

Start the New Year Off Right

After all those lofty resolutions we normally try in January; lose 20 pounds, read the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare cover to cover, learn a foreign language, and volunteer 10 hours per week at a homeless shelter, all by Arbor Day, let's take a step back and scale it down to something doable.

- Say something genuine and complimentary to someone every day.
- Be active every day, even if it's only walking a few blocks.
- Try to eat at least five fruits or vegetables every day, and make half your grains whole grains.
- Always be open, fair, and courteous, even when you disagree with someone.

- Give people a chance to be their best.
- Help someone in need.
- Keep your mind sharp by doing a puzzle or reading a few pages of something challenging everyday.
- Be honest, kind, and punctual (OK, and thrifty, brave and loyal).
- Laugh, enjoy life, count your blessings, and give thanks for them.
- **Join the Warwick Village Citizens Association and make our world a better place!**

Happy New Year!

—Flora Buckalew

Duncan Library News

February is a short and busy month at the library. Remember, we'll be closed Monday, February 15, for the Presidents Day holiday, so pick up a good book to curl up with or a couple of DVDs in case we get that mid-winter snow-storm. Several patrons have recommended *The Help*, a first novel by Kathryn Stockett, about the relationships between maids and employers in Jackson, Mississippi, in the 1960s. The suspenseful trilogy beginning with *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, and continuing through *The Girl who Played with Fire* by Steig Larsson, remains very popular with library users. A couple of historical novels, *The Elephant Keeper* by Christopher Nicholson (set in 1760s England), and *The Coral Thief* by Rebecca Stott (set in 1800s France) have been praised by other readers. And we have a good supply of books related to green living, improving your computer skills, quilting, knitting, and home repair projects.

Mondays in February, we have Baby Time for infants 0 to 11 months with mom, dad, or caregiver at 11:00 a.m. Please sign up for the program in the half-hour beginning 10:30 a.m. On February 8 and 22, we have Stories & Songs in Spanish at 10:00 a.m. for children 0 to 5 with an adult. On Monday, February 8, join us

for a Holiday Craft project for grades K–6 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., and, on February 22, Drop In Games for grades 2-6 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Pajama Story Time this month is Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m., for ages 3 to 6 without an adult. For many more children's activities, pick up a monthly calendar at the front desk or check the library Web site.

MEET THE AUTHOR: Local writer Charlotte Avery presents her book *No One Ever Told Me* at an author talk on Tuesday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m. The book is a witty and loving exploration of motherhood's most unexpected experiences and a celebration of the most common characteristic that bonds fabulous mothers—imperfection. The event, sponsored by Friends of the Duncan Library, is free and open to the public.

The Duncan Book Discussion Group tackles *A Simple Habana Melody* by Oscar Hijuelos for their meeting on February 16 at 7:00 p.m. Join the discussion! It's a friendly group. For more information, call Ruth at (703) 838-4566.

See you at the library!

—Marilyn Doherty

ACPS Receives Free Tickets for Kennedy Center

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) students and families will receive 200 free tickets to a Mother's Day performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

This special performance is happening thanks to a collaboration of the Women's Committee of the National Symphony Orchestra, the Kennedy Center's Office of Education and Alexandria Performing Arts Association (APAA).

For more information, contact Gary Thomas, ACPS Curriculum Specialist for Art and Music, at (703) 824-6680 or gary.b.thomas@acps.k12.va.us.

—Merikokeb Wondafrash

**REMINDER!!
DUE TO THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND
THIS FEBRUARY'S MONTHLY MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON THE 4TH MONDAY
OF THE MONTH.**

Warwick Village Meeting

February 22, 2010

Meet and Greet begins at 7:15 pm,
Call to Order at 7:30 pm

Featured Speaker

**Y-12 Investments LLC
R. Stewart Bartley**

Y-12 Investments, LLC, is the development company working on the Triangle Project and is building the new apartments at the entrance to Kennedy Street

WVCA meetings are held at the Warwick Pool House at 3301 Landover; just downhill from the entrance to the Aspen Apartments.

