

# ALCOVA HEIGHTS

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2005

### **Alcova Heights Park Clean Up Day is Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

Don your muckiest clothes, bring your work gloves and join your neighbors on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> to help clean up Alcova Park/Doctor's Run. The Park Clean Up is being sponsored by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment. They will provide trash bags, gloves and cleaning supplies. We will focus on trash and branches and weeding.

If anyone has any shrubs, perennials or bulbs they'd like to donate to help beautify the park area, please drop them off that morning. Children over the age of ten are encouraged to help, and children under ten are encouraged to play on the playground!

Coffee and donuts will be provided by the Alcova Heights Babysitting Co-op.

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment  
703-228-6427

[www.arlingtonenvironment.org](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org)

**Let's clean up the park for  
Neighborhood Day!**

### **Thanks to our New Editors:**

Doug and Susan DuBois are our new editors of our ALCOVA newsletter!

### **Neighborhood Day BBQ & Bonfire- Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>**

Come and join your neighbors for songs and stories, games and food at Alcova Heights Park, from 4:30 to 8:00 pm. We'll provide beverages, hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and all of the fixings. You bring your favorite side dish.

There will be prizes for the fastest three-legged racers, the best potato-sack hoppers, the neighborhood dog with the funniest trick, an all-ages Hula-Hoop contest and a special prize for the longest Alcova Heights resident to join us for the festivities.

Follow the red balloons at the park for a terrific party and a great way to meet your neighbors. Volunteers are still needed to prepare and set up for the party. Please contact Lynn at [Lgant@westlake.com](mailto:Lgant@westlake.com) to help with this terrific event.

### **May 14<sup>th</sup>: Barcroft Elem. Spring Fair**

Barcroft Elementary School PTA will be holding its annual Spring Fair on Saturday, May 14th from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. There will be games for all ages, cake walks, moonbounce, obstacle course, prizes and food. A silent auction featuring interesting theme gift baskets and local business donations will be held from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Hope you can join this fun neighborhood event. If you are interested in volunteering or need further information, call Beth Malks at 703-486-07723.

### **March 22<sup>nd</sup> Alcova Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting Highlights**

We are fortunate enough to have amongst our neighbors Alice Nicolson, a long-time Alcova Heights resident and master gardener with 25 years' experience. Alice gave an enthusiastic and enlightening talk on successful gardening tips. She stressed that the key to a healthy garden is the "right plant in the right place". The more complicated, or diversified, the landscape is, the healthier it will be. Alice noted that two inches of mulch spread around the garden was sufficient, and that stakes used to support new trees should generally be removed after one year. For More Information: Virginia Coop Extension General Info: (703) 228-6400; Community Gardens (703) 228-6426; Family & Consumer Education (703) 228-6417; Master Gardeners (703) 228-6414 <http://www.ext.vt.edu/>

Sara Uzel, the Treasurer, reported that the association has over \$1,100.00 in the treasury for the first time in recent memory. She reminded people that they could drop off their \$10 annual dues at her house at 3709 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Alcova Heights was awarded over \$4,000 from the County to install an information kiosk down by the park, as well as two benches by the volleyball court. We would also like to add some flowering bulbs and bushes. If you are interested in working on this project, please call or email Susan DuBois at 703-486-3684 or [doungnsusan@msn.com](mailto:doungnsusan@msn.com).

#### **Dave Hurren reports From the ACCF:**

The Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) is the "Civic Voice of Arlington". The federation speaks as one group on behalf of neighborhood residents on local

issues before the County Board, state legislature and U.S. Congress.

I represent residents of Alcova Heights at the monthly ACCF meetings. These are open to the public and are held the first Tuesday of the month at Virginia Hospital's Hazel Conference Center. Recent topics include the real estate tax rate and the zoning ordinance regulation. Future topics can be found at: <http://civfed.org>

#### **From Lisa Cherkasky, resident food writer:**

*Heavenly Fudge Sauce  
Perfect for summer hot fudge sundaes or  
banana splits*

*2/3 cup packed brown sugar  
1/4 cup unsalted butter  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
1/2 cup light corn syrup  
1/3 cup high-quality unsweetened cocoa  
powder  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract*

In a two-quart, heavy- bottom saucepan, melt together the brown sugar and butter over medium heat. Stir in the cream, corn syrup and cocoa until smooth. Bring the mixture to a boil and let cook one minute. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla.

Store in a container with a tight-fitting lid; refrigerated. Warm gently before serving.

#### **Fall Enrollment for CERT Training Begins Soon**

Do you want to be better prepared for emergencies in your own home? Are you interested in being part of a neighborhood team trained to help save and sustain lives following a major disaster until help arrives? If so, Arlington County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training may be for you.

