

Carbon Monoxide Update

On December 10, 2011, the Alexandria City Fire Department came through Warwick Village and handed out carbon monoxide (CO) and fire detectors. Here is the report I receive back from Battalion Chief Joe Hoffmaster.

Today was a great success. We installed 92 carbon monoxide detectors and several dozen smoke detectors, and replaced several dozen batteries in smoke detectors. We started this morning with a briefing at station 209 and then in the Warwick Village area at 10:00 hours with 41 volunteers and City employees working until about 16:30 hours. I have a fire company out there as I am writing this installing a CO and smoke detector for someone who could not wait this morning. Overall I feel the day was a great success: One of our companies found a malfunctioning stove while out and about the neighborhood. That there alone is enough to say I am glad we were out there. Our Fire Marshal's Office and Community Services Unit office will be writing to you with some more details and specifics.

Glad the weather cooperated and look forward to further defining how we can reduce the hazards of CO in the Warwick Village area.

Sincerely, Joe Hoffmaster

After speaking with Joe, we still have more work to do. Not every home was checked. If you weren't home, you should have received a door hanger bag. In the bag are some tips for CO and fire safety. Please read this material. Your life may depend on it.

There are more safety tips available at the following websites: nfpa.org and cpsc.gov. If you would like a free CO or smoke detector call: 703.746.5274 and ask for Doug Townsend.

—Glenn Christianson



Carbon Monoxide and Warwick Village

Warwick Village was built in 1956 and consists of 650 rowhouses. The rowhouses are built in such a fashion that in many cases, two side-by-side units share a common attic space which facilitates the migration of any escaped combustion gases between units. This has resulted in some instances in the carbon monoxide originating from one house to activate a neighbor's carbon monoxide detector and cause symptoms to the residents of both units.

Our investigations into the phenomenon of carbon monoxide accumulation in Warwick Village homes have resulted in several conclusions.

Over the years, homeowner modifications to the basements of the homes, such as the addition of utility closets, laundry rooms, and the installation of modern efficient airtight windows have modified the combustion dynamics of the gas-fueled furnaces and water heaters. These modifications have reduced the cubic feet per minute (CFM) of combustion air available for the appliances to function. In some of the cases we investigated, the modifications resulted in half of the required CFMs for the proper operation of the appliances.

Another of the factors we identified is the aging and lack of maintenance of the furnaces. Several of the offending furnaces we examined showed that the burners and heat exchangers were dirty and in severe need of servicing and adjustment. Dirty burners and heat exchangers affect the combustion efficiency of the furnace which causes the production of carbon monoxide well in excess of normal operation. In some of the cases, tests conducted by Washington Gas showed that the furnaces produced in excess of 10,000 parts per million of carbon monoxide.

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Warwick Village Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2012

Meet and Greet begins at 7:15 p.m.

Call to Order at 7:30 p.m.

Featured Topic: 2012 planning... tell us what you think we should focus on in 2012

WVCA meetings are held at the Warwick Pool House at 3301 Landover, located a short distance down the hill from the entrance to Aspen Apartments.

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Warwick Village Meeting Dates

February 27 • March 19 • April 16

Find and Follow Warwick Village

Interested in helping out with WVCA activities? Have ideas for neighborhood activities or events? Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kelly Ferguson, at kellymaureen711@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.

President's Column

Hi Neighbor,

It's a new year! So what are our new projects for Warwick Village? Come to the January 23 meeting. Tell us what you think we should focus on in 2012. There are no bad ideas. Anything that helps improve the village or builds community is appropriate. If you aren't able to attend you may contact me at glennrc@verizon.net. I'll make sure your idea is heard at the meeting.

If you're like me, finding that new year's resolution is hard. You know; the one that is definitely new but also has to be attainable. So here's an easy one. Volunteer for one thing. We have Adopt-A-Park, National Night Out, Luminaria, or our Holiday Party. With Adopt-A-Park, it's about an hour total spread over a month. It's really easy: Just pick up trash in a park on Sunday afternoon for any month you choose from March

through November. The Parks and Recreation Department will inspect on Mondays. Contact Kelly Ferguson if you are interested and she'll get you signed up (Kellymaureen711@gmail.com or call 570.242.6261). The benefit to WVCA is that we have clean inviting parks and the City of Alexandria gives us a donation to help run our projects and make improvements to the neighborhood.

Harry Falconer has retired as our Treasurer after 14 years. Yes 14 years! Keeping us on track and making sure we didn't break the budget. Harry has been there through 4 past presidents of WVCA and has stayed the course through it all. A very special thanks to Harry for all he has done for us.

