

2011 WVCA Ideas and Priorities

A tradition at the first WVCA meeting of each year is to generate ideas for community events and speakers for the coming year and prioritize them. WVCA President Glenn Christianson led this discussion at the meeting on January 24.

If you have a particular interest in any of these, or want to add to the list, please contact a member of the Leadership Committee or your Street Representative.

Pool / Pool House / Parks

The Warwick Village Pool and Pool House are important to our community. However, they are obsolete structures and will need complete rebuilding within the next few years. Any financial commitment more than basic maintenance will be a capital expense on the part of the City. At that point, the City must take into account issues that were not factors when the Pool and Pool House were built nearly 60 years ago, such as Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and parking.

Yet what can we do now as an association? There are no immediate answers, only that this needs to be kept on the front burner. While we think of it as "our" pool, the complex is used by city residents beyond Warwick Village.

As for parks, Hillside Park has the greatest needs at this time.

Getting the Word Out

The *Warwick Village Voice*, email list and web site have served us well but there are many new communication strategies we can use to reach

Villagers in a timely manner. Jenny Malseed suggested using social media such as Facebook and listservs.

Outreach

Encourage continued community involvement will help maintain our quality of life:

- outreach to busy parents
- outreach to our Latino neighbors
- organizing help with yard work or snow shoveling for older members or those who are temporarily incapacitated
- invite the businesses on Glebe Road and the Episcopal Church who border on Hillside Park to monthly meetings
- acquainting residents with resources such as Volunteer Alexandria and the needs of nearby associations whose events require massive volunteer support (such as Art on the Avenue held by the Del Ray Civic Association)

Events

Events are a favorite way of bringing neighbors together and a great short term volunteer opportunity. National Night Out, Luminaria, the Halloween party and Holiday Party rate highly on the prioritization list. Other ideas included a Warwick Village House Tour or Community Yard Sale.

Proposed Speakers at Monthly Meetings

- Parents Committee
- A garden-focused speaker (preparing your

garden in spring, how to convert from grass to grass-less landscaping)

- Mosquito prevention – Health Department speaker
- Contractor (how to insulate an older home, sound proofing, energy efficiency, and water proofing)
- City officials such as a City Council member, City Attorney, or the City's economic development office
- Someone who would know about the current state of the Mount Vernon Plan

– Maryjo Baxter

Warwick Village Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2011

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

Learn about Alexandria's Budget Process—Paying for Our Alexandria (What the Heck is BFAAC?)

Featured Speakers:

Kerry Donley, Vice Mayor and
Dak Hardwick, Member,
Budget and Fiscal Affairs
Advisory Committee (BFAAC)

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

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.



President's Column

Hi Neighbor,

Who likes living in Warwick Village? Do you know one characteristic about Del Ray and Warwick Village that sets our neighborhood apart and has helped us improve and become the funky, vibrant, happening place that it is?

Surprisingly few people realize to what extent the uniqueness of Del Ray and the Village is due to volunteerism. Helping keep Del Ray and Warwick Village the cool place it is depends on a core group of volunteers. For example, did you know that the December Luminaria Display has been part of Warwick Village for 30 years? Other happenings like the Farmer's Market on Oxford and Art on the Avenue have been going for 15 years.

But one of the risks facing our neighborhood vibe is that we are not expanding our list of

active residents (home owners, renters—we like all kinds of new folks) who volunteer for a community activity, task or event.

Volunteering doesn't mean you have to take on a big job. You don't have to go to meetings, if you don't want to. What it does mean is that you will be helping to maintain the nature of this cool place and you'll work with some cool people.

One easy volunteer opportunity is open now. It is important but does not require a lot of time. That is coordinating adopt-a-park volunteers. Each Sunday from April to November we need volunteers to pick up trash in our parks. The City scores us on Mondays and at the end of the year they send us a check based on the scores. We use the money to run our programs and make improvements to the Village, such as painting the picnic tables in Landover Park.

Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering for parks coordinator or to be a parks picker-upper at (703) 549-8842 or glennrc@verizon.net. We can always use your help. Just know that helping out your neighborhood is part of what will keep it feeling like your favorite neighborhood, and it doesn't have to be a big job.

