

NEWS FOR ALCOVA HEIGHTS

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So, You Want an Addition?

Do it yourself? Hire a contractor? Get a building permit? How does one work through the red tape, the design, the decisions?

Get some help at the November 18 meeting of the Alcova Heights Citizens Association. All of these topics – and more – will be covered. Our own Elly Merica will walk us through the permitting process, and we are very pleased to have C. Thomas Pendleton, president and founder of The Pendleton Group, to walk us all through the process of finding a contractor and then coming up with a contract, legal issues, etc. Mr. Pendleton, among other honors, was named 1998 Contractor of the Year for the Washington metropolitan area, received a Chrysalis Award in 1999 for “Best Whole House,” judged by *Southern Living* magazine, has been in construction since 1964, a home builder since 1968, and is a regular speaker for the National Association of Remodelers, Inc. (NARI), in which he serves on the Ethics, Consumer Awareness, Awards, Marketing and Communications Committees.

It looks to be a very informative meeting. Even if you have already “done” your addition, there are two reasons to come: 1. you may want to do another and 2. you can share your experiences with your neighbors.

WHAT -- Meeting of Alcova Heights Citizens Association

WHERE -- Arlington Baptist Church (use 8th Street entrance)

WHEN -- Tuesday, November 18, 2003

TOPIC -- So, You Want to Build an Addition!

Potluck at 6:00 p.m.; meeting at 7:00 p.m. Babysitting Provided!

THEN . . . some have indicated that a message board or bulletin board that lists contractors in various trades – everything from plumbers to chimney sweeps – with comments from customers would be helpful to individuals and families seeking repairs. Let's talk about it!

Bits and Pieces

Get Your Sniffer in Shape!

Coming to the Pike – Pan-American Bakery and Delicatessen is in the works at 4113 Columbia Pike (shopping center next to Shell Station) – all sorts of breads, baked goods, pastries, cakes, plus salads, sandwiches, soups and a coffee bar. Meant to be family-

friendly, and a great place to hang out or pick up a snack after playing in the park. Elly Merica is working with the proprietors, so the design will be as cool as the cookies.

What in the World Are They Doing There?

You may have seen the huge construction project behind the Wachovia Bank (formerly First Union) between South Randolph and George Mason. It seems that Hurricane Isabel, and possibly more importantly, that deluge that followed in the next week, was responsible for collapsing the corrugated metal infrastructure that kept the bank parking lot out of Doctor's Run.

According to County project leader Hung Tran, following evaluation, staff determined that no contractor could move in immediately to effect the repairs and protect the 5 residences along South Randolph, so the Department of Public Works got an emergency purchase order to begin repairs immediately. The project will involve excavation, driving pilings and replacing the corrugated metal with concrete box culverts for the entire length of the trench. The piping should be done by Christmas, but full repairs will not be completed until spring 2004, when warmer weather will permit the use of asphalt. Before that, though, a check dam and pumping installation is necessary to divert the flow of the creek. The concrete culverts have to be cast, and it will take a minimum of six weeks to get them built and on site. The 15 – 20 feet of dirt atop the old culvert has to be trucked to Maryland, and then trucked back to the site. Cost is estimated to be between \$1 and \$1.2 million.

That means that there is virtually no parking for building visitors, although the drive-through windows for the bank are functional. Eric Kodjanian, the overseer of financial centers for Wachovia here, said the bank and building tenants have rented 20 temporary parking spaces from the Food Star store in the shopping center across George Mason. Recommend you use the light to cross George Mason, especially during morning and evening rush hours.

Feel Like Running?

The Scholarship Committee of the Civic Federation will sponsor the United We Stand 5K race at 1:00 p.m. November 8. Beneficiaries are the Committee and the United Service Organization of Metro DC. Call 703.218.2726 for more information. Understand there's a free piece of pizza when you pick up your packet on Friday, Nov. 7.

Pick up a Couple Extra Cans and Boxes . . .

. . . and bring 'em to the AHCA meeting on November 18. Recipient will be the Food Bank of our gracious and generous hosts, the pastor and congregation of the Arlington Baptist Church. We'd like to make this a regular activity to partially repay the church folks for their extraordinary generosity.

Say Thanks!

If you're out mowing up the leaves when one of Rhea Dola's dedicated crew delivers this missive, thank them. An army may live on its stomach, but the AHCA lives on these great volunteers!

HALLOWEEN!

