AHCA BUSINESS

Message from the President

By Robb Tanner, President

I want to thank everyone who served on the Board with me during my two years as President. It has been a pleasure working with so many terrific neighbors.

I want to thank Amy Cody who is also stepping down from the Board after many years of service to AHCA. As Vice President this year she did a fantastic job organizing great programs for our monthly meetings. I also want to thank Jim Terpstra who took on the role of AHCA Historian this year and organized an amazing series of presentations on the history of Ashton Heights.

I want to thank Betsey Lyon for not only serving as Vice President but also for pitching in on producing the newsletter until new volunteers took over. And I really want to thank the new newsletter team: Michelle Horgan and Sarah Biersack. I think they’re doing a great job.

Continued on page 11

MAY AHCA MEETING

What to Expect

By Amy Cody, Vice President, Programs

The final meeting for the AHCA 2010-2011 program year will be held on May 18th. Per tradition, we’ll gather in the lovely Tiffany Room at the Arlington Arts Center, elect volunteers to lead AHCA in the coming year, and enjoy extra fabulous goodies from the Felkers, O’Briens and Anne Hamilton.

Our main speaker will be Delegate Patrick Hope, who represents the Virginia 47th District, which includes Ashton Heights. Delegate Hope will provide a recap of the 2011 Virginia General Assembly session, including a discussion on redistricting.

Continued on page 11
AHCA VOLUNTEERS

AHCA’s mission is to promote the welfare and interaction of Ashton Heights and Arlington. Meetings, usually held the 3rd Wednesday from September to May, are open to all residents, although only paid members can vote at meetings. (See membership form and dues information, this page.) Active participation is welcome. AHCA keeps you informed through meetings, this newsletter, and the website at ashtonheights.org. You can volunteer by contacting the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Robert Tanner president@ashtonheights.org 703-528-8852

Vice- President, Programs
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Board Voicemail (571) 249-4619 – leave a message and you will be contacted shortly.

NEWSLETTER

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AHCA MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP AND DUES PAYMENT FORM

Ashton Heights Civic Association annual dues are $10 per household or $5 per individual member. Anyone residing or owning property in Ashton Heights who is at least 18 may join and may then vote at AHCA meetings.

Send this form and a check payable to AHCA to Betsey Lyon, 410 North Lincoln Street 22201, 243-3098, or bring it to this month’s meeting. If you have already joined, see how many new neighbors you can sign up!

Name(s):

Children (and ages) (optional):

Street address:

Phone:

E-mail address:

Resident since:

Neighborhood interests:

AHCA VOLUNTEERS

For the May newsletter, just a few of the many volunteers (and a welcome addition to the list this month!) are listed below:

Kids, Inc. Entrepreneurs

A – leaf raking, shoveling
B – babysitting
C – pet/plant sitting
D – odd jobs/errands
E – lawn mowing
F – house sitting
G – mother’s helper

Sarah Angell (1996-A,B,C) 294-6316 William Michalowski (2002-C) 527-8687
Connor Banks (C,F) 528-0447
Peter Banks (B,C,F) 528-8212 Nina Oleynik (1996-B,C) 516-4214
Anne Bennett (1994-C) 522-8438 Haley Oleynik (1993-B,C) 516-4214
Lydia Boles (1999-C,G) 615-8934 Seneca Randolph (A,B,G) 812-5181
Nora Boles (1997-B,C,D,G) 615-8934 Sierra Randolph (A,B,F,C) 812-5181
Kevin Dannaher (A,C) 527-6265 Alec Tober (1997-A,C) 276-7902
Brendan Dannaher (B) 527-6265 Margaret Trombly (1996-B) 524-4215
517-3104

ATHON HEIGHTS VOLUNTEERS

Remember these young entrepreneurs will be available all summer to help you out! Be sure to keep them in mind as your household needs arise. You can post this list to your refrigerator or navigate to ashtonheights.org and pull up the May newsletter.