—Glenn Christianson



WVCA Leadership &



Street Representatives

WVCA Officers

President

Glenn Christianson • 1 Ancell • 703.549.8842

1st Vice President

Flora Buckalew • 228 Burgess • 703.836.6599
fcbuckalew@aol.com

2nd Vice President

Aaron Shriber • 2904 Sycamore Street
571.483.0408 • aaronshriber@yahoo.com

Secretary

Maryjo Baxter • 203 Guthrie
703.519.3668 • mjobaxter@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Harry Falconer • 44 Kennedy
703.405.5399 • harrymfalconerjr@hotmail.com

Committees

Adopt-a-Park

Kelly Benedetti • kbenedetti@yahoo.com

Event Planning/Pool House

Kathy Sugrue • Burgess
703.549.2718 • kgsugrue@comcast.net

Neighborhood Watch Liaison

Frank Sokolove • Kennedy
202.298.0800 • frank_sokolove@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

John Kirchofer • John_Kirchofer@yahoo.com

Parks Assessment

Andy Duncan
703.549.2727 • a_duncan@comcast.net

Schools

Merikoeb Wondafrash • mewondafrash@yahoo.com

Traffic & Pedestrian

Rob Maccubbin

Trees & Transit

Bill Cook • 2940 Sycamore • wmtcook@yahoo.com

Garden Club

Flora Buckalew • 228 Burgess • 703.836.6599
fcbuckalew@aol.com

Welcome Wagon

MaryJo Baxter • 203 Guthrie
703.519.3668 • mjobaxter@hotmail.com

Youth Assessment

Darryl Francois • 212 Guthrie
703.548.5624 • darrylkf@aol.com

Street Representatives

Street Rep Coordinator

Cabell Wilkes • cabellwilkes@kw.com • 703.203.2938

Ancell

Alice Falk • 35 Ancell • 703.836.3295
afalk@afalk-editing.com

Aspen

Ann & Bill Stat • 241 Aspen • 703.549.8057

Burgess

Shawn Ferrara
706.461.1661 • shawnferrara@gmail.com

Commonwealth/Mt Vernon

Glenn & Robbin Christianson • 1 Ancell
703.549.8842

Gentry

Patty Moran • 209 Gentry
703.824.6810 • pmm68@msn.com

Guthrie

Gretchyn Meinken • 220 Gentry
703.549.3932 • gretchyn_gay@hotmail.com

Hickory

Diane and George • 2949 Hickory Street
diane_dutra@hotmail.com

Kennedy

Frank Sokolove • Kennedy • 202.298.0800

Landover

Michelle Rief • 3110 Landover
703.931.9375 • mrief@comcast.net

Mosby

Marc Walowac • 3001 Mosby
703.217.7308 • marcwalowac@gmail.com

Sycamore

Niki Badzik & Linda Robinson
2942 Sycamore • 703.548.3214

Tennessee

Craig Moran • 241 Tennessee
703.837.0039 • cmoran241@yahoo.com

City Liaisons

Code Enforcement

Wendy Baden • 703.519.3300 x127 • 703.746.4200

Police

Sgt. Bill Mayfield • 703.838.6360 x1903
william.mayfield@alexandriava.gov

Recreation

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

Sheriff's Office

Lt. Tom Dumproff • 703.746.5036
Tom.Dumproff@alexandriava.gov

Duncan Library News

As most of you know, the library is no longer just a place to check out books. But many library users haven't yet tapped the great resources available from our web page, www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

A great online resource that I'm having fun with right now is Mango Languages. I'm working on Spanish vocabulary, but you can also do French, Chinese, Italian, German, or Russian. The lessons are simple to begin with and build on each other. If you have a basic knowledge, you can either zip through the early part for review or focus on later lessons. Access the tool by clicking the OnLine Databases heading on the web page, enter your card number on the next screen, then click on Mango Languages in the alphabetical list.

In addition to our weekly story times on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., we offer Stories and Songs in Spanish for children ages 0 to 5 (with an adult) on Monday, February 7, at 10:00 a.m. On Tuesday, February 15, come at 4:00 p.m. for German Story Time. On Wednesday, February 9, we present Miss Adrian's Pajama Story Time at 7:00 p.m. This activity is for children ages 3 to 6 who can enjoy the story time while Mom or Dad is elsewhere in the library.

