



Over the Fence

News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association
Spring 2010

Visit our website: www.ahca.info

Join our yahoo group: ahca-subscribe@yahoo.com

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

One goal your Arlington Heights Civic Association Executive Committee has set for this year is to find ways to improve communication and the dissemination of information within our neighborhood. Toward this effort we are reworking the "Over The Fence" newsletter. Your feedback will help us develop a newsletter better suited to your needs and interests. We thank newsletter editor Dora Sue Black for her hard work and dedication to this vision.

We also invite you to visit our handsome new kiosk in the Thomas Jefferson Park at the corner of South 2nd and South Irving Streets. Our wonderful AHCA Secretary, Juliet Hiznay, will be posting updated neighborhood news regularly.

This spring our website at www.ahca.info will begin to undergo a transformation with the help of neighbors Richard Bullington-McGuire, Jay Wind and AHCA 2nd Vice President Kimberly Sumner. The plan is to update the look and content of the site, make it a bit more user friendly, and to include more items of interest to our neighborhood. Please feel free to email Jay (jaywind@att.net) and Kimberly (ksum22204@yahoo.com) with your suggestions.

Yet another valuable resource in neighborhood communication is the quarterly Arlington Heights Civic Association Meeting held at Patrick Henry Elementary School. Our meetings are a great way to meet your neighbors and discuss issues of interest within our community. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 13, 2010 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

Finally, we have our list serv at AHCA@yahoo.com, and I strongly encourage everyone in Arlington Heights to sign up. This free service is not only the most immediate way to provide and share information but it is also an excellent forum for neighborhood discussion. We use the list to share information on virtually everything including, but not limited to, weather and traffic alerts, Arlington County Police updates, school activities and local social and philanthropic events. Neighbors post the occasional lost and found items - from guinea pigs to house keys. We share the good news of awards won by our neighborhood schools and residents and sometimes the sad news of the loss of a neighbor. We post offers of assistance when neighbors may be in need due to blizzards or hurricanes. And oh yes, we debate and discuss, everything from home assessments, to snow plowing, to the best handyman, chimney sweep or plumber to contact. The list also provides the most up to date information on planned neighborhood events such as our annual neighborhood BBQ, Halloween Parade, or neighborhood softball games. Please take a moment now to go on and sign up! To make it easy we have included "how to" instructions in this newsletter. If you have any further questions about how to join please email Jay Wind at jaywind@att.net.

I wish you all a happy Spring and I look forward to seeing you at our April 13 meeting!

Sincerely,

Stacey Whyte
AHCA President

***Spring Meeting @7:00-9:00 pm
Tuesday, April 13!
Patrick Henry Elementary***

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AHCA Spring Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Patrick Henry Elementary Library
701 South Highland Street

AGENDA ITEMS

Arlington County Fair Presentation
Arlington Heights Neighborhood Day
Neighborhood Conservation Updates

AHCA Calendar

E-Care	April 17
Jefferson Parking Lot	8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Neighborhood Barbecue	May 22
Patrick Henry Elementary School	
AHCA Called Meeting	June TBD
Neighborhood Conservation Vote	
AHCA Summer Meeting	July 13
AHCA Fall Meeting	October 12
Neighborhood Halloween Parade	October 30



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2010 Arlington Heights Executive Board

One of the goals of the newsletter is to offer a way to build community. Since we just elected new executive board officers, I asked them if they would share a bit about themselves and Arlington Heights.

Stacey Whyte is the new President of the Arlington Heights Civic Association for 2010. She served as 1st Vice President in 2009. Previously, Stacey served for several years as a Civic Federation Delegate.

Stacey and her husband Keith have lived in Arlington for 16 years. In February, they celebrated ten years as residents of Arlington Heights. They share their home with their four year old son, Ian, who is the love of their lives.

Stacey looks forward to another wonderful year here in the neighborhood and appreciates the community giving her the opportunity to serve.

Sara Snow is the new First Vice President. She has lived in Arlington Heights for 13 years. She and her husband enjoy spending time with their children and pugs. Most recently, Sara organized the 2009 Arlington Heights Halloween Parade and Food Drive.