Add or remove names: contact Ann Felker at 527-8053 or gr8est9@gmail.com

Ashton Heights News Page 2 May 2011
By Jim Feaster

About 50 residents attended the meeting

AHCA BUSINESS

Robb reiterated the need for volunteers for the civic association for positions on the board, as members-at-large and to help out with activities.

POLICE REPORT

Corporal Lennon of the Arlington County Police Department reported that she had nothing to report, no incidents in the neighborhood.

CLARENDON ALLIANCE

Tom Petty, AHCA resident and current President of the Clarendon Alliance (www.clarendon.org) gave a presentation on the history of Clarendon and of the Clarendon Alliance. Using old photos and new photos, as well as newspaper articles from as early as 1919, he gave a good overview of changes, improvements, what has changed, and what has not changed.

Anne Hamilton reminded all of the Ashton Heights Neighborhood home tour on May 15, part of the 90th anniversary celebration for Ashton Heights. Tickets are $25 and will benefit the Lyon Park Community Center

OAKLAND STREET SIDEWALKS

Francesca Guerrero, Oakland St. resident, presented the background to the initiative to use the county’s Neighborhood Conservation program to construct sidewalks on those blocks of Oakland street where now there are none. She spoke to the association about a year ago bringing this initiative to the attention of AHCA and has been speaking to residents to gauge the interest in this project.

The county relies on the civic association to decide among competing projects and identify one as the priority. No Ashton Heights residents have come to the association with any project other than Oakland St. so there is no competing project.

“The attendees voted 30 – 3 to accept this project as the first priority in the Neighborhood Conservation program”

The result of this first step is to notify the county of this interest and initiate the process. The vote by the civic association to accept this as the first priority in no way binds the county or the property owners to the approval for a project to be constructed; it simply acknowledges that the project is the priority and can now be considered by the property owners for their approval and the county can begin the process to determine an appropriate implementation plan. The process is long and if approved by the property owners may take 4 – 6 years before completion. There are several steps that require the approval of the property owners for the project to proceed and their approval is required also for the ultimate design. The owners of 60% of the linear feet of property in the project area must sign a petition to agree to the project once it has been determined to be feasible by the county.

Some residents spoke against the construction of sidewalks but more spoke in favor.

The attendees voted 30 – 3 to accept this project as the first priority in the Neighborhood Conservation program and allow it to be considered by the owners of the property and by the county.

3001 – 3003 WASHINGTON BLVD DEVELOPMENT

Penzance Company, represented by architect Rae Noritake and attorney William Krokowski, presented the very preliminary design of a multi use high rise development that would be built on the site now occupied by the BB&T bank, a tombstone company, fitness center and restaurant; bounded by Highland St., 11th St., Garfield St. and Washington Blvd.
Nominated for the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards 2008

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On a personal note, this is my last column for the Ashton Heights newsletter. After six terrific years, I will step down as the Arts Center’s Executive Director as of August 1, 2011. I leave the AAC on stable financial footing with a healthy operating reserve and respected exhibition, education, and studio residency programs. A transition committee has been assembled and plans to appoint a new Executive Director this summer.

I began as the AAC’s Executive Director in August 2005. At that time, the Arts Center had recently reopened after an unexpectedly prolonged renovation, and had limited earned income and very little foundation or corporate support. Today, the annual operating budget of approximately $750,000 includes a diverse combination of earned, contributed, and in-kind revenue sources. From an initial staff of one full-time and two part-time staff members, we now have a staff of one part-time and five full-time employees, as well as a roster of art instructors and contract workers. I know that I am leaving the Arts Center in experienced and capable hands.

Over the course of my tenure, I’ve overseen the final completion of a multi-million dollar renovation and restoration project; the renewal of a 25-year lease with the organization’s landlord, Arlington County; a strategic planning process that included a substantial re-branding campaign; and the establishment of a multi-year individual giving campaign. During this time, the Arts Center’s exhibitions and educational programs have grown in critical acclaim and popularity.