CERT members undergo 20+ hours of training over a six-to-eight week period (six weeknights and two Saturday mornings). Classes are taught by emergency responders and topics covered include emergency preparedness, triage and treatment of victims, fire suppression and utility shutoff, terrorism, and team organization and management. The course concludes with a mock disaster/final exam where team members put into practice all they've learned.

CERT training is open to Arlington residents who are at least 18 years of age, able to participate in all aspects of the training. Although the training is free, CERT members are expected to acquire certain supplies in addition to those that should already be on hand in every household. The next CERT class will begin in September. The classes usually meet on either Tuesday or Thursday nights. If you'd like additional information, or are interested in enrolling, go to the County's website ([www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)), click on Emergency Preparedness and follow the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) links for additional information. If you don't have internet access, call 703-228-7036 and leave a message. Better yet, check with one of our neighborhood CERT members!

Congratulations to Alcovia Heights residents Mike, Judy and Colleen Kigin, Gina Costante and Martha Gibbons on completing their CERT training and helping make our neighborhood just a little bit safer.

#### **Arlington Senior News**

- Two cooking classes for seniors featuring Vietnamese food to be held in June: Tues., June 4, 10:15 a.m., Carver Senior Center; Thurs., June 23, 10:00 a.m., Langston-Brown

Senior Center. Classes taught by Phung Nguyen Luong. To sign up call 703-228-5700.

- Free computer classes for seniors who "know nothing" held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-noon, Culpepper Garden Senior Center. Registration required by calling 703-228-4403.
- Seniors interested in bridge, canasta, poker and chess can find friendly games at various senior centers. Instruction also available. For more information, call the Office of Senior Adult Programs, 703-228-4744.
- Get in shape for summer at the Madison and Langston-Brown Community Center fitness rooms. Special hours for seniors. Cost is \$45 for a 15-session ticket. For information call 703-228-4745.

#### **South Arlington Senior Centers:**

Arlington Mill, 4975 Columbia Pike, 703-228-7791, Tues. thru Fri., 9a.m.-12:30p.m.

Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St., 703-228-5722, Mon., Wed., Fri., 10a.m.-3p.m.

Carver, 1415 S. Queen St., 703-228-5700, Mon. thru Fri., 9a.m.-2p.m.

#### **6th Street Drainage Issues**

Five houses on South 6th Street between Monroe and Oakland have joined together to resolve water and drainage problems in our back yards. An engineer from the County who recommended installing a french drain through all the yards to flow water to the storm drain on Oakland. A drainage and landscaping company met with us & after viewing all the back yards, indicated the problem was primarily due to inadequate water drainage from the alley.



The consensus seems to be that we have two problems. The houses closer to Monroe are experiencing what we call the "dry creek" with soggy yards and the appearance of a creek bed flowing down the center of the yards where all the water is flowing downhill. The solution there seems to be adding some sort of gutter or culvert to redirect water flow at the fence line and down the entire alley.

The second problem is the last three yards basically turn into lakes during moderate or heavy rains because the water isn't getting out to the storm drain on Oakland. The solution here appears to be adding a french drain in the yards of the last three houses on the block and tapping those directly into the storm drain.

From the discussions on the listserv, we see that this a problem on other streets as well and we'll keep the neighborhood informed of our progress.

Michele Chaves 3704 S. 6th Street

### Join the Listserve and Keep Up-to-Date with Alcova News

We have a Yahoo mailing list for residents of the Alcova Heights neighborhood of Arlington, VA at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alcova\\_Heights/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alcova_Heights/). Residents are encouraged to post local news, discuss neighborhood concerns and trade tips on home improvements. School events and information is appropriate as well. You don't need to live in Alcova Heights to be a member, but we encourage postings to be on topic. Posters are responsible for the content of their messages, and while respectful debate is encouraged, libel should be avoided. Extremely limited commercial speech has been tolerated by the members in the past. Mike Rhode of South 7th currently manages the list, and he can be reached at [mrhode@hotmail.com](mailto:mrhode@hotmail.com) if you have any questions or need help in subscribing. Like all Yahoo groups, messages can be received individually, as a daily digest or read on the website.



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Call your Alcova Heights

Neighborhood Specialist



**Jan Kennemer**  
703-920-2047  
[Jkennemer@aol.com](mailto:Jkennemer@aol.com)



THIS IS NOT INTENDED TO SOLICIT THE OFFERINGS OF OTHER REALTORS.



### **The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter**

Several Alcova Heights residents are participating in an Adopt-A-Room volunteer event for The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter (TACTS). TACTS provides a temporary home free of abuse for women and their children.

