

OVER THE FENCE

News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association



Winter 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

As we begin 2012 I would like to take a moment and to thank all of the residents and businesses who supported the Arlington Heights Civic Association during the past year by becoming members. Your contributions are vital to the continued existence of the AHCA and we are grateful for your commitment to our neighborhood.

I would also like to thank those local businesses who gave a little bit more this year in support of Arlington Heights. Thanks go to Lost Dog Cafe, P. Brennan's and Twisted Vines for the donation of gift certificates for our quarterly meeting raffles. P. Brennan's was also kind enough to host a well attended fundraiser for the AHCA and hosted our post-softball game happy hours for the third year running.

Simplicity Urgent Care, which joined as a new member last year when it moved into the neighborhood, immediately jumped in to support the AHCA. Simplicity and its wonderful staff donated the moon-bounce for both our Spring BBQ as well as our Halloween Party. They also staffed a table at our Halloween Party and gave out free items to promote a healthy neighborhood. Giant Food returned to the Pike with a show of support for Arlington Heights and they donated all of the food for our Halloween Party. We

welcome them back!

I would also like to call special attention to our wonderful locally owned and operated Papa John's, which has donated dozens of pizzas to our quarterly meetings and will once again keep us from going hungry in 2012. I thank them for their generosity and their commitment to community outreach.

Neighbors— please take a few moments now before the year gets away from you and send in your 2012 AHCA membership dues. We are grateful for your support and we couldn't continue without it.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2012 and I look forward to seeing you at our February 13 meeting!

Sincerely,

STACEY WHYTE, AHCA PRESIDENT

AHCA Members

Jennifer Abel and David Tripp
Victoria Arias
Judith and Bruce Baltensperger
Jeffrey and Veronica Bartlett
Ted and Dora Sue Black
Lisa and Steve Bongardt
Ed and Jane Brandt

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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012, 7 P.M.

PATRICK HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

701 S. HIGHLAND ST.

SEE AGENDA ON PAGE 2

AHCA Executive Committee

President

Stacey Whyte 703-271-2681
kandswhyte@gmail.com

First Vice President

Jay Vennett 703-920-1832
vennett3@verizon.net

Second Vice President

Allison Rosenberg 703-920-0553
Allisonrosenberg@hotmail.com

Secretary (to be elected at February meeting)

Treasurer

Sara Snow 703-979-3487
AHCA.Sara@gmail.com

Other Contacts

Neighborhood Conservation Rep

Jay Vennett 703-920-1832
vennett3@verizon.net

Civic Federation Delegates

Carole Lieber 703-892-0362
carolelieber@hotmail.com

Doug Snow 703-979-3487
dbsnow@gmail.com

Keith Whyte 703-271-2681
kandswhyte@gmail.com

Stacey Whyte 703-271-2681
kandswhyte@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Rebecca Mashaw 703-892-3793
rmashaw@comcast.net

Newsletter Distribution

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

Newsletter Advertising

Sara Snow 703-979-3487
AHCA.Sara@gmail.com

Webmaster

Jay Wind 703-920-5193
jay.wind@att.net

AHCA QUARTERLY MEETING

AGENDA

Please join us for our next AHCA meeting on Monday, February 13 at 7 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Elementary School library.

Agenda Items are expected to include:

- voting on the AHCA budget
- the election of our 2012 Secretary
- a presentation by Twisted Vines as part of our "Meet The Neighbors" series
- the introduction of a proposed change to the AHCA by-laws to change the Neighborhood Conservation Representative position from appointed to elected.

We also anticipate a vote on a motion introduced by a resident regarding a change to our Irving Phase II/Arlington Boulevard Beautification Neighborhood Conservation project. The Phase II project was approved by the AHCA in October of 2010 and is scheduled to move forward this year.

Some residents have concerns regarding the design for the end of S. Hudson Street at Arlington Blvd. This design concern was discussed at length at a two-hour special meeting of the AHCA held last month which was open to all residents. We have neighbors who feel quite strongly on both sides of this issue and we encourage all residents to attend the February meeting so they are fully aware of the matter at hand and may vote to support their point of view.

It is important to disclose to all residents that if the proposed change is voted into effect at this meeting it is likely the County, based on their current assessment, will cancel the entire Phase II Beautification project.

The association appreciates hearing the varying viewpoints from Arlington Heights neighbors regarding S. Hudson Street and the Irving Phase II project. We truly appreciate that the discourse has been passionate yet thoughtful and respectful of fellow residents. We may not always see eye to eye on every issue which greets our neighborhood, but we are much stronger as a community when we are able to recognize, appreciate and even celebrate not only those things we have in common but also those things that set us apart.