This success story is in no small part due to fervent neighborhood support – from sending your children to our classes to visiting our exhibits to joining the Arts Center as members. I’ve worked hard on building the Arts Centers’ ties to the Ashton Heights community – not just by these monthly articles and active participation in the neighborhood listserv, but also by special discounts for neighbors, by hosting an annual meeting of the Community Association, and by holding community forums for special projects like Rosemary Covey’s O Project, which completely wrapped the building with a mural. The Arts Center is building a robust reputation throughout the region, but we also need to stay rooted in our own community.

I’ve truly enjoyed my time at the Arts Center and am proud of what our team has accomplished in such a short amount of time. I’m now ready for a new set of adventures in arts administration. I will continue teaching as an adjunct faculty member at George Mason University’s Arts Administration graduate program.

I will miss not only the Tiffany windows, but also the Arts Center’s staff, the resident artists, and the community. I hope that the Arts Center’s Ashton Heights neighbors will continue your powerful support of this wonderful community treasure.
**NEIGHBORHOOD DAY EVENTS**

Yard Sale May 21\textsuperscript{st}

By Francesca Guerrero

On **Neighborhood Day, Saturday, May 21**, Ashton Heights will be having our annual **Yard Sale**. It’s a great way to meet your neighbors, clean out some clutter and even make some money!

If you are interested in participating, **please let me know by Thursday, May 19 so I can put you on the map.** The map will be available at my house in the morning on Saturday, May 21 and online at the AHCA website so you can print copies and share with friends!

**Contact Info:** Francesca Guerrero  
207 N. Oakland Street  
(202) 577-3228, Franny716@yahoo.com  

Please send me your name, address, contact number and email. Only your street address will be made public. Thank you!
LONG BRANCH ELEMENTARY PTA
Closing out the year
By Erika Howder, PTA Liaison

With Spring Break behind us, Long Branch students have returned to school, ready to knock out the last two months! Where has the year gone?

Speaking of where have the years gone, Ms. Russo celebrated her 20th year with Long Branch this year. She was surprised by an assembly that included a slideshow and serenading. She was presented with two memory books full of letters and drawings from current and past students. Thank you to Ms. Russo for 20 years of guiding our neighborhood kids!

“Thank you to Ms. Russo for 20 years of guiding our neighborhood kids!”

Before heading out on break, Long Branch students had the opportunity to plant beds of lettuce as part of an amazing new garden project called Lawns 2 Lettuce 4 Lunch. Hopefully, we’ll soon see lettuce beginning to fill the beds. The lettuce will be harvested for lunch at school on June 14th. Thank you to all the neighborhood families who are growing lettuce along with the school. If you’d like more information about the program or about the day the lettuce will be served, contact Hillary Berlin (703-525-2978, hillary.berlin@gmail.com) or Susan Schlimme (703-528-5950, skschlimme@hotmail.com).

The beginning of May also brought Long Branch’s annual Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Teachers were treated to breakfast and lunch. Students had the opportunity to bring in flowers for teachers and staff and also add stickers to a sign at the entry to the school. Hopefully, our awesome staff and teachers know we appreciate them all year long, but it’s nice to have a chance to make sure they get told!

Mid-May also brings the annual Standards of Learning tests for Grades 3-5. If you have a student in those grades, remember that a good night’s sleep and a good breakfast go a long way towards making it a good testing day. Once the students get past those, it’s only a few more weeks until the summer break.

There’ll be one last PTA meeting this year. One major item on the agenda will be to vote in the new officers for next year. Come to the meeting and see what other exciting opportunities there are to help support Long Branch in the next school year. PTA meetings are generally the first Tuesday of the month and are held in the library at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Seriously, where did this year go?

JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE
Congratulations Virginia Junior Academy of Science Contest Winners!
By Nancy Van Doren

The results of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science contest are in, and Jefferson Middle School has 21 students whose papers were accepted for presentation at this year’s conference. This is a new record for our school, the previous highest number was 11 papers. Thank you to all of the students who wrote papers for consideration. The students whose papers were accepted are:

Nathalie Benitah
Henry Bramham
Jacob Campbell
Miles Dulman
Bryn Edwards
Mark Feinberg
Ayasha Ferozpuri
Allison Herrity
Diana Iraheta
Katja Jackson
Allison Jaffe

David Lanman
Valeria Pietra
Nicholas Reeves
Eleni Riris
Christopher Seymour
Thomas Sheehy
Marisa Shotwell
Natalie Slater
Peter Stewart
Patrick Torma

WASHINGTON-LEE PTA
Mark Your Calendars
By Phil Klingelhofer

The Washington-Lee High School Spring Choral Concert will be held on Friday, May 20, 2011, beginning at 7:00pm in the auditorium. There is no charge for admission.

The Washington-Lee High School Faculty Follies will be held on Friday, June 3, 2011, beginning at 7:30pm in the auditorium. There is a nominal admissions charge to benefit W-L student scholarships.

The Washington-Lee High School Small Ensemble Concert will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2011, beginning at 7:00pm in the auditorium. There is no charge for admission.
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MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS
Jim and Jerrie Bethel
By Elaine Braverman

When Jim and Jerrie Bethel remodeled their house, they chose deep red and eggplant as accent colors on several walls. These rich colors are both a decorating statement, and an expression of two of the couple’s passions: wine and food.

The Bethels married in 1996, and had first known each other years ago when they lived in their home state of Texas. Jerrie grew up in Kingsville, on the Gulf of Mexico, and Jim spent most of his life in Dallas, until moving to the DC area in 1987. He knew early on that he wanted to become an architect, and pursued that interest by going to work for an architect after high school. He apprenticed for 12 years before becoming certified. About that time, the practice of apprenticing was phasing out. Jim’s route to architecture is now just history; a formal college degree is required.

Jim had a small commercial architectural practice in Dallas during the 1980s. Construction activity in Texas had slowed down, so he took a chance and moved his family here, where there was more activity. Jim spent 6 years with a DuPont Circle architectural firm. He lived in Alexandria and DC before renting the house he and Jerrie now own on North Lincoln St. After his divorce, Jim reconnected with Jerrie, who had moved from Texas to Florida. Jerrie had also spent time in Arlington years ago. Her aunt lived here, and in addition to visiting her, Jerrie conducted research at the Arlington Public Library while studying journalism in undergraduate school. Her career then veered away from journalism to 25 years as a Braniff International flight attendant based in Dallas. When her marriage ended, she moved to Florida and in 1992 was hired by Sir Freddie Laker as Inflight Director of his newly founded Laker Airways. In 1994 she changed direction again, starting graduate studies in library science. She and Jim caught up with each other as friends, but the relationship quickly developed into more. In order to start their new life here, Jerrie accelerated her studies, finishing in about half the normal time. She remembers spending the year driving back and forth across south Florida to pick up additional courses. With her new degree, she got a job at the Newseum, working there from just before its original opening in Rosslyn to just before the new Newseum relocated to DC.

After Jerrie retired, she became active with the Arlington Arts Center and now serves as the Board’s vice president. She has invested much of her time recently on the Center’s annual fundraiser, which was held May 14. Jim still works full time, as a consultant to architects.

Jim lived in the house for 15 years before the remodel, and Jerrie for 9, so they knew exactly what they wanted in a kitchen. His interest in cooking had grown from watching cooking shows in the 1970s to taking cooking classes, to being dubbed “Mr. Souffle” for his spectacular desserts. Jerrie gave him the gift of a cooking class at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Both have gone on to take additional food and wine courses. While he doesn’t claim a specialty, Jim’s favorite style is traditional French gourmet cooking. The Bethels have donated gourmet dinners for four Ashton Heights Civic Association auctions. Jerrie also cooks, and cookbooks are well represented in their bookshelf-lined family room addition. They love to travel, especially to California. Visits to wine country enable them to augment their 1000 bottle wine collection. They also enjoy Anguilla, and frequent trips to Texas to visit family. Jim has a daughter there, as well as siblings who have joined him in taking CIA classes.
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WHAT TO EXPECT
Continued from page 1

