

The Alcova Heights Quarterly

Fall 2024

Editor's Note | We're back!

Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to revive the Alcova Heights quarterly newsletter to keep you all updated on what's happening in our corner of the world. A big thank you to Mike Rhodes, this newsletter's longtime editor, and Alex Stevens and Sara Uzel from the Alcova Heights Citizens Association (AHCA), who graciously shared some pointers with me ahead of this first edition.

A bit about me: my husband and I have lived in Alcova Heights since 2014, we have two kids, ages six and three, and an eight-year-old golden doodle. Who is a nut. Apologies to anyone who walks by our house when the front door is open.

In future editions, I hope to include some new features, as well as the content we have all enjoyed in years past - milestones and announcements from our neighbors, board and county updates, and, of course, pet content.

To that end, please share your hot tips, story ideas, birthdays, good news, and/or interesting wildlife sightings with me anytime at alcovanewsletter@gmail.com.

Here we go!

Elly Burke
Editor



Photo: Terry Luedtke

Halloween 2024

Mark your calendars! Halloween is truly one of the best times of the year in our neighborhood.

The annual Alcova Heights Halloween parade and block party is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The party kicks off in the parking lot of the Baptist Church at 714 South Monroe Street and the parade starts at 4 p.m., leaving from the church. Parade route TBD!

Please RSVP **here and sign up** to bring something to share.

Halloween night in Alcova Heights is magical. For those celebrating their first Halloween with us, here are some tips:

1. Trick or treating starts at dusk and usually quiets down by 8:30. Little kids sometimes come around a bit earlier!
2. The busiest hour is typically 6:30 to 7:30.

Alcova Heights Needs YOU!

Alcova Heights Citizens Association (AHCA) board elections are coming up soon and there are several roles to fill, including committee chairs. We also need to replenish AHCA representation with County civic groups.

Please consider serving our community! **Most positions require about 4-6 hours of your time**

per month.

If you are interested in joining or have questions about serving, please contact Alex Stevens at arstevens04@gmail.com.



A good excuse to have a beer

Two-year-old redbone coonhound mix Hope Moses, of 7th Street, is Solace Brewing Company's Rescue Ale 2024 cover dog! You can see Hope's sweet face on Rescue Ale cans as part of an annual fundraiser from Solace Brewing Co. that benefits the Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation (LDCRF).

Hope's mom Amy met Hope in 2023 while walking in Alcova Heights after the death of her beloved pup Gracie. The neighbor fostering Hope mentioned she was up for adoption and Amy fell in love. Hope had high needs when she was rescued by LDCRF, but today, she's a healthy, spirited, three-legged runner who inspires everyone she meets.

Stop by Lost Dog Cafe on your next beer run, or keep an eye out for Hope's cans at liquor stores, bars and restaurants in the area. Ten percent of all proceeds from the sale of Hope's Rescue Ale cans and \$1 of every pint of Rescue Ale sold in Lost Dog Cafes goes directly to Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation.

3. Lots of people sit on their porches or at their gates to hand out treats.
4. Teal pumpkins on the porch = homes offering allergen-free treats.
5. Traditional rules generally apply - houses with their porch lights are open for business, and those with their lights off are not.

Can't wait to see everyone!



Photo: Terry Luedtke

Q&A: Winter gardens

I asked 6th Street neighbor Janet Draper, who has been a master gardener at the Smithsonian for more than 25 years, how she's preparing her gardens for winter and what advice she has for the novices among us.

My garden is a fright! What should I do to get it ready for colder weather?

Horticultural practices have changed so much over the past few years, especially as we begin to see that home gardens can play a huge role in helping the environment.

It used to be that we would "put the garden to bed" for the winter, meaning cut everything down and have a clean slate for spring. This removed all overwintering cavities for insect life, which is the basic food source for animal life.



Photo: Lost Dog Cat & Rescue Foundation

AHCA annual dues ensure neighborhood voices are heard

Annual civic association dues are \$20 per household or \$10 per person. These funds help support the block party and the Halloween parade, but also ensure that AHCA can continue to engage with Arlington County on behalf of Alcova Heights.

Dues can be paid in person (3709 6th St S, please include your address and name on the envelope) or via PayPal to alcova.treasurer@gmail.com.

Donations also welcome!



A hidden fairy door in Alcova Heights Park (Photo: Elly Burke)

My advice: Try to leave as much on the ground as possible, including standing stems and leaves. Many insects lay their eggs in these stems, so any organic matter will feed and overwinter insects.

Can't handle the look of dead stems? You can cut them back and throw them in a pile in a back corner of the yard. Consider raking leaves off the lawn as well and leaving them in the pile to decompose. A layer of leaf mold is a great top dressing for garden beds.

Is it too late to plant bulbs?

Now is a good time to evaluate your garden and plant perennials, trees, and shrubs now for next year! The ground is still warm and moist so plants have enough time to get established before true winter sets in.

Think of the future and plant native trees where you can. Oaks in particular provide more ecological resources than any other tree.

*Editor's Note: The next time you visit the National Mall, check out Janet's expertise in action at the **Mary Livingston Ripley Garden**, 850 Jefferson Drive SW.*

Click here to receive the next newsletter in your inbox!

Fall Construction Updates

Updates on construction projects happening in and around Alcova Heights, with special thanks to Sara Uzel for her dogged pursuit of these updates.

Sidewalks on 7th. Construction of new sidewalks on the 4000 block of 7th Street S is about to begin. The County will schedule a neighborhood meeting to introduce property owners to the County construction manager and the contractor's crew supervisor, discuss guidelines, and answer questions. A pre-construction flier will be also distributed with relevant information.

Five Guys comes home. In a nod to its founding location in the Westmont Shopping Center, Five Guys will open a restaurant (date TBD) in the newly-completed Westmont building on the east side of Glebe Road at Columbia Pike. Additionally, ARLNow reported recently that the space will include a new CVS location and a Jersey Mike's sandwich shop. With apologies to all the Trader Joe's fans in the neighborhood, the remaining retail space is meant for a smaller store or restaurant.

Goodwill moves forward. A planned 128-unit affordable housing build, with a Goodwill store and a daycare, is moving ahead at the current Goodwill location just south of Arlington Blvd. The project has secured financing and working construction documents, and hopes to break ground in Summer 2025.

Sunrise delayed. Sunrise Assisted Living, a memory care facility being built on the Methodist Church site at 7th and Glebe, has delayed construction again due to financing. AHCA is reaching out to Sunrise about improving maintenance on the property and to suggest an organization like Habitat for Humanity come in and strip the site of any remaining fixtures.

No action at Bank of America. No permits, financing information, or construction documents have been filed for a planned 250-unit apartment building at the former Bank of America site on the west side of Glebe and Columbia Pike. A 2023 permit for the project expires in 2026.



Click here or scan the QR code to
receive future editions of The Alcova
Heights Quarterly in your inbox!



Alcova Heights Citizens Association | Address Line 1 | City, State/Province Zip Code US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!