AHCA Members, from page 1

Michael Braton
Chris and Mary Carbone
Douglas Clarke and Bambi Semroc
Phyllis Connor and Barbara Weakley
Mary Crosby
Patti DeLoatche
Jean and Jon Desmond
Maya and Michael Dhavale
Britta Farahati
Daniel and Erin Flaherty
Jenny and Lawrence Friedl
Martin Goldstein
Cameron Gowan
Alvin and Linda Gutterman
Michael P. Harmon
Azura Hassan
Gracelia R Helring
Paula Henstridge and Jose Ceballos
Lauren and Mark Hicks
Phil Hipley
Juliet and Mark Hiznay
Bernie and Patty Hoffman
Lisa Hopkins
Steve Hornstein
Teresa Lynn Jennings and Michael Bromley
Holly and Jim Jewell
David and Teresa Jones
Peter Jones
Christian and Paola Kammer
Michael Kavanagh and David Mordini
David and Brianne Kopecky
Karl and Dori Kukawa
Bob & Leigh Lanham
Matthew Laskoski and Kimberly Hibschr
Daniel Letts
Mark and Katie Loughney
Terence and Prudence Mackenzie
Gail Massot
Valynda and James Mayes
Brian Meenaghan and Lacey Kahmer
Conchita and David Mitchell
Jonathan and Ellen Moore
John Morrill and Diane Canova
Daniel and Rosemary Morrissey
Gus and Irene Moshos
Dori and Chris Muldowney
Ella W Nargele

Charlotte and Robert Nau
Blossom and Robert Perry
Ron and Cathy Peterson
Matthew and Jennifer Pietropola
William Potapchuk
Dave Pouliett Family
Veronica and Lyle Priddy
Ida Rademacher
Nancy and Bill Rasari
Shawkatullah A. and Nafisa Rawroot
David and Bette Rodgers
Allison Rosenberg
Ralph Ruedy
Tia Scales
Cynthia and Christopher Schaller
Betty Siegel
Sarah Smiley
Sally Snead
Doug and Sara Snow
Claudi and Dustin Stamper
William Stevens
Christine Suh and Julian J Pecquet
Maureen Sullivan
Suzanne Sykes
David and Andrea Talley
Robert Roshot and Michelle C. Tolbert
Irene Upshur
Jay and Amy Venett
Tom and Debbie Wacker
Tim and Anna White
Keith and Stacey Whyte
Jay Wind
Jerald Yatt
Don and Juanita Zientara

Business Members:

Arlington Veterinary Hospital
Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc
Mancini De Paris
P. Brennans Irish Pub
The Sisters Are Selling, LLC
Simplicity Urgent Care
Twisted Vines

**AHCA Needs an Advertising Coordinator for
"Over the Fence." Anyone interested please con-
tact Stacey Whyte at 703-271-2681 or
kandswhyte@gmail.com
or Sara Snow at 703-979-3487 or at
AHCA.Sara@gmail.com**

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATE

BY JULIET HIZNAY

Update on Our Funded Projects

County staff members met with interested residents to discuss the design for the end of South Hudson Street, which is included in Phase II of the Irving Street/ Arlington Boulevard project (aka frontage project). The civic association approved the concept design for this project in October 2011. The county continues to work on finalizing the design. After a comprehensive analysis, the county has concluded that the existing design (which narrows the mouth of the street from about 70 feet to the existing street width) is the safest alternative and has declined to support a change in design. Based upon current information, I expect some residents to seek a new vote on this project.

The entire frontage project may be at risk of cancellation if residents who object to narrowing the mouth of Hudson Street seek a vote to cancel the project. Please attend the upcoming meeting on **Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7 pm at Patrick Henry Elementary School.**

Irving/Arlington Boulevard Phase I (sidewalk, curb & gutter): Construction is estimated to begin in early spring. Block Captain: Craig Palmer

Other Announcements

Thank you to Moley Evans for volunteering to serve as the Block Captain for our proposed Fifth Street South

Streetlight project!

The Arlington County Traffic Calming Committee has notified the civic association that the 0-100 block of South Hudson Street was selected as one of its 2012 projects. A recent traffic study showed that 3% of vehicles exceed 55 mph on the street, and that the 85th percentile speed is 32 mph. Please note that this initiative is not part of the NC project; the Traffic Calming Committee has its own funding and procedures, which are elaborate and require significant resident support to move forward.