TACTS receives only 27% of its total operating budget from state and local government funding. TACTS relies on the commitment, partnership and generosity of individuals and organizations to raise over \$800,000 annually.

We are collecting items and donations to refurbish one of the rooms at the shelter, and we need your help to make it more comfortable and functional for it's temporary family tenants. We are looking for donations of the following items:

- Home Depot and Target gift cards
- Unused paint gallons
- Picture Frames
- Fabric for curtains
- Dresser – large 4 or 5 drawer
- Night Stand
- 2 bedside lamps
- Wall-mounted lamps
- Door mirror or smaller wall mirror
- Closet Organizer s
- Area Rug 9' x 12' or remnant to cut
- Hamper
- Garbage Can
- Shelves
- Small Table/desk for workspace
- Chair for table/desk
- Materials for fold up shelf w/ bracket

If you have carpentry skills and equipment, we could also use your help. If you are interested in donating a few hours of your time in May or early June, if you have something you would like

to donate to the cause, please contact Suzanne Manlove, [suzannemanlove@yahoo.com](mailto:suzannemanlove@yahoo.com), 703.892.1462. We can arrange pick up, and can also provide tax receipts.

We will also be selling tickets for a 50/50 raffle at the Alcova Heights Neighborhood Picnic on May 14th, 4:40 - 7pm at Alcova Heights Park. Buy a ticket for a chance to win 50% of the raffle collections.

Feel free to share this with any friends who may have items to donate! Thank you for your help!!!

A/H Team members: Suzanne Manlove, Carolyn Majowka, Susan DuBois, Beth Connors

For questions or to find out more about how to donate to TACTS, contact Cathy Yi, Director of Development, at (703)522-8858 ext. 14 or [cyi@tacts.org](mailto:cyi@tacts.org).

Visit TACTS Thrift Store  
5643 Lee Highway  
(near Lee- Harrison Shopping Center)  
New Telephone #: 703-237-0867

#### **The Newsletter Needs You!**

**Looking for editors, writers, photographers, and advertising help. If you are interested in working on our neighborhood newsletter, please contact Susan DuBois at [dougnsusan@msn.com](mailto:dougnsusan@msn.com)**



**Classified Ads:**

**\* Moving Sale!**

**May 14, 8:30am-12:30pm**

**3823 S. 6th Street**

**Kids stuff, cd's, kitchenware, books,  
clothes, furniture, and much more!!!**

**\* Nicole Hurren, a resident of Alcova Heights, has started working part time in the neighborhood as a personal trainer. If anyone is interested or would like to learn more please contact her via email: nico5\_5@yahoo.com**

**\* The Arlington Heights and Penrose Civic Associations will again partner on a community yard sale. The event will be held at Patrick Henry Elementary School on Saturday, May 21, 2005 from 8 am until noon. The event will take place in the parking lot, in the corner closest to the school and South Highland Street. Interested neighbors can rent a space for \$10. The proceeds from the event will go to benefit each of the involved civic associations. Advance registration is required. For more information or to register, please contact Amy Vennett at 703-920-1832 or jajvennett@earthlink.net.**

**\* Lisa Cherkasky is in search of second hand bowling balls and/or duck pin balls and is willing to pay \$5/a piece. Please call her at (703)486-9553 or email her at spudnut59@comcast.net  
Thanks!**

**\* Casey O'Neal on How To Double or Triple Your Investment When Preparing Your Home To Sell!**

Cleaning up, removing clutter, adding a new coat of paint, installing carpeting, refinishing hardwood floors, manicuring landscaping, updating fixtures, and other cosmetic touches, put your home in the best light and cost only \$5,000 to \$10,000. Buyers will gravitate towards generic improvements that enhance a home's functionality, efficiency and aesthetics, giving it a more contemporary feel.

That also means completing deferred maintenance. Make repairs to fix or replace broken items and systems. Use your cash to put the home and its components in good working order by replacing missing roof shingles and broken or cracked windows. Repair driveway cracks and straighten leaning fences. Make sure doors, gates, lights, plumbing fixtures and other items are all working properly. Beyond the cosmetic touches and functional upgrades, the best home improvements that help net sellers' full market value include kitchen and bath remodels and only those alterations and additions that bring your home in line with the others in the neighborhood.

Too often home improvements are random, uneven upgrades. If you leave one of your bathrooms in its original 1950s style, but remodel the other, or if you landscape the front yard, but leave the backyard in its natural weed-infested state, most buyers will notice what's left to be done, rather than credit you for completed work. Consistency pays off!

Want a quick and easy checklist of inexpensive ways to make a buyer instantly attracted to your home? Contact me for my report on the "44 Money Making Tips For Preparing Your Home To Sell!"

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**Casey O'Neal, Associate Broker**

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