The monthly program from the Nature Center is Wednesday, February 23, at 3:30 p.m. This activity is for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 only.

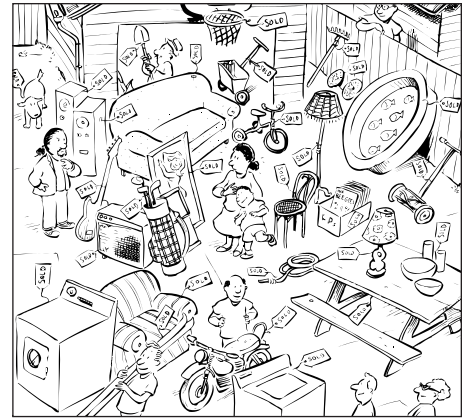
Authors Michael Green and Roger Launius are scheduled on Wednesday, February 2, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., to present their new book *Charlie Finley: The Outrageous Story of Baseball's Super Showman*. Finley is the colorful and controversial figure who bought the Kansas City Athletics almost 50 years ago. See the authors' web site, www.charliefinleybook.com, for more information. Sponsored by the Friends of Duncan Library, the talk is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Thanks for the many donations of lightly used books, both for library use and for our next book sale. Several items have been added to the collection and help reduce the waiting time for popular books.

We're saying goodbye this month to our Branch Librarian, Renee DiPilato. We'll miss her a lot, but her promotion to head the Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, is a well-deserved recognition of her excellent capability.

See you at the library!

—Marilyn Doherty



School News

Potential Extended Day and Calendar

A key area briefly discussed at the January 6 Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) School Board meeting dealt with the Superintendent of Schools Morton Sherman's proposal to extend the school year and the school day. The Superintendent's proposal includes extending the school year to begin on August 29 and increase the school day by 30 minutes. Read more about this proposal and benefits to students on the ACPS website.

MV Big Flea

The MV Big Flea is a HUGE flea market fundraiser on April 30, 2011. The event is held at and benefits the Mount Vernon Community School in Del Ray. We are seeking donations of items for the event. All donations are tax deductible and all proceeds benefit the school's important PTA programs. To make a donation, schedule a pickup, or for more information, please contact our Curator Cynthia Webster at websterbigflea@gmail.com.

MV Big Flea accepts items that have resale value such as electronics, furniture, antiques, collectibles, jewelry, kids items (toys and strollers), bicycles, household furnishings, sporting goods, artwork, small appliances and more.

Want to donate? We are hosting several "Shop N Drop" days at our warehouse at 719 N. Saint Asaph Street in Old Town. You can either drop off your donations or purchase items that have been already collected every Saturday in March and April leading up to the MV Big Flea event on April 30, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For larger donations schedule a pick-up; email Cynthia Webster at websterbigflea@gmail.com.

—Merikokeb Wondafrash



Proposed City Budget

On February 8, Alexandria City Manager James K. Hartmann proposed a \$553.4 million General Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. For the first time since FY 2008, Alexandria does not have a budget shortfall; the proposed operating budget includes no tax rate increases, no fee increases, and no new cuts to City services.

The proposed budget General Fund tax rate will remain at 97.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The City's real estate assessments grew by 2.55% and the average homeowner would pay approximately \$18 more than last year.

In the proposed budget, total spending increases by 4.1% (\$21.7 million) from the FY 2011 approved budget. The operating budget transfer to the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) would also increase by 4.1% (\$6.9 million) from last year's approved budget. The budget for City operations increases 3.2% (\$9.9 million).

"The City has emerged from the budget challenges of the past three years in a strong financial position, thanks to solid fiscal management, tough decisions and sacrifice," said Hartmann. "The results are a more efficient government, operational improvements, stability and the opportunity for a steady recovery."

