



# Over the Fence

News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association  
Summer 2010

Visit our website: [www.ahca.info](http://www.ahca.info)

Join our yahoo group: [ahca-subscribe@vahoogroups.com](mailto:ahca-subscribe@vahoogroups.com)

## President's Message

Hello Arlington Heights,

I want to take a moment to thank the 200+ neighbors who turned out on May 22 and made our Arlington Heights Neighborhood Day such a wonderful celebration. We had a busy and exciting day! The Red Cross/AHCA Blood Drive which began our day was quite a success and we have been asked by the Red Cross to make this an annual event. Thank you to all of the neighborhood heroes who gave of themselves to save lives.

The second event of our day was the one mile "Fun Run" co-sponsored by AHCA and the American Running Association. Congratulations to our top three finishers, who all completed their mile in less than 5 1/2 minutes, and to all of our talented participants. Special thanks go to Jay Wind for organizing this event and to Ami Lynch and Liz Fried for acting as race course marshals.

We thank all of you who asked the rain to stay away and ensured the unexpectedly lovely weather for our third event - the Annual Neighborhood BBQ/Picnic. The food was delicious and the company was even better! Approximately 200 of our Arlington Heights residents stopped by during this three hour event. As the adults got to visit and take in the artwork displayed by our own Columbia Pike Artist's Studio, the children enjoyed the moon bounce, face painting and the terrific Patrick Henry playground. The children were also treated to a very special story time with Ms. Desiree, our Youth Services Librarian, from the Columbia Pike Branch of the Arlington County Library. Many thanks to the neighbors who donated the use of their grills, coolers and tables and to those who spent time grilling, helping out at the food tables or facilitating set up and clean up! Our fabulous band of volunteers included:

Billy Barr and Vickie Ryan  
Ted and Dora Sue Black  
Jim Huff and Carolyn Francis  
Jim and Holly Jewell  
Sang Lee and Ami Lynch  
Mark and Katie Loughney  
Jeff and Cathy O'Malley  
Pattii Rosensteel  
Chris and Cindy Schaller  
Jeremy Siegal of the Thomas Jefferson Middle School  
Mike Sobola and the Patrick Henry PTA  
Doug and Sara Snow  
Don and Juanita Zientara

President's letter continued on page 3

### Summer AHCA Meeting Agenda - Columbia Pike Library

The Arlington Heights Neighborhood learned in June of a plan proposed by Arlington County to close our neighborhood library branch and relocate it to the new Arlington Mill Facility within the next three years. This issue is of great concern and we will discuss the topic at length at our July 13th AHCA meeting. The AHCA members will then vote on our position. Please try to attend this important meeting.

**Tuesday, July 13th @ 7:00-9:00 p.m.**  
**Patrick Henry Elementary School's Library**

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Grilling at the Neighborhood BBQ on May 22.  
(All pictures in this issue are from the picnic.)

**AHCA Calendar**

<b>Summer AHCA Meeting</b>	<b>July 13</b>
<b>Arlington County Fair</b>	<b>Aug. 18-22</b>
<b>AHCA Fall Meeting</b>	<b>October 12</b>

**Save the Date**  
**Halloween Parade and Food Drive**  
**Saturday, October 30, 2010**  
**Watch the Listserv for more information**



Summer AHCA Meeting  
July 13th, 2010  
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Patrick Henry Elementary Library  
701 South Highland Street  
Agenda - Columbia Pike Library



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**President's letter continued . . . . .**

Also a HUGE thank you to neighbors Mike and Claudia Webb of Webb Associates, our Arlington Heights neighbors and area Realtors, who donated the moon bounce and face painting. Their kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated!

A heartfelt thank you also goes out to the fine Arlington County firefighters from our local station and the dedicated Arlington County Police Department for spending time at our BBQ and bringing along their really cool vehicles so our youngest residents could explore them.

