



Over the Fence

News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association
Summer 2011

Visit our website: www.ahca.info

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

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you to the over 200 residents who attended our annual Arlington Heights Civic Association Neighborhood Day BBQ/Picnic. The weather was terrific, the food was delicious and the company was the best part of all!

Special thanks to the Arlington County Police Department and the Arlington County Fire Department for visiting during the event and taking time to chat with our residents and answer some questions. We appreciate all you do for us and it is nice to have a chance to say thank you in person.

Many thanks go out to our event volunteers: Amy and Jay Vennett, Betty Siegal, Terry Jennings and Michael Bromley, Christine Suh and Keith Whyte. We couldn't have done it without you!

Grills, tables and coolers were loaned by the Schaller, Snow and Zientara families and we thank them for their generosity.

For those of you who brought food to share we thank you! All of your contributions were delicious! A special shout out to resident Dan Morrissey, your deviled eggs were wonderful. I don't think I've ever seen a platter of food disappear so quickly! We received requests for more next year.

This annual event would not be complete without a moon bounce and we would like to thank our AHCA business member neighbor Simplicity Urgent Care for generously donating the funds to supply this exciting treat for the children of Arlington Heights.

Thanks again to one and all who participated!

Stacey Whyte
President
Arlington Heights Civic Association

Arlington Heights
Civic Association Meeting

Tuesday, July 12, 2011
7:00 P.M.

Patrick Henry Elementary
School - Library
701 South Highland Street

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Newsletter: Editor, Advertising, Distribution

Volunteer Needed

Adrienne Wood 703-685-4303
adrienne.wood@gmail.com

Upcoming Community Events

Arlington Heights Civic Association Fundraising Dinner

On **Monday, July 18**, please bring the family and join your neighbors at P.Brennan's, our own neighborhood Irish Pub and Restaurant for great food and fun. P. Brennan's will donate 15% of the evenings dinner receipts to the Arlington Heights Civic Association so please join in the festivities and help our neighborhood at the same time! See you there!

Swapping Stories Workshop

On **Tuesday, July 19**, Arlingtonians will come together at Westover Library from 6:30-8:30pm to learn to share narratives, listen to each other, and experience "walking in another's shoes". Through fun and easy exercises, participants learn to find structure and exchange stories, improve speaking and listening skills, bridge cultural and generational gaps, and make new friends! To RSVP call 703-228-0751. This workshop is part of the Tell Arlington's Story initiative.

Arlington County Fair From August 10th through the 14th at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center.

The Arlington County Fair is looking to showcase the best of the best of Arlington's creative talent at the 2011 Arlington County Fair Competitive Exhibits competition. Do you have a knack for arts and crafts, a special talent for cooking or a great eye for photography? Be sure to enter the Arlington County Fair's Competitive Exhibits! Choose from several fun categories. For more information please go to the Fair website at www.arlingtoncountyfair.us



July 12, 2011 AHCA Agenda

7:00 p.m.

Patrick Henry Elementary School-Library

A Conversation about neighborhood safety
for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.

AHCA Volunteer Thank You Corner

Many thanks to Rebecca and John Mashaw for coordinating our annual AHCA Garden Tour held on June 11, 2011. Thanks also to the following wonderful neighbors who shared their beautiful gardens with the community: The Dramstads, Rebecca and John Mashaw, Sean McNamara, Brian Seidling and Nanci Edwards, Bill Stevens, Leslie Winik, and Juanita Zientara. It was also inspiring to see the new veggie garden and the still-in-progress pollinator garden outside the Career Center/Library that exist thanks to the hard work and vision of volunteers. Our thank you list would not be complete without thanking those volunteers who tend the magnificent garden at our TJ Community Park at the corner of 2nd and S. Irving Streets. We appreciate the beauty all of you have brought to Arlington Heights.

With the publication of this “Over The Fence” an era has ended and the AHCA would like to thank Dora Sue Black for her stewardship of this newsletter over the past two years. As editor, Dora Sue not only corralled us all to get our articles in, but she also helped sell and coordinate our advertising and spent countless hours designing and formatting. We cannot thank Dora Sue enough for her tireless dedication over the years and she will be greatly missed at the helm.

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Northern Virginia Market Trends

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on March 2011 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

A total of 1,437 homes sold in March 2011, a 7.71% decrease below March 2010 home sales of 1,557. Active listings decreased by 7% from 2010, with 3,975 active listings in 3/11, compared with 4,267 homes available in 3/10. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in 3/11 increased 39% to 71 days, compared with 51 days in 3/10. Sale prices rose compared with those realized last year. The average sales price in March 2011 increased 3% from March 2010, to \$448,957 from \$434,129 last March. The median price of homes sold rose in March 2011 to \$385,000, an increase of about 5% compared with March 2010's median price of \$368,000.