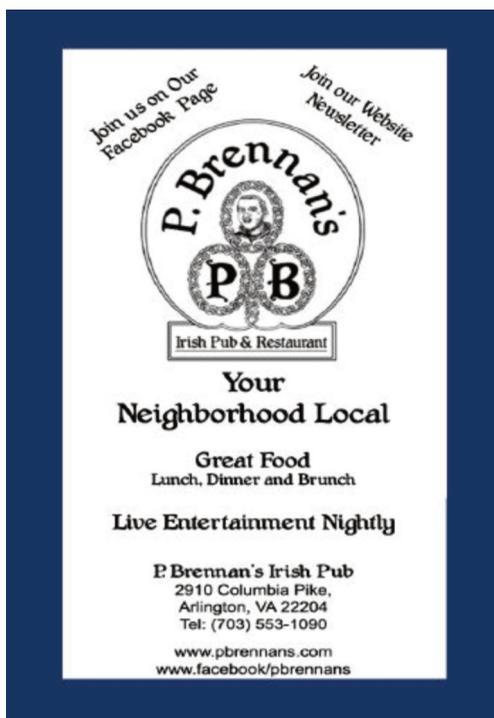
Neighborhood Conservation Funding – The Importance of the 2012 Bond

Funding for the Neighborhood Conservation Program is through local bonds, which are approved by the voters every two years. The County Board will be making crucial decisions about its priorities for the 2012 bond this spring. Neighborhood Conservation has been an important program for this neighborhood, and it has funded significant improvements, especially to our street infrastructure. Over time, these projects have made our community safer and more appealing. As in past years, Neighborhood Conservation will be competing with other programs for funding. NCAC needs a 12 million bond (this funding lasts for 2 years) to continue to operate at its current level. I urge you to support the program. Should you wish to write a letter of support, please send the letters directly to the county board or email to:

Update on LED Lighting Standards for Residential Streets

In the past year, the Executive Committee of NCAC has worked on a number of issues, including the issue of LED lights. Many throughout Arlington are concerned about the brightness of the new LED lights, which the county plans to retrofit into all existing Carlyle style lights.

I am pleased to report that county staff have now accepted that the lights standards for residential areas needs to be different from that of commercial strips. The new residential standard will permit the dimming of lights, as well as the use of shields in LED lights. **Attn: Garfield and Fenwick residents: If your newly installed LED lights are too bright, please contact our new NCA rep Jay Vennett so he can address this issue with the appropriate county staff members.**



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COMMUNITY AND COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

Arlington County:

Police Non-Emergency	703-558-2222
Water (after hours emergency)	703-228-6555
Trash & Special Pickups	703-228-6555
Animal Control/Animal Welfare League	703-931-9241
Columbia Pike Library	703-228-5710
Patrick Henry Elementary School	703-228-5820
Thomas Jefferson Middle School	703-228-5900
Wakefield High School	703-228-6700
Thomas Jefferson Community Center	703-228-5920
Snow Removal Hotline	703-228-6485
Pothole Hotline	703-228-6570

Dominion Virginia Power Outage Reports	888-667-3000
Washington Gas Emergency Reports	703-750-1000
Comcast Cable	800-934-6489 (800-XFINITY)
Miss Utility (call before digging)	800-552-7001

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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THOMAS JEFFERSON COMMUNITY CENTER: ONE OF ARLINGTON'S BEST RESOURCES

If you haven't checked out the Thomas Jefferson Community Center recently—or at all—you owe it yourself to make a visit soon. TJ, as it's affectionately known, is one of the best resources available in Arlington County, and it's right here in our neighborhood.

TJ has a meeting room with a 50-person capacity, game room, art studios for pottery, photography, jewelry and wood working, gymnasium, indoor track, accessible pre-school and school-aged playgrounds, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, outdoor tennis courts with lights, a 1/2-mile outdoor fitness trail, soccer field, par course, fitness center, accessible public restrooms, showers, changing rooms, lockers, towel service, healthy vending machines and even a sauna!

The open art studios at Thomas Jefferson Community Center are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Open studio sessions are designed for individuals to work independently in a creative and safe environment. Previous experience and basic skills are necessary since there is no instruction provided during these sessions. The Studios also host Girl Scout Workshops and the Paint-A-Plate program. Contact the art studios Roslyn De Los Reyes at 703-228-5925.

TJ is probably best known as the greatest deal around town for fitness training. For a very reasonable annual membership fee you can enjoy a spacious facility with an indoor track, Cybex and Nautilus equipment, free weights and a variety of cardio machines. Daily lockers are available at no cost (bring your own lock) or for an annual rental of \$60. You can also take advantage of a variety of fitness classes on a drop-in basis for very low cost.