Sara is looking forward to serving on the Arlington Heights Executive Committee and to meeting more of her neighbors.

bios continued on page 5

**Are you thinking about selling your house?
Order any of these FREE Reports.**

Dial the toll free Number: 1-800-816-1988 and then enter the ID number

Reports Name:	ID#
➤ The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast	1000
➤ 11 Things you Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection	1003
➤ 10 Questions to Ask Before You Hire an Agent	1006
➤ Divorce: What You need to know About Your House, Mortgage, etc	1009
➤ Legal Mistakes to Avoid When Selling A Home	1011
➤ How to Sell a House that Didn't Sell	1012
➤ How to Sell the Place You Call Home	1013
➤ Homesellers: How to Get the Price You Want (and Need)	1016
➤ 27 Valuable Tips you Should Know to Get your Home Sold Fast	1023
➤ Homesellers: Find Out What the Home Down The Street Sold For	1041

**Also, do not forget that the buyer's tax credit will expire on
April 30th, 2010**

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Neighborhood Conservation – by
Juliet Hiznay

County staff continue to work on design aspects of our neighborhood's first priority project, Irving/Arlington Blvd Phase II. AHCA will host an informational meeting, likely to occur in May, with a civic association vote expected at a Special Meeting in June. Please stay tuned for any updates, which will be posted on the yahoo group and at the information kiosk. Meanwhile, Phase I of Irving/Arlington Blvd. is slated for County Board funding approval.

Upcoming articles for the July issue

Would you like to be a guest writer, please contact Dora Sue Black (dstblack@msn.com).

- *Welcome to the Neighborhood
- *Arlington Heights History moment
- *More Garden Events
- *Softball articles (look for more info on listserv)
- *Know your neighbor article

A big Thank You to all who helped with this edition - guest writers, advertisers, distributors, friends and neighbors.

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Northern VA Market Trends

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on November 2009 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton. Below are some figures:

A total of 1,567 homes sold in 11/09, up 42.45% from 1,100 units in 11/08. Active listings decreased by 27.51% from last year with 6,067 active listings in 11/09 compared with 8,369 homes in 11/08. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in 11/09 45% to 50 days, from 91 days in 11/08. Sales prices rose slightly compared with those realized last year. The average sales price in 11/09 was \$428,581, up from \$423,088 in 11/08. Arlington County's average sales price increased from \$483,600 in 11/08 to \$523,000 in 11/09.

Home Buyer Tax Credit

Last November Congress extended the tax credit amending it to include some repeat buyers in hopes of securing a more sustained real estate upswing.

Fueled by the original November 30, 2009 deadline, sales of existing homes had increased steadily since April. A good majority of all closed transactions involved first-time buyers. The new deadline to use the credit is 4/30/10 for buyers to be under contract.

Contact me for details on this program!

The conforming loan limit for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is still at \$729,750 through the end of this year.

Real Estate Tips for selling a home:

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www.SettingYourHousePrice.com

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Kimberly Sumner is the new Second Vice President. She has lived in Arlington Heights for 13 years. When Kimberly bought her home on Sixth Street she was the youngest person on the block. Now the houses around her have sold to new owners and she is no longer the youngest on the block. :) She misses the neighbors who have moved, but enjoys and likes her new neighbors.

Kimberly has two hobbies – gardening and knitting. She has a great shade garden in the back and a lovely rose garden in her front yard. The social knitting group Kimberly belongs to was founded right here in Arlington Heights. The knitting group meets the first and third Sundays of each month. They started meeting in each others homes, but have moved to the Walter Reed Recreation Center. Kimberly has extended an invitation to all knitters and crocheters to join them. Just contact Kimberly if you are interested.

Juliet Hiznay has changed roles this year. She will be AHCA's secretary. Juliet and her husband Mark live on South Hudson Street with their 6-year old son, Max. They have lived in the neighborhood since 2000. Juliet is a graduate of George Mason University School of Law, and practiced law for 5 years prior to having Max. She just completed two terms as President of the AHCA following one term as First Vice-President. In addition to serving as Secretary, Juliet continues to enjoy serving as Neighborhood Conservation Representative for Arlington Heights.

Lisa Bongardt continues in her role as Civic Association treasurer. Lisa and her husband have lived on South Irving Street for the past six years. Lisa has served as the AHCA treasurer since January 2009.

Please join the AHCA Listserv

Please join our neighborhood Yahoo Group <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/AHCA>).

You can subscribe directly by sending an e-mail to ahca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

As Stacey said in her president's letter, this site allows you to receive time sensitive messages and keep informed about neighborhood concerns and events. You do not have to respond, but knowing the information can keep you in touch.

The following feature may be a welcome for those who want to scan messages on the web rather than have them pop up in their e-mail.