The number of new pending home sales in Northern Virginia in March showed a decrease of 5.5% 2,113 compared to 2,236 new contracts pending in March 2010.

Arlington County Statistics
comparing March 2010 to 2011:

Condos - Avg. Sold Price was \$373,112 in 3/10 - up 13% in 3/11 to \$421,108. **Single Family Attached** - Avg. Sold Price was \$551,911 in 3/10 - up 18% to \$653,160 in 3/11. **Single Family Detached** - Avg. Sold Price was \$712,483 in 3/10 - up 3% to \$732,041 in 3/11.

Mortgage Rates are still attractive!
The following rates are average quotes with no points: 4.75% to \$417,000, 4.88% up to \$729,750, 5.38% over \$729,750

On 10/1/11 the current administration is **proposing** lowering the conforming loan amount from \$729,750 to \$625,500 for FHA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac housing loans.



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2011 Arlington County Fair, Star Family Circus Welcome Arlington Heights Neighborhood

The 35th annual Arlington County Fair will be held August 10-14, 2011 at Thomas Jefferson Community Center. As a kick off to the 2011 Fair, the Star Family Thrill Circus will present a special show for the residents of Arlington Heights. Light snacks and reserved seating will be provided free of charge for this special event. Neighborhood night will be held Wednesday, August 10. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for snacks and reception. Circus performance will begin at 7:00 p.m. and lasts 30 minutes.

Star Family Circus will thrill the audience through an exciting family-friendly show. Tiffany Kudravetz, chairperson, noted, "Not only is the show family-friendly, but the show's performers are family and they take great pride in their work. We look forward to welcoming them to our community." The circus will feature Motorcycle Daredevils performing in the "Globe of Death," fabulous acrobats, stunts on the "Giant Space Wheel," as well as beautiful and talented performing animals.

Other programming at the Fair includes midway rides and games, Civil War HistoryMobile, Harlem Wizards, racing piglets, pony rides, outdoor movies, Animal Welfare League of Arlington, WalkArlington Community Walk, and indoor vendors.

Admission to the Arlington County Fair is free. There is no fair patron parking at fair grounds and limited handicapped accessible parking is available. Shuttle service is provided from locations throughout the county for \$1; kids under 10 and seniors ride for free. For more information about the Fair, please visit the website at arlingtoncountyfair.us.

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Individual/Family Memberships are
\$20.00

Business Memberships are \$25.00

With the membership you support the
civic association's activities.

Members also receive voting rights
on issues presented to the association.

Membership needs to be renewed
annually.

Please complete this form and send
it with a check made out to AHCA
and mailed to Arlington Heights
Civic Association, P.O. Box 40311,
Arlington, VA 22204

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Arlington Heights' Young Entrepreneurs

Children and Youth 18 and under may advertise for free in our *Over the Fence*.
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Send all information to Dora Sue Black - dstblack@msn.com.

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BikeArlington is a program of Arlington County Commuter Services, within the Department of Environmental Services. BikeArlington is an effort to build on an existing partnership between Arlington citizens, businesses and County staff to encourage more people to bike more often.

Arlington, is a great place to get around by bike. More than one hundred miles of multi-use trails, on-street bike lanes, and designated bike routes make it easy for cyclists to get where they need to go. BikeArlington's goal is to get more Arlingtonians biking more often, whether they're commuting, shopping, or just having fun.

An inter-disciplinary, cross-cultural, citizen- and staff-driven effort, BikeArlington is a combined effort of many – from moms and dads advocating for safe routes to schools, to County staff building safer streets, trails, and intersections, to business owners, urban designers, park planners and event planners working to create places and events that welcome cyclists.

There is a role for you, too, in helping to create a more bikeable Arlington-even if it is simply getting out and seeing the community on a bike more often.

Services & Activities:

- Bike to Work Day and other community events
- Arlington County Bike Map (BikeArlington.com/Maps)
- Safe Cycling Classes
- Bicycle Friendly Business Outreach and assistance
- Fostering bike culture and making it easy for people to bike in Arlington!

Stay in touch:

www.BikeArlington.com

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- Connect with other cyclists in the region with the Washington Area Bike Forum

Subscribe

- to BikeArlington email list
- Follow us on Twitter
- Request a bike map or brochure be mailed to you
- Keep up with BikeArlington news & events

Arlington County's Bicycle Boulevards Project

On June 1st, at a meeting held with county staff at Patrick Henry Elementary School, Arlington Heights residents were informed of a project proposed for South 9th Street and slated to begin in summer 2011.

Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services has designed improvements to 9th and 12th Streets South that they claim will enhance safety and access in the area by creating priority for pedestrians and bicyclists on low-volume, low-speed secondary streets.