Personal training at TJ is a smart investment of your fitness funds. Our qualified, certified personal trainers will help you determine your specific fitness needs and help you establish goals—and a workout to achieve them. These one-on-one workouts not only provide the motivation you need to keep on track, but also ensure you are using proper form and technique. Contact Jeff Gordon (703-228-5916) for more information and to book your session today.

There's much more, from drop-in pickleball and basketball games to a game room with pool tables,

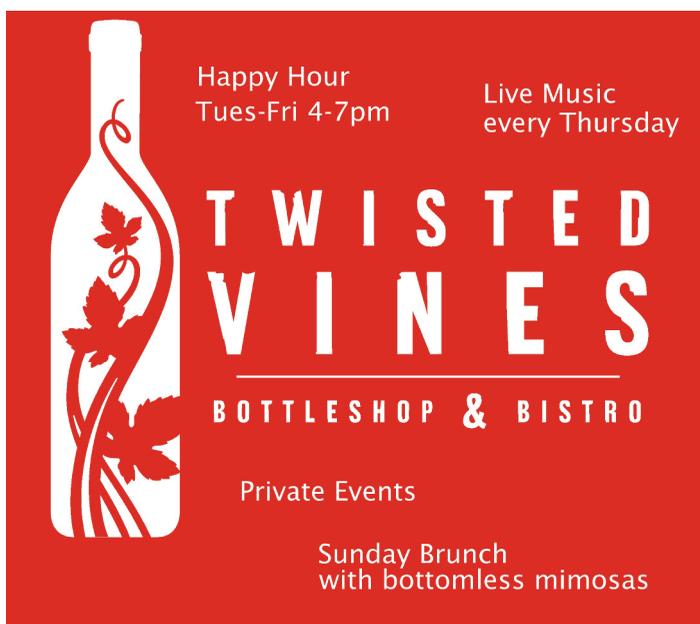
foosball, air hockey and table tennis.

Sign up for regular updates of events and schedules at TJ. If you would like to be added to the Thomas Jefferson Community Center Weekly Updates listserv, please send an e-mail request to the center manager, Patrick Todd.

TJ is open from January through March from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The community center is open Fridays from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.; the fitness center is open Fridays from 6 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.; and the full center is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. through 6 p.m.

So whether you're an early bird or a night owl, want to lift weights or run, play pool or pickleball, or explore your artistic side, TJ has something for you!

Check out the full description of everything TJ has to offer at the county website: http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/comm_center/ParksRecreationScriptsComm_centerTj.aspx.



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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 or 703-271-2681. We also encourage fans of all ages to come out and support the neighborhood team!

Other Companies give Free Estimates.

WE PAY YOU \$\$\$



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- 3) Cook Bros. will reply to arrange your no-obligation appointment at your home
- 4) We will hand you your **U.S. \$100 bill** when we arrive for your appointment

* This Special offer applies ONLY to additions, pop-tops or whole-house size projects in Arlington. But we would love to discuss kitchens, bath and basement remodels with you too. Please contact us for any type project.



Arlington Heights Young Entrepreneurs

Need some help with all that leaf-raking? A reliable baby-sitter? Someone to look after your pets when you're away?

Arlington Heights has a number of young people you can turn to for these and other services. Give them a try!

Pet Sitting and plant watering:

Experienced, reliable and friendly. I treat your pet as my own! Call or email for references and rates.

Ally Sobola

703-892-1350; sobolas@verizon.net

Parents: Helen & Mike Sobola

Yard Work and Pet Sitting:

Kyle Jackson, 13 (yard work and pet sitting)

Claire Jackson, 11 (pet sitting)

703-909-0686

Parents: Kathy & Mike Jackson

Babysitting:

Tony Conge, 16

703-892-0859

Parent: Lisa Turcios

Leaf Raking, Dog and Cat Sitting

Jestin Vennett, 16

703-920-1832

Parents: Jay and Amy Vennett

Children and youth 18 and under may advertise free in *Over the Fence*. Parental permission required.

BIKEARLINGTON PRESENTS BICYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM

On Saturday March 31st at the Patrick Henry Elementary School Gym, BikeArlington will be hosting "Biking in Arlington Heights and Beyond", an interactive and informative session on bicycle safety, maintenance and riding skills so you can bike around Arlington with confidence.

There will be a youth session, for ages 5 - 14 from 9:30 am -10:30 am and an adult session for ages 15 and up, running from 11 am - 12:30 pm. This session will prepare you for the comprehensive, on-bike, traffic riding seminars that will be available twice a month starting in April. It is recommended that you attend this session before attending the on-bike seminar.