- Send a message to ahca-nomail@yahoogroups.com to go to web mail only
- Send a message to ahca-traditional@yahoogroups.com to eliminate the sidebar on each message
- Send a message to ahca-digest@yahoogroups.com to consolidate all messages from each day into one batch

If you reply to another message, please don't include the text of the previous message. Our moderators snip off extra stuff, but that's extra work. Including a snippet for reference is OK.

Thanks to Jay Wind for this information.

Please Join the Arlington Heights Civic Assoc.

Your Membership supports many neighborhood Activities. Please complete this form and send it with your check made payable to AHCA, c/o Lisa Bongardt, 319 South Irving Street, Arl., VA 22204.

___ Family Membership - \$20 ___ Bus. Members - \$25
___ Added donation of _____

Community Interest: Check all that apply

- ___ Volunteering for park beautification
- ___ Volunteering during the Arl. Cty Fair
- ___ Have ideas for *Over the Fence* articles
- ___ Helping deliver the newsletters
- ___ Helping with the neighborhood BBQ

Thomas Jefferson Middle School PTA Update

By Nancy Van Doren
PTA President

Recap of Recent Events

February was certainly a snowy month for all of us. Many thanks to all the neighbors who helped to keep the sidewalks clear so that our kids could make their morning and afternoon treks across the bridge to Jefferson safely. The kids are back in school and working hard.

The last week in January, Jefferson held an amazing science fair that ALL students participated in. Parents together with area community and business representatives served as judges. Displays of experiments and tests filled the TJ Community Center gym. ALL Jefferson students participated in the science fair, requiring close to 200 judges. It went beautifully. Congratulations to lead Science Teacher Matthew Hubbard and to all the teachers who supported this effort.

Jefferson students responded quickly to the earth quake in Haiti, organizing and pulling off several events – Hats for Haiti, Hoops for Haiti, Hearts for Haiti, and Houses for Haiti -- that have raised close to \$2,000 for Doctors Without Borders and the Clinton Bush Relief Fund. Jefferson parents are matching the students' fundraising. A total will be announced later this month.

The PTA together with Principal Monde also held its quarterly Honors breakfast, recognizing students who made the honor roll this quarter. Congratulations to all our great scholars!

Renovations

The first phase of Jefferson's renovation is complete. Crews have moved on to the second of six phases. The PTA meeting on Tuesday evening, March 9, featured a tour of the newly renovated space.

You may also have noted that the field is under construction. Plans are still proceeding to open the new synthetic field by late spring.

Library Corner -

by Ms. Desiree, Youth Service Librarian

Columbia Pike Branch has lots of new/old staff! Folks who have worked for Arlington Public Library for years but in other locations are now gracing our Circulation and Reference Desks. Please come by and meet Sarah, Noorani, and Jason if you haven't met them yet.

We are also proud to show off the creative talent of our local resident artist Kathy Fliger who has created a magical forest mural for our storytime room. See the beautiful images on our branch website and leave your comments to Kathy there. <http://columbiapikelibraryarlingtonva.blogspot.com/> I will make sure she sees them!

If you are interested in sharing your creative talent with Columbia Pike Branch Library please contact Ms. Desiree, the Youth Services Librarian at 703-228-5710 or email dfairooz@arlingtonva.us or visit our volunteer site and fill out our online application: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/Libraries/support/LibrariesVolForm.htm>

We are still looking for someone with several green thumbs to create a butterfly/hummingbird garden!

The Teen area now has its own PC just for our Middle and High School students. We've also done some creative rearranging of our comic books to attract this readership. It's already working magic!!

For more info email dfairooz@arlingtonva.us or call Ms. Desiree at 703-228-5710

Hope to see you there!

Columbia Pike Branch Library

Into the Garden

... with Children by Juanita Zientara

Juanita enjoys spending time in her beautiful garden. I have asked her to share some tips in beginning to garden after this snowy winter.

Ah, welcome sweet April! Winter's gone leaving my lawn and garden *well* watered but needing serious TLC. With spring holidays around the corner, I'll be outside on a regular basis. My two faithful companions will likely be on hand helping me turn the earth, sinking little plants and raking away the season's debris. Yes, I look forward to grandson Troy, age eight, and granddaughter Kyla, age six, joining me. I marvel at their genuine commitment and capability in the garden and wonder how this enthusiasm has grown over the years. Maybe in the smallest ways... like seeds. Here I share what they enjoy.

Wheels: Nothing shouts "fun" like a ride around the yard in the garden cart or wagon.