We concluded the Neighborhood Day festivities with our season opener softball game. Our own Arlington Heights "Fightin' Pineapples" versus arch rival Alcovia Heights Civic Association. Despite the support of the family and friends who came to cheer us on, the Pineapples lost a hard fought game 15 to 17. Congratulations to our entire team for a game well played - especially during the rain which joined us in the 8th and 9th innings. Though many of our our players hit well and made spectacular plays, the MVP of our game was most certainly Laura Ferguson. Laura, who was taken down in a high impact collision with the opposing pitcher on her way to 1st base, immediately asked through her daze "was I safe?" No guts - no glory! Congratulations Laura! :) Special thanks to Mark Loughney and Greg Fried for helping with equipment and set up and break down.

I hope all of our residents are enjoying a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you at our July 13 meeting!

Stacey Whyte  
President  
Arlington Heights Civic Association

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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 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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## We Want You! For Arlington Heights Softball

Please consider coming out to play a game with Arlington Heights own neighborhood softball team the "Fightin' Pineapples". The 'team' is any adult who wants to come play, have fun and meet some neighbors. Whether it has been two weeks or 20 years since you last played, now is your chance, so come on and dust off your glove. Games are held monthly throughout much of the year on the Patrick Henry Elementary School playing field directly next to the school at 701 South Highland Street. We play teams from other Arlington neighborhood civic associations. As for practices - we don't have them - we rely on our natural raw talent. (We also rely on the fact that the other teams don't practice either!) So if you want to play (and you know you do) please contact Stacey Whyte at [kandswhyte@gmail.com](mailto:kandswhyte@gmail.com) or 703-271-2681. Please also consider joining the neighborhood list serv at [AHCA@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AHCA@yahoogroups.com) for up to date game schedule information. We encourage fans of all ages to come out and support the neighborhood team!

## Fightin' Pineapples!



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:ahca-nomail@yahoogroups.com) to go to web mail only
- Send a message to [ahca-traditional@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ahca-traditional@yahoogroups.com) to eliminate the sidebar on each message
- Send a message to [ahca-digest@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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

## Neighborhood Conservation Update

by Juliet Hiznay, NC Representative to Arlington Heights

The first priority proposed project (unfunded) for the neighborhood is South Irving Street/Arlington Boulevard (Phase II) which would address pedestrian, bicycling, and motorist safety issues on the Arlington Blvd frontage, and beautify the area where possible. This project is in the concept design phase. An informational session was held with county staff on May 24, 2010. All residents were invited, and immediately impacted homeowners were given written invitations to the meeting. Residents provided significant feedback on the concept design. County staff are assessing potential adjustments to the design in response to the feedback. A vote is expected on the concept design at the AHCA summer meeting on July 13. Only if the design is approved will the project qualify to be considered for county funding. *All residents in the neighborhood may vote on Neighborhood Conservation projects. It is not necessary to be a member of the civic association.*

Our two pending funded sidewalk, curb, gutter and streetlight projects continue to move forward. Construction on South Fenwick Street (Arlington Blvd to 2nd Street South) began at the end of May, and is expected to be completed this summer. The schematic design for Irving Street (Access Road to 2nd Street South) is almost complete, and a meeting with homeowners will be scheduled soon to review the project, and proceed with obtaining temporary easements from homeowners. Due to the need to widen the street, Dominion Power will need to move utility poles before construction can commence. It should be noted that the intersection with Arlington Blvd. will not be addressed during this phase of the project. Because Arlington Blvd. is owned by VDOT, the intersection portion of the project will be handled with the Irving Street/Arlington Blvd. (Phase II). Once Phase II is approved by the neighborhood, and funded, designs for the frontage and the intersection will be submitted together for a VDOT permit. Arlington County has received a grant to redesign the Irving/Arlington Blvd. intersection. The scope of the grant encompasses the north and south sides of the intersection.

### Thank you, Newsletter Volunteers:

I would like to thank our tireless quarterly newsletter delivery volunteers (and their families), some of whom have been helping for many years! Our current volunteers include: Lauren Muser Cates, Maureen Critchley, Teresa Wagamon-Foster, Dana Galvin, Jay Moore, Phil Mackall, Ron & Cathy Peterson, Bill Stevens, Joanna Cook, Tony Halloin, Vickie Ryan-Barr, Mike Sobola, Jay Vennett, Jay Wind, and Lisa Bongardt. The delivery routes consist of anywhere between 20 and 160 houses and/or businesses on Columbia Pike. Please say hello if you see any of these neighbors at your doorstep! If you are interested in helping, we have an open route and are always in need of substitutes to deliver when our volunteers are out of town.