Lyceum History Camp

Registration Open for July 19-21 Camp

The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, is now registering for a three-day camp for children ages 5 through 7. Clio's Kids mini-camp introduces children to American history and life in historic Alexandria through artifacts, storytelling, singing, crafts, old-fashioned games, and visits to nearby historic places. Clio's Kids runs from

Major budget issues for City Council's consideration include:

- A Transportation Add-On Tax On Commercial Property and Small Business Tax Relief
- The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) proposes \$957 million in expenditures over the next 10 years, prioritizing maintenance of existing City and Schools facilities and infrastructure, and funding for the Potomac Yard Metro Station.
- ACPS Capital Improvement Program

City Council will host eight work sessions to review the proposed budget with City staff. These sessions are open to the public and will be recorded and posted online. The public may submit comments online, or speak at a budget public hearing on Monday, March 7, at 4:00 p.m. and a tax rate public hearing on Saturday, April 16, at 9:30 a.m.

The Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program are scheduled for adoption by the Alexandria City Council on May 2, 2011. Details about the public meetings, proposed budget, and online comments are located at alexandriava.gov/budget.

Potomac Yard Metrorail Station

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as the federal lead agency, in cooperation with the City of Alexandria, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and the National Park Service (NPS), are initiating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Potomac Yard Metrorail Station. The EIS is being prepared in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and other applicable regulations and procedures.

There is a new website that serves as your guide to the EIS process. You may refer to it for updates: www.potomacyardmetro.com

The website currently includes:

- Background on the EIS and the project purpose and need
- Information on the alternatives that are being evaluated
- Reports, publications, technical memoranda, and other project files
- Updates on public meetings and other ways to get involved, and
- Maps of the study area and the alternatives.

Prehistoric Peoples Spring Break Camp

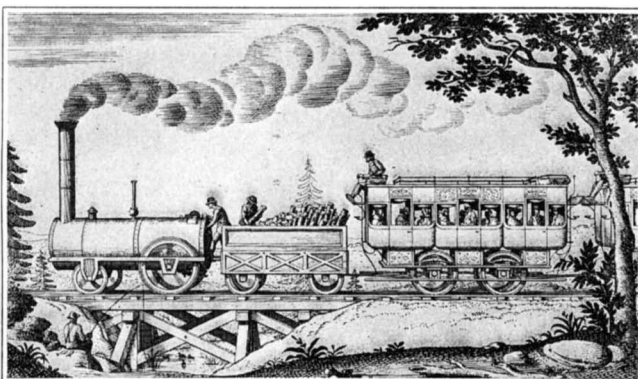
Wondering what to do over spring break? Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center is offering a week long, full day nature camp learning about the prehistoric Indian peoples who once lived within Alexandria's ancient forests.

Children ages 7 to 10 will enjoy activities including woodland hikes, games, role playing, some tool making, storytelling, journaling, and more!

The camp fee includes a field trip to the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. Register early, space is limited!

The camp runs from April 18-22 at the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Avenue. Drop off begins at 8:30 a.m., and the camp runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost for Alexandria residents is \$275. The fee for nonresidents is \$300.

To register, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation or call (703) 746-5559 for more information.



Camp will be held at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. The cost is \$105, which includes snacks and souvenirs, and advance registration is required.

To register or to learn more, call (703) 746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

Exemption for Breastfeeding

Alexandrianews.org reports that on February 12, 2011, the Alexandria City Council approved an amendment to the City's Indecent Exposure Ordinance that exempts breastfeeding a child in public places as a violation of the City Code. City Council considered the amendment based upon recommendations from The Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, which has established promotion of breastfeeding as an important objective, and to demonstrate community support for mothers who breastfeed their children.

While the City does not have any record of mothers being cited for breastfeeding their children in public, the change to the City's code help to promote breastfeeding as a positive practice for both mothers and children in Alexandria. On February 22, 2011, City Council will consider approval of a resolution presented by the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria that promotes breastfeeding as part of health and wellness initiatives in the City of Alexandria.



WVCA Monthly Meeting Minutes

Pool House, January 24, 2011

Glenn Christianson introduced himself as the new President of the Warwick Village Citizens Association (WVCA) and reviewed the evening's agenda.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Roger Blakely, Alexandria's Deputy Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. Mr. Blakeley returned to the WVCA meeting with an update on short term improvements to Hillside Park.

A work order has been submitted to prune or take down the trees that were damaged in the August 2010 storm, including the big oak tree on the median. The median has been paved by the Alexandria City Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. Standard park signage will be added to replace damaged and missing signs.