A JOB WELL DONE!!!! And a huge, grateful tip of the hat to the folks who made the Halloween parade and park gathering a success. Thanks to Dellyn Periandri, who got the word out with all the signs and posters and a notice through Barcroft Elementary. Gail Batt wrapped herself in red tape and secured the necessary permit from the county, and then set her hand at attracting the fire and rescue guys and those big trucks. Thanks to Mom's Pizza for two pizzas; to The Broiler, for the drinks, to Pike Pizza, for empanadas. And thanks to everyone who contributed cupcakes, cookies and kids to the event. We were especially pleased to play host to our across-the-Pike neighbors from Douglas Park, led by Arlington's champion apple bobber, Rebecca Krafft, their president. We know we left someone out, but that's due to incompetence, not intention.

There We Didn't Say it Again . . .

You probably noticed the conspicuous absence of the "d" word. Not gonna say it this time. We always accept voluntary contributions, but we're not having a real drive for (####)-paying members until January, but we will put the arm on you for (####) then. However, we will have 50 copies of **THE DIRECTORY** at the Nov. 18 meeting. Would appreciate a (pocket change) contribution to cover the cost of copying. Recognize that some of the information is out of date, but look at this as a place-holder and working document for a newer, bigger, better, more comprehensive directory in early 2004.

Sidewalks, Lights on 7th and 8th Streets

Petitions for sidewalks on 7th Street between Oakland and 8th Street will go to the County early next week, per Karla Hagan, who, with Bill Cogswell, has collected signatures for the proposed project. Once the County determines that a sufficient number of property owners have signed the petitions, drawings for proposed sidewalks will be available within two weeks. Following the receipt of the drawings, we will schedule a block meeting to examine and have County staff explain them, probably before Christmas. Meanwhile, some residents of 8th Street have indicated an interest in proceeding with initial petitioning for sidewalks, and will be working with the County to get the process under way. These projects would be submitted for funding consideration in the March 2004 cycle, and construction would take place, as we understanding it, within two years.

Meanwhile, petitions for the Carlisle lights for 7th Street have been submitted and are on the list of unfounded projects. It is unlikely that this project will be funded in this cycle.

This gives Alcova Heights two, and perhaps, three projects for the next funding cycle, which Chris Nixon suggested she would like to see during our September meeting.

Shortly after Christmas, we will be naming a chair and co chair and seeking volunteers to examine our current environmental plan and suggest new initiatives. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let the president know. We would like to have representatives from all streets in the neighborhood.

Who Was the Mummer? And other Mysteries

Did you notice the pretty mums by the Alcova Heights sign at the Park? We have learned that Susan DuBois and her lovely and talented husband Doug and their little helpers prepared the soil and planted them. Not only did they do that, but also with their own little hands, they planted 50 daffodil bulbs. Way to go, DuBoises!

Now, for the mystery . . . who was the little mum-elf who mulched and put those stones around them? We have our suspicions, but no smoking shovel.

Signs of the Times

You will remember that we discussed green foliage with white lettering on our Alcova Heights signs, as opposed to the blue foliage on the sign at Quincy and the Pike. We are trying to get a sample sign with the green/white done prior to the meeting (7th and Glebe entrance). Swing by for a look and compare with the blue prior to the meeting so we can get your preferences.

Left Turn Lanes Update

Construction of the left turn lanes at Columbia Pike and Glebe Road is now underway. The first phase of the project is to underground the utilities at the intersection. This work began on September 29 and should be completed in January. Actual construction of the turn lanes is scheduled to begin in February with completion in May. Depending on the severity of our winter weather, completion could occur ahead of schedule or be delayed.

In addition to the turn lanes, streetscape improvements will be made. This work will include installation of new sidewalks (using brick pavers), street trees and the Carlisle-style streetlights. A second project to underground utilities and make similar streetscape improvements from Highland Street to Oakland Street should get underway later in 2004.

These projects were approved and funded years ago, but have languished while they ever so slowly made their way through the County bureaucracy. Representatives from Alcova Heights, Douglas Park and Arlington Heights have worked together for almost two years to force the County to make these projects a priority. Many thanks to them for their tireless efforts.

The County is putting out monthly updates to keep the community informed about the progress of the construction. These updates will go out to the Alcova Heights list serve as they are received. (-- *Thanks to Lander Allin for this update*)

SAVE THE TENTATIVE DATE – The next meeting of the Alcova Heights Citizens Association is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, January 20**, when we will tentatively hear a presentation on the County's bond initiative, tentatively have a speaker to talk about native species and get us on track for when the sun greets the earth to bring forth the promise of spring and the bounty of summer, and tentatively talk about any darn thing you want to.