Please contact Adrienne Wood at 703-685-4303.



Ms. Desiree reads to the neighborhood children at the picnic.

## **Columbia Pike Library Corner**

The Summer Library Reading Program has begun. This program encourages children to read and share books with others. You may register at any of the Arlington County Public Libraries. Registration began June 12. The first day to pick up a prize is Saturday July 10. Registration ends Saturday, August 28. The last day to claim your prize is Saturday, September 11. More information can be found on the Arlington County Public Library website: <http://library.arlingtonva.us/departments/libraries/reading/getcaughtreading/kids.aspx> Ms. Desiree has sent the schedule below for the Columbia Pike Library Summer Events. Some of these events can be found at other branches. **All of the programs require tickets. See the flyer on line for the venue of the other programs.**

### **Ocean in Motion**

The Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center's traveling tank and hands-on experience features LIVE animals from the bay and the ocean.

### **Magic of the Sea (Columbia Pike @7:00 p.m.)**

Through music, story and acrobatics, storyteller Arianna Ross enchants audiences with tales of life above and under the sea.

### **Sea Turtles and our Watersheds**

This Smithsonian National Zoo program connects kids with their local and global watersheds through an engaging activity and awareness of the sea turtle's habitat.

### **Make a Splash! (Columbia Pike - July 14th @7:00 p.m.)**

Who says magic and water don't mix? Not magician Brad Matchett who inspires reading through magic and stories.

### **Clowning Around**

Did you miss the circus? No problem! Bob Brown Puppets & Merry Marionettes perform feats of skill and daring usually found only "under the big top!"

### **Chemistry with Fizz, Foam & Flash (Columbia Pike @ 7:00 p.m.)**

The Maryland Science Center explores cool chemistry through loud, bright, and visually thrilling experiments.

### **Now This Kids!**

In case you needed help learning how to act spontaneously goofy, Now This, a totally improvised musical comedy troupe, comes to town with spoofs of every style from rap to opera.

### **Flumpa & Friends Live**

A high energy musical science show starring Wendy the Singing Scientist and Flumpa the Famous Tree Frog.

### **Kayaking for Kids & Teens**

Everything you ever wanted to know about kayaking with American Canoe Association certified kayaker.

### **Watercolor workshop**

An ancient art so easy a caveman can do it.

### **Hop to it! (Columbia Pike - July 9 @ 1:00 p.m.)**

Hop on over and join Alonso Abugattas from Long Branch Nature Center and learn all about frogs and toads. It'll be a ribbiting good time some come on in – the water's fine.

## Sticks and String

Do you crochet? Do you knit? Have you crocheted or knitted in the past? Want to pick it back up? Did you know your neighbors have a social needlework group? Come join us. Originally started in the neighborhood by Amy Vennett, Megan Booth, and myself, by meeting at each other's homes, we have expanded and now currently meet at the recreation center on Walter Reed Drive on the first and third Sunday's, from 1 to 3 p.m.

As a social knitting and crochet group we welcome all skill levels. The group can be found on yahoo groups, meet-up and ravelry.

[walterreed\\_knitcrochet@yahoo.com](mailto:walterreed_knitcrochet@yahoo.com)

<http://knitting.meetup.com/1385/>

<http://www.ravelry.com/groups/walter-reed-all-stars>

Besides the joy of seeing who is knitting/ crocheting what twice a month, it is a great group of people sharing stories, discussing the events of the day, and which LYS has yarn on sale. Each year in the spring we have our annual Yarn Swap. Plus many members go to Mecca – the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival or Stitches East, some go to both. We are not an instructional group, but we can recommend a good LYS to take classes. So bring your current project, dust off an old project and come and sit a bit with your neighbors, some string and a needle or two.

Kimberly Sumner

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