Water: Be it the garden hose, sprinkler or watering can, they love having (supervised) control. They've learned *where* to direct the stream when not squirting each other!

Gloves: Dress for success! We have a basket of gloves, many pairs in small sizes. I think children have a more workmanlike attitude when they don gloves or work aprons.

Tools: Kyla and Troy use small rakes, but standard trowels. Nothing sharp at this age!

Furniture: Glancing around the yard, I see several pint size chairs and tables. Lillipution furnishings are charming and practical.

Real Jobs: Gardening with the grands takes a bit of planning genuine jobs. I guesstimate the time and supplies needed before they visit and know I'll pull back if their attention wanders. I speak in terms they can understand. For example, when planting, we'll dig a spot, set the plant or bulb and "cover the baby" with fresh dirt. Along the way, we may discuss the virtues of worms and the logic of life cycles. Strewing straw over grass seed is great messy fun. Small vegetable plants grow and provide true incentive for ongoing attention, not to mention yummy produce. Responsibility yields results. Perfect!

Dirt and Worms: My two have learned that mulch, water and care yield nice black dirt which harbors fat, wonderful earthworms! Neither one is afraid to hold a wiggly creature.

Bubble Baths: A must for any hardworking gardener!

Day Trips: Lucky us! There is no end of places to visit which encourage a love of gardens. We enjoy taking walks to our local parks checking out neighborhood gardens as we go. Favorites short trips include the fabulous Green Springs Gardens in Alexandria for children's workshops* and outdoor concerts during the Summer. This is a splendid large space with a Children's Garden and a grand education building.

We like to wander around Merrifield Garden Center pulling a wagon and choosing new plants. Maybe we'll stroll through the Columbia Pike Market on a Sunday. The Smithsonian's Botanic Garden and the Edith Hauptman Garden are wonderlands for small visitors. The Amazonia exhibit at the

Continued on page 8



[Graphic: www.designedtoat.com]

Arlington Heights Neighborhood Celebration!

Saturday, May 22, 2010

**A whole day of fun for everyone in the neighborhood!!!!
Join us for any or all of the following events.**

11:30 am -12:30 pm Arlington Heights One Mile Fun Run

1:00 pm- 4:00 pm BBQ and Games

4:00 pm-6:00 pm Softball Game

AHCA Fightin' Pineapples vs. Penrose neighborhood

- Red Cross Blood Drive @ Patrick Henry Elementary School

Refer to list serv for hours and details

On Saturday, May 22, 2010 Arlington Heights Civic Association will host a full day of neighborhood events. The day will begin with a one-mile fun run that begins and finishes at Patrick Henry Elementary School.

Course: twice around the school, Highland Street to 7th to Walter Reed To 9th Street.

Fees for Fun Run are as follows:

Early Registration Before May 15th:

\$1.00 for all children up to age 12

\$3.00 for AHCA members **

\$5.00 for all others

Late Registration on-line before May 21

or onsite on race day May 22 from 11:30-11:45 am

\$2.00 for all children up to age 12

\$7.00 for AHCA members

\$10.00 for all others

Pre-registration on-line beginning April 1. Refer to list serv for upcoming details.

The BBQ will begin at 1:00 pm. More details will be shared on the list serv. Bring your favorite picnic sidedish or dessert to share. Please bring enough for your family plus six.

We will close the day with a friendly softball game against a neighboring civic association. Players of all skill levels are encouraged to come and join the fun!!!!

Please contact Stacey Whyte to sign up – kandswhyte@gmail.com

**** Arlington Heights residents, please join the Arlington Heights Civic Association to receive member rates. See the bottom of page 5.**

Arlington Heights Residents . . .

Do you run your own small business from home?
Are you interested in the potential of promoting your business within Arlington Heights.
Please contact
Stacey Whyte at kandswhyte@gmail.com
for more information.

Continued from In the Garden . . .

National Zoo transports us to faraway lands for a few hours. Magic.

New Ideas: Do you garden with youngsters? Have you found a source of inspiration for our younger citizens? Please offer suggestions on our chatline. We'd love to start a dialogue.

Happy gardening!
Juanita Zientara

*Green Springs Gardens in Alexandria is offering two workshops for children this spring at modest cost: Do-it-yourself Wildlife Workshop on Saturday, April 17th and Pot People Aplenty on Saturday, May 22nd. They will also sponsor Family Story Time on Mondays at 2 PM in the Children's Library Corner on April 26th,



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