BikeArlington will have a free "Swag Bag" for all attendees which will include items that will help make your bike ride safer and more comfortable: sunblock, reflective pant straps, bike lights, and water bottles. The Arlington County Bike Map which details bike lanes and sharrows, recommended on street routes, and the off-street trails in Arlington, as well as some literature on biking, sharing the road, and Capital Bikeshare will also be available for free.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to Stacey Whyte at kandswhyte@gmail.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN ARLINGTON

Open Door Mondays

Monday, February 6, 7 PM

Thomas Jefferson Community Center

The County Board's "Open Door Monday" sessions are part of Chair Mary Hynes' PLACE -- Participation, Leadership And Civic Engagement -- initiative.

County residents are welcome to attend any session to speak directly with County Board Members on any topic. Just come to the scheduled session-you do not need an appointment. Each session will be held from 7-9pm in County facilities and community centers, and the sessions will rotate to different locations around the County.

For more information, call 703-228-3130 or go to: http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/scripts/comm_center/parksrecreation-scriptscomm.

Arlington Public Schools Summer Activities Fair Friday, February 10, 6-8 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson Community Center,

The event will provide Arlington residents with information about activities that will be offered this summer. Representatives from over 100 different programs will be available to talk with parents about APS Summer School; Arlington County Parks and Recreation summer programs; academic and art programs; day, sport and overnight camps; and camps offering accommodations for children with special needs. Teens looking for work and/or volunteer opportunities can obtain a listing of exhibitors offering opportunities at the information booth during the event. This event is free to the public and no pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Gladis Bourdouane at 703-228-7667.

<http://www.apsva.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=16801>

Free Blood Pressure And Glucose Screening Friday, February 17, 2012, 10 AM - 12 PM

Thomas Jefferson Community Center

Free blood pressure and glucose monitoring administered by Barbara Holland, LPN, from The Medical Team Inc. (a home health care agency). First come, first served. Please fast for at least two hours before you take the glucose test. For more information go to: http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/comm_center/ParksRecreation-ScriptsComm

Third Sundays - Remove Invasives!

Sunday, February 19, 2 - 5 PM

Long Branch Nature Center

Ages 9-Adult. Not all plants are good for the environment. Kids and adults will learn what these troublesome beasts look like and can help rescue the park from these alien invaders! No registration required.

Free. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd, Arlington, VA 22204. For information go to: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/nature/ParksRecreationScriptsNatureLon>

Your Child's Development: Responding to Challenging Behaviors and From Breakfast to Bedtime: Play and Language Development

Saturday, February 25, 9 AM - 12:30 PM

Walter Reed Community Center

Workshops and an information fair for Arlington parents and caregivers of children between birth and five years old. Free! Registration requested at cfuentes@arlingtonva.us, but walk-ins are welcome. Simultaneous translation into Spanish will be available. For more information contact Cheryl Fuentes, 703/228-1551

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AMY R. LAUBINGER, D.V.M. www.myarlingtonvet.com

PLEASE JOIN AHCA AND LISTSERV!

Please take this opportunity to renew your AHCA membership. Residential memberships are \$20.00 per household; business memberships are \$25.

The membership year, just like the calendar year, runs from January through December and **all memberships are due to be renewed in January no matter when you paid the previous year.** While the dollar amount is relatively small, your participation is vital to the continuation of our Civic Association.

Also, we want to thank all the members that have added additional contributions to their membership payments. No matter how small, those additional contributions have not gone unnoticed, and collectively they can make a difference.

Be sure to join the AHCA listserv, too! You get up-to-date information such as alerts, neighbor and event information and time-sensitive notifications. List items you want to sell or donate, get recommendations on contractors and vendors, and much more.

It's easy-and free! Send an email to ahca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PARK

Good news for our little pocket park at the intersection of S. Irving and S. 9th Streets! Arlington Heights residents will be getting a beautiful new information kiosk and new park benches to replace our existing well-loved benches. Funded through the now-defunct County Micro Grants Program, the improvements are scheduled for installation Spring 2012.

Moving Soon to Penrose Square!

*Mancini de Paris Salon
& Day Spa
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**3045 Columbia Pike
703-920-4699
www.mancinideparis.com**

2012 AHCA MEMBERSHIP

Individual/Family Memberships are \$20.
Business Memberships are \$25.

With your membership you help to support the Arlington Heights Civic Association's activities. Members receive voting rights on issues presented to the association. Memberships should be renewed annually.

Please complete this form and send with your check made out to AHCA to:

Arlington Heights Civic Association
P.O. Box 40311
Arlington, VA 22204

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

Yes, I'd like to make an additional contribution to AHCA.

\$