President's Column

At the time this article was written we were batten- ing down the hatches and hunkering down in preparation for our third snow storm this winter. The winter season has proven to be one of the worst and potentially most snow producing seasons since the 1898/1899 season, approxi- mately 54.4 inches (per quotes from newscasters) so far and there is more to come.

I know and understand that there has not been a lot of plowing throughout Warwick Village and through the access roads as all of us had wanted. Let me take a moment to explain a cou- ple of things. The first thing that you will have noticed is that not many, or any, of our primary roads were plowed. This is because the primary (level one) roads, or emergency snow routes, were being plowed first. The second item is that the regular roads took a few days to get a "first over" plowing; the reason for this is that the

additional emergency and priority one roads had to be plowed first.

And then we have the access roads. I fully understand the anger, emotion, and sense of non-support that many have felt or are feeling and that this has caused a perception that not much has been done. During certain times of immense and histor- ical snow fall for our area the only reason/excuse/explanation that I had received for a delay of plowing is that the access roads are too narrow for the plow trucks to get through. Smaller and more appropriate vehicles are needed for our access roads and are currently deployed to hospitals and other emergency locations that are listed as a priority-one.

The only thing that I can ask of each of you is to please keep in mind that this is not a regular snow fall season for Alexandria and that the City has a list of priority areas that need to be addressed prior to equipment coming into area neighborhoods.



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WVCA Leadership &

Street Representatives

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Tennessee

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City Liaisons

Code Enforcement

Wendy Baden • 703.519.3300 x127 • 703.746.4200

Police

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scott.gibson@alexandriava.gov

Recreation

Sheila Whiting, Director, Mt. Vernon Rec.
703.838.4825 • sheila.whiting@alexandriava.gov

President's Column, cont'd from p. 2

Once properly sized vehicles become available for our access roads the vehicles will be dispatched accordingly.

Okay, let me take this to a brighter and happier time. I have included some photos that were taken around our home from the last couple of snows and I would like to extend an invitation to each of you to send in some of your personal photos that can be included in the next issue of the *Voice*.

My final thought for you is this... there are many residents in our neighborhood that may need a bit of extra help in getting the snow cleared off of the sidewalk in front of their homes. Additionally, please check your block to ensure that all fire hydrants are clear from snow in case emergency services need to access them.

The challenge to each of you is to extend a welcoming hand and to volunteer some extra time of yours to help out your fellow neighbors! We are a community, neighborhood, and a family that needs to look out for each other.

—John Starcher



Keep Four Mile Run Clean!

Remember that what goes into Village storm drains ends up in Four Mile Run, untreated. A single quart of motor oil down the storm drain can contaminate up to two million gallons of water. Please keep hazardous waste and trash out of the storm drains.



Access Alexandria

The goal of *Access Alexandria* is to engage the community in various digital platforms, including social media Web sites where people are participating in rapidly increasing numbers.

The objective is to strengthen City responsiveness and transparency by using multiple tools to inform the community about City events, programs, services, emergencies and more.

As our recent experience with inclement weather illustrates, the steady flow of information is key for successfully handling emergencies. Consider the following options for receiving information from the City of Alexandria, particularly during emergencies:

- Sign up for City eNews Alerts at <https://enews.alexandriava.gov/index.php?CCheck=1>
- Follow the City on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/AlexandriaVAGov>
- Become a City Fan on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/AlexandriaVAGov>
- Subscribe to City RSS Feeds at <http://alexandriava.gov/RSS>

—John Kirchofer



WVCA Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2010

This was the first meeting of the new year. John Starcher apologized for the typos on the back page of the *Voice*: The annual association dues are now \$15 per adult, and we are a full year away from saying "Happy 2011".

John said that he is recruiting a coordinator for the many volunteer activities sponsored by WVCA. While each event usually has its own chair, the future volunteer coordinator will work with the event chair to provide manpower so the chair can concentrate on the rest of the event. John hopes to be able to announce the name of the new volunteer coordinator at the next meeting.