Details of this planned redesign of South 9th Street may be found on the Arlington County's Bicycle Boulevards project webpage:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/planning/page81623.aspx>



Photo from the AHCA Neighborhood Day BBQ/Picnic

Many residents, and in particular those on South 9th Street, have expressed serious concerns over the details of the proposed plan that directly impact our neighborhood. The AHCA encourages all of our residents to review the proposal and to attend our July 12 Civic Association meeting where we will be asking for feedback regarding this project. Please note we have invited county officials to attend this meeting.



Photo from the AHCA Neighborhood Day BBQ/Picnic



Photo from the AHCA Neighborhood Day BBQ/Picnic

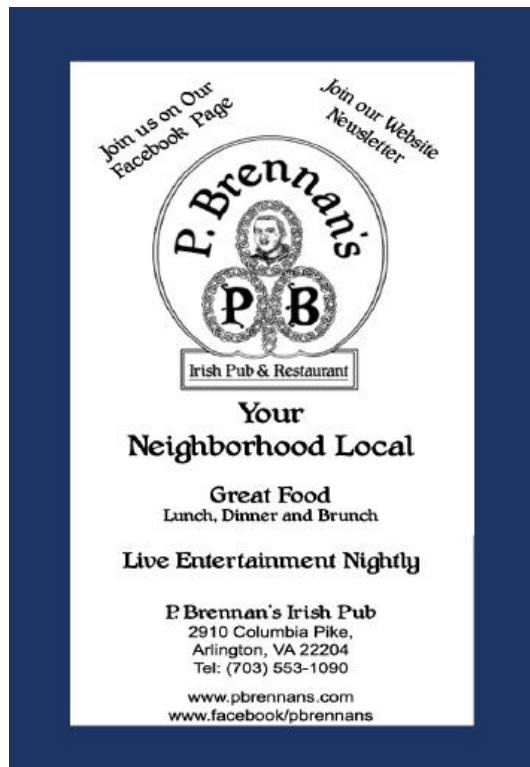
CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FROM THE ACPD

Vehicle Security:

- Lock all vehicle doors.
- Remove valuables from vehicle.
- Never leave a GPS device affixed to the windshield when not in use, remove and store in console, glove box, or better yet, inside a home.
- Lock your vehicle even when parked in a garage.
- If your vehicle has an alarm, please activate when vehicle not in use.
- If you have an alarm service, i.e., On-Star, Lojack, please keep current on monthly fees (in-service).
- Be familiar with your vehicle information (VIN, Registration number, Insurance carrier) should an incident occur.
- Never leave your vehicle idling without someone in the vehicle.
- Never leave a spare key hidden within the vehicle.
- Never leave a key in the ignition (unattended).

Home Security:

- Lock all doors and windows to the home when away (vacation, running errands, etc). This holds true at night when you are sleeping.
- If the home has an alarm system, please use it.
- If you have an attached garage, please close the door. If on vacation, deactivate the automatic garage door opener.
- Change your alarm code every once in a while.
- Lock all interior doors leading to the main house. This includes basement and garage doors.
- Use exterior lighting. Flood lights, motion detectors, lamp posts are essential to deterrence.
- Trim bushes around windows.
- Do not leave valuables in plain view of a window, i.e. a purse sitting on a table next to a door or window.
- If you "hide" a door key on the exterior of the home, be sure it's well hidden. It's better to give the key to a neighbor.
- If you have extension ladders in the tool shed, under a deck, etc., it's worth securing with a lock.
- Secure all tool sheds (easy source of tools to gain entry to your home).
- Be conscientious of open second story windows, decks, or other means criminals may use to climb to a second story window.
- Make sure deadbolts are installed on exterior doors (single key, double key).
- Consider enhanced locking devices for sliding windows (pins).
- Get to know your neighbors, your neighborhood, watch out for each other.
- If you notice suspicious persons or activity, call the non-emergency police number (703-558-2222) and report it.



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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER AT P BRENNAN'S IRISH PUB AND RESTAURANT

Monday, July 18, from 4:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Eat in or take-out and 15% goes to your Civic Association.

P. Brennan's Irish Pub and Restaurant is your local neighborhood Irish Pub and Restaurant located at 2910 Columbia Pike (at the intersection of S. Walter Reed).

On Monday, July 18th, join us in support of the Arlington Heights Civic Association and enjoy a variety of fabulous entrees (including sophisticated interpretations of Irish pub favorites), a great beer and wine selection and an affordable kids menu – We'll donate 15% of your total purchase to the association.

Free Garage Parking is available at the Halstead after 6pm.

Tell your server that you are dining in support the Civic Association

Need a menu? Go to:

<http://www.pbrennans.com/menus/dinner/>.

*** Does not apply to Happy Hour
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