We will also hear about plans to improve the Clarendon Metro Plaza. Arlington County is working with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to improve the plaza between Wilson and Clarendon Boulevards, from N. Highland Street to the Metrorail elevator. (The area west of the elevator is not included in the project.) This initiative will create an updated urban plaza to provide for higher volumes of pedestrians using Metrorail and to better accommodate the farmers’ market and other community activities. Improvements will include:

1. New pedestrian paving
2. New curb extension on Clarendon Boulevard
3. New seating walls and movable tables and chairs
4. New streetlights (completed fall 2010)
5. Covered bike parking
6. Modular newspaper racks

Samples of the proposed plaza materials, including paving, street furniture and landscaping, will be constructed in the spring of 2011 to give the public an opportunity to see the planned design. Construction on the project is expected to begin in fall 2011.

We'll end our May meeting with a presentation on Columbia Gardens Cemetery. (Originally scheduled for April, the talk was “bumped” due to a packed agenda.) I really enjoyed researching this neighborhood jewel and look forward to sharing my findings and impressions with you.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Continued from page 1

I want to thank Joan Fitzgerald, Jim Richardson and Jim Feaster for all of the work they do on neighborhood conservation and development issues. I want to thank Doug Williams for keeping our finances on track. I want to thank Linda Slotz for her concern for the neighborhood. I want to thank Nancy Van Doren for her good advice and all of her work on improving the infrastructure of the Thomas Jefferson School and community center.

I want to thank the Lyon Park Citizens Association President Natalie Roy and all of the volunteers from Lyon Park and Ashton Heights who worked together to achieve our mutual goal of lowering the speed limit on Pershing Drive to 25 miles per hour.

“ashtonheights.org is fast becoming a great resource. We are posting the monthly newsletter for download and updating a blog with information from AHCA and news about Ashton Heights. Please check in on it this summer.”

When I started volunteering for AHCA four years ago I had two ideas I wanted to pursue — both of which we are on our way to achieving. One was that I wanted Ashton Heights to have an exceptional website that made it easier for all of us to keep up with the neighborhood. We’ve had a few stops and starts but http://ashtonheights.org is fast becoming a great resource. We are posting the monthly newsletter for download and updating a blog with information from AHCA and news about Ashton Heights. Please check in on it this summer.

We will also be holding the Ashton Heights Old-Fashioned Picnic this June 5th at Maury Park near the Arlington Arts Center. The Civic Association should be more than just traffic, development and public safety. It should also be part of celebrating our great neighborhood together. So plan to join us June 5th for games, music and food.

Have a wonderful summer! See you at the Ashton Heights 90th Anniversary Old-Fashioned Neighborhood Picnic on June 5th!
GET READY FOR SOME FUN AT THE

ASHTON HEIGHTS 90TH ANNIVERSARY
Old-Fashioned Neighborhood Picnic

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011
11AM - 1:30PM MAURY PARK
(behind the Arlington Arts Center)

Bring Your Picnic Blanket And Basket!
Enjoy Old-Time Music & Cool Refreshments!
Historical Displays & Door Prizes!
Games & Prizes For All Ages!

SCHEDULE:
11:00 AM — Picnic Start
(music, displays, lemonade & popcorn)
11:30 AM — Welcome
& Old-Fashioned Games
12:00 PM — Program & Ice Cream Served
12:30 PM — More Old-Fashioned Games
1:00 PM — Closing Remarks

RSVP is not necessary, but help us get a head count for ice cream — served up by Lazy Sundae!

If you plan to attend, please email amycody@gmail.com.

Questions? Want to Volunteer?
(703) 899-4243 or amycody@gmail.com

Rain Date: Sunday, June 12, 2011