Now you have an opportunity celebrate the day with your friends and neighbors in our own Alcova Park. The date is Saturday, May 10, the hours, 4 – 6 p.m. Bring something to grill and a side dish or dessert. The Broiler, the Columbia Pike icon at the corner of S. Monroe and the Pike, will provide drinks. Alcova Heights and Douglas Park will celebrate this neighborhood event together.

Neighborhood Day is one of several events sponsored by the Association each year. A Halloween Parade and, usually, quarterly potluck meetings of the Association are other such events.

The Association is grateful to Elly Merica for organizing what is sure to be a memorable neighborhood event. Elly could use some assistance with putting up signs, set-up and clean-up. Please let Elly know if you intend to participate so that she can get a rough count for drinks and paper goods – 703.979-5909 or merica@erols.com.

\$\$\$\$\$ – THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS

The Association would like to thank the following families who have paid dues for 2003: Larry Yungk, Michele Robinson, Mark Manlove, Lander Allin, Mary King, Bea Franklin, Raymond Jay, Toby Hayman, Rhea Dola, David Lakatos, Walt Green, Bob Dawson, Mike McMahon, Bill Cogswell, Derek Gallardo/Karen Browning, Pam Roach, David Baird, Ruth Yamamoto, M. Abarca, P. Malachin, Marjorie Clark, Tricia King.

AHCA dues are \$5.00 each calendar year, and are voluntary. Dues pay for the AHCA newsletter, and for occasional refreshments for meetings, dues to the county Federation of Citizens Associations and are used to support the Halloween parade, Night Out, Neighborhood Day and other such events.

The AHCA had planned to publish a voluntary directory of residents last year, but funding was insufficient. The estimated cost of publishing a directory, which is currently being updated and which is scheduled for distribution in late May or early June, is \$600. (If you wish additional information on the Directory, call Bob Dawson, Secretary at 703.521.2521 or email bubbycyn@aol.com.)

The current balance for AHCA is \$258.35, with \$85.94 in outstanding, unpaid expenses.

Families may pay dues using the form below (mail or drop off to Cynthia Behn, Treasurer, 3916 7th Street South, 22204) or at the May 13 meeting.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL (Optional) _____

TOWNHOUSE PROJECT NEARS APPROVAL

Plans for the proposed townhouse project on Columbia Pike between Quincy and Randolph Streets continue to move forward. The 22 unit project has been planned using the new Columbia Pike Form-Based Code as a guide. The units will front directly on Columbia Pike and Randolph Street at street level. Each unit will have a two-car garage which will be accessed from the rear. A large wooded area will be preserved at the back of the property to serve as a buffer for the adjacent homeowners. The units are expected to sell in the \$400,000+ range.

A working group made up of Alcova Heights residents, as well as representatives from Douglas Park and Barcroft, have been meeting with the developer, National Capital Land Company, since November. The developer has been surprisingly responsive to our concerns and suggestions. The project as now proposed, is a vast improvement over the first proposal. There are still some issues to be resolved, but we expect that these issues will be addressed to our satisfaction.

The construction period will undoubtedly be unpleasant and a bit of a shock, as many of the trees on the site will be removed and much of the hillside will be cut away. However, the community working group has worked hard to ensure that the final product will reflect positively on Alcova Heights and be an asset to the Columbia Pike community. We believe that we have succeeded.

To learn more about the project, please attend the May 13 meeting of the Alcova Heights Citizens Association. The developer will be on hand to present the project, and we will take a vote on whether or not to support the project. The project will go before the County Board on Saturday, May 17. If approved, construction will probably begin this fall. If you have any questions, please contact Lander Allin at 703-553-9286.

LEFT TURN CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY

The long-awaited construction of the left turn lanes at Columbia Pike and Glebe Road is finally underway. The project has been delayed for years, because the

necessary right-of-way and easements could not be acquired. That process was completed in March. The relocation of the utility poles and lines is now underway and should be wrapped up by the end of April. County staff is now preparing to advertise the project for construction bids. Construction start is planned for August with completion expected by November.

The new turn lanes will allow left turns from all four directions. This will reduce the amount of traffic cutting through Alcova Heights. They should also help relieve some of the congestion at the intersection.

After the turn lane construction is complete, construction of the streetscape improvements from Highland Street to Oakland Street can begin. Those improvements will include undergrounding the utility lines, installation of Carlyle-style streetlights, construction of brick sidewalks and the planting of street trees. The schedule for that project has not been announced.

LIKE USPS, THEY DELIVER! SO THANK 'EM!

This is an appropriate time to thank the volunteers who faithfully deliver the association newsletter whenever it is published—notwithstanding rain, sleet, slush, snow piles, and heat. These are you friends and neighbors: Mimi and Pete Neubauer; Bob and Mitzi Williams; Amy Fischer; Laurie Ann Lakatos; Maria Abarca; Tiera Bonneford; Mike Kigin; Jenny Anderson; Suzanne and Mark Manlove; Marie Van Ness; Tom, Barbara, and Emily Shelstrate; Janice Moore; Frank Veit; Bill Cogswell, Paula Green; Suzanne McIlwaine; Gail Freeman; and Martha Gibbons. The next time we see them let us express our appreciation for what they are doing to help our community.

P.S. There is a need for someone to deliver the newsletter around the bend on 7th St. between 7th and 8th streets and on 8th St. between 7th and Quincy streets. Let me know, if you would be willing to help. Thank you. Rhea Dola (703-920-5144)

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT COMING UP

Arlington United Methodist Church – Huge Yard Sale – May 10, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Call Steve Barham, 703.578.4935, for more information

SPRING CLEANING? GOOD STUFF LEFT OVER?

Arlington Ministering to Emergency Needs (AMEN) distributes usable furniture, housewares and other household goods to families in need. And, AMEN may be able to pick up from your home. Before you pitch that lamp or trash that table, give AMEN a shot at it. For more information, call The Furniture Bank of Arlington, 703. 237.5118.

(Editor's Note: This is not your usual professional editor, so please be indulgent!)