Secretary's report for December 2009: The only business at the December meeting was the annual elections. All officers were re-elected for 2010.

Membership 2010 – Just 14 people have joined so far. As a result, the Treasurer reported that the association is a little behind in revenues.

Code Enforcement

Our city code enforcement officer, Wendy Baden, reported that each January brings about an increase in evictions and resulting trash on the curb. The city gives allows a seven day grace period to dispose of any piles of trash caused by moves. After seven days, the landlord is fined.

The construction site at Mt. Vernon Avenue and Kennedy Street (now named "Del Ray Central") has been posing problems; construction workers' vehicles have been trickling into service roads, they have been starting to work noisily well before the city's authorized 7:00 a.m. start time, and a lot of lunch-time trash is being left behind. Wendy will meet with the project manager of Del Ray Central to state the City's and neighborhood's concerns.

Wendy spoke of an older couple on Mosby Street who need some help clearing out their house in the next few weeks. It may also wait until Spring Cleanup in April.

Police Liaison

Scott Gibson reported that the annual number of calls to the police went up; nearly doubling from 51 to 97. He thanked community members for being alert and reporting their concerns about suspicious activities in the parks.

The next WVCA meeting will be Monday February 22, one week after the Presidents Day holiday.

—Maryjo Worrall

Visit our Web site at
www.WarwickVillage.com

Warwick Village Pet of the Month

Dizzie

Dizzie is a Warwick Village Valentine!

Dizzie is 1½ years old and loves her new neighborhood, particularly her backyard. She moved to Warwick Village with her family last summer and has been getting to know her way around.



Dizzie has a lot of energy and loves taking long walks, especially to the Dairy Godmother for some puppy pops. She enjoys going to the dog park and doggy day care. She loves to snack on peanut butter and likes to play keep away with her toys.

One of her favorite past times is making a pile of her toys outside and then bringing each one into the house, one by one, throughout the day. Dizzie was rescued by her family from the Washington Animal Rescue League; her family feels very lucky to have her in their lives.

Would you like your pet to be star for the month? If so, send an email to Shanie at shanie_bartlett@hotmail.com.

Are you looking for a pet of your own? Adopting saves lives. Homeward Trails is one of the many great sources for adoptable pets looking for their forever home, www.homewardtrails.org.



—Shanie Bartlett

“Did You Know” Corner

Who do we call to replace a bleed valve?

Q. After refilling a hot water heating system or bleeding the valves, a radiator bleed valve(s) has started to drip. It only appears to drip when the heat is on (pump running). We have closed the valve as tightly as possible and bled the lines, but suspect that the valve should be replaced. Who do we call to replace it? Is this a job for a heating contractor, plumber, or a “Do It Yourself” project? Is a part readily available at home improvement stores?

A. These parts are not generally available at home improvement centers and so you will need to contact a mechanical contractor. Most heating contractors have experience with hydronic (boiler) systems and this repair should be fairly simple for them. There are many companies and contractors in our local area that can help you with this. Some locations will even explain to you how to change the valve out yourself.

**Want to make a difference in our neighborhood?
 Join the Warwick Village Citizens Association Today!**

Warwick Village
 established 1953

Start 2011 off on the right foot. Your membership helps the Association achieve positive change and gives you the opportunity to have a greater voice in what goes on in our neighborhood and the City. Just \$15.00/person, \$5.00 for seniors, gives you that voice.

Name (1): _____

Name (2): _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Mail this coupon with your check (payable to WVCA) to WVCA, 44 Kennedy St., Alexandria VA 22305, or bring to the next meeting. Membership is good for the entire calendar year.

Get involved! It only takes an hour or two of your time here and there. Please list volunteer opportunities that interest you (i.e., parks, street rep, etc.).

What's on your mind?

Let us know what your main concerns are for the Village this year.