In December, the Warwick Village Parks Assessment Committee officially requested that the Parks Director include Hillside Park in the City's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). A decision will be made in February 2011. If it is not in the next capital budget cycle, we can ask that it be considered in the future.

Both short term and longer term landscaping plans have been put together by John Walsh, the city horticulturist, in order to create usable space within Hillside Park.

Residents have frequently requested better lighting in Hillside Park. The extent of improved lighting will depend on whether it will be a smaller maintenance project or part of the larger capital plan.

Mr. Blakely emphasized that any requests for lighting would require a Special Use Permit (SUP), with the process taking at least 9 months and requiring public hearings. Normally, it costs \$500 to file an application for an SUP but the WVCA could avoid the application fee by asking the city to be the applicant. We would, however, have to have a member of the WVCA Parks Assessment Committee as a representative at the planning and zoning meetings.

Police Report

The WVCA welcomed our new police liaison, Sergeant Bill Mayfield. Our previous liaison, Lt. Scott Gibson, retired on January 1. Sergeant Mayfield said that while no crime was reported in the Village over the past few weeks, there has been a sharp increase in burglaries and car break-ins in surrounding areas such as Del Ray. A particular anomaly with these crimes is that they are taking place between noon and 7:00 p.m. instead of at night.

Sergeant Mayfield led a discussion on prevention and emphasized the "bad guys" work hard to select their targets. They observe any tell tale signs that people are away such as newspapers and packages piling up. Consider leaving a light on or having your lights on timers. Ask your neighbors to take in any advertising or other items that might signal an absent resident.

Above all, be alert and if something doesn't look quite right, call the police non-emergency number at (703) 838-4444. The police department uses technology to electronically determine "hot spots" needing particular attention and has a national specialist, Hassan Aden, leading this initiative.

Treasurers Report and Membership

The association has around \$13,000. A large portion of WVCA income is derived from the weekly Parks Cleanup each summer. The city awards grants each year to neighborhood associations when they inspect our parks and find them clean. In the past this has been as much as \$1,700 per year. The work of the dedicated Park Cleanup volunteers on Sunday evenings each summer has a direct impact on the size of the grant.

Aaron Shriber reported we have received about ten memberships so far in this very early part of the year.

Member Ideas and Priorities for 2011

Glenn Christianson provided some background. About ten years ago, the WVCA created a book of proposed projects and led a tour of city council members to acquaint them with Village needs at that time. This original set of projects resulted in capital improvements such as the brick entrance pillars at Kennedy and the improved footpath from Landover to Glebe Road.

Is it time to come up with a new big plan? The rest of the meeting was spent discussing ideas for community outreach, communication and events. See the related article in this month's *Voice*.

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

—Maryjo Baxter

Visit our Web site at
www.WarwickVillage.com

Warwick Village Pet of the Month

Dylan and Newman—Heroes Amongst Us

Let's give some Valentine's love to Dylan and Newman, two very honorable cat residents of Warwick Village!

Both Dylan and Newman came to live in the Village from different places in Maryland. Dylan, being the older and longer resident, keeps an eye on his "little" brother in an attempt to keep him out of trouble. Dylan is always willing to give Newman a good swipe with his paw if he does get into mischief, and there are occasions when Dylan jumps on Newman and rolls him around on the floor just because he can. Despite his aggressive oversight of Newman, Dylan is definitely the quieter and shyer of the two, while Newman is more than happy to make up for that quiet! Newman lets everyone know when he and Dylan are around and when they want treats or dinner.



Dylan

Both are arduous admirers of birds, and you can always count on them to hunt down the pesky bugs that sometimes make their way into the house. When you walk by their home on Mount Vernon Avenue, you can often find them sitting

at the front door watching all the two legged mammals walking or running by.

These two get almost anything they want because of a good deed they performed a couple of years ago. You see, they woke up everyone in the house very early one Saturday morning because they knew something was

wrong. Everyone in the house was suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning while they were sleeping. Dylan and Newman decided to team up and started meowing and crying as loud as they could in order to wake everyone so that all could get to safety. So, since they are real heroes they will always get whatever treats they want.

Calling all Warwick Village superstar pets—cats, dogs, iguanas, fish, birds and all pets alike—we would like to feature you in the Voice! Please send a high resolution picture and write-up 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.



Newman

**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.