Aaron Shriber has also stepped back as Second Vice President. Thank you for keeping

our membership list in order and your perspective at our leadership meetings. It was great to have new input.

Welcome Alice Falk and Mark Malseed who have been elected to Treasurer and Second Vice President respectively. We are in great shape as an organization. Alice has been a Street Representative for several years. Mark has set up our Twitter and Facebook accounts and has been maintaining them throughout 2011. Both Alice and Mark are active members of our leadership team and I'm very pleased we will be going into 2012 with such a strong board.

I do hope to see you at our January 23 meeting. Please come and discuss some new ideas.

—Glenn Christianson, WVCA President

WVCA Leadership &



Street Representatives

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Sheriff's Office

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

Warwick Village Lights Up the Holidays

'Twas the first Saturday afternoon in December; when Michael Buening and his elves transformed the Pool House into a Santa's Workshop of sand slinging, candle dropping, vehicle filling fun. More "elves" drove around the village, jolly music blaring, dropping the completed bags along the median strips. The chilly, clear weather was a perfect backdrop for the 2000 glowing luminaria that lined the winding streets of Warwick Village that evening.

Two weeks later, twinkling lights lined the Pool House driveway. Once indoors, festive music and savory aromas greeted all who attended the last WVCA meeting of 2011. A huge thank you to Kathy Sugrue, Don Stark, Kelly Ferguson, and their volunteers who created this Winter Wonderland. It is truly a highlight of our neighborhood's year.

Library News

Did you get an e-Reader this holiday season? Do you need some help making the best use of it? Come to the Duncan Library on Wednesday, January 25, at 7 p.m., when we'll give individual assistance on your particular kind of reader. The library has many resources through which you can borrow e-books without charge.

Three special children's programs this month: A Nature Center program for grades K to 5 only, at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 18; a visit from the Animal Shelter for the same ages, at 3 p.m. on Monday, January 30; and Drop-In Board and Card Games for grades 3 to 5 only, on Monday, January 23, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For the full Children's Program schedule, pick up a monthly calendar in the library or consult the website, alexandria.lib.va.us.

If you're a fan of the hardboiled mystery, you won't want to miss our local author talk with Thomas Kaufman on his new book *Steal the Show*. Kaufman's first novel, *Drink the Tea*, won the PWA Best First Private Eye Novel competition. The books feature an unusual Private Investigator and a DC setting. The talk has been rescheduled to Monday, January 30, at 7:30 p.m.

The Friends of Duncan Library Board meets Monday, January 23, at 7:15 p.m. This is a public meeting.

The Duncan Book Discussion group is reading Amy Tan's book, *Saving Fish from Drowning*, for

Events such as the Holiday Party, Luminaria, as well as the Halloween Party and National Night Out bring neighbors together. All residents are welcome at these events. Your \$15 annual membership in WVCA goes a long way in making these events happen. Dues can be paid via PayPal at warwickvillage.com, or by getting a check to Alice Falk at 35 Ancell Street.

—Maryjo Baxter

Attendees at the holiday party on December 19 donated over 30 canned and dry food items. They were donated to the Carpenter's Shelter. Thank you all for your donations and attending the party.

their meeting on Wednesday, January 18, at 7 p.m. This welcoming group celebrated its fifth anniversary in December. For more information, talk to Ruth at 703.746.1705, extension 3.

Have you heard of the Local History Collection and its amazing archive of Alexandria photographs? For a splendid example of what can be done with one of these old pictures, step into the lobby of the TD Bank at the corner of Prince and Washington Streets. To your right, covering an entire wall, is a greatly enlarged (and colored) picture of a marching band that has just passed City Hall on Cameron Street on George Washington's Birthday in 1928. There are spectators on the corner, including a couple who look taken unaware and just want to cross the street. Thanks to the TD Bank for linking with our history instead of just wallpapering.

For those focused on Del Ray area history, walk up Washington to the Lyceum, enter from the parking area, and note the black and white pictures in the entrance hall. There's one of Alexandria's Luna Park, situated on the banks of Four Mile Run around the turn of the 19th century. Both of these photos originated in Alexandria Library's Local History department at 717 Queen Street.

See you at the library!

—Marilyn Doherty

Carbon Monoxide and Warwick Village, continued from page 1

The third factor identified was that of chimney maintenance. The chimneys through which the combustion gases escape in Warwick Village are of the masonry kind lined with terracotta tiles. Over the years, the chimneys have deteriorated, the tiles shifted, and the masonry cracked, allowing combustion gases to seep back into the houses and accumulate in the living spaces nearly causing several tragedies.

It is imperative for Warwick Village residents and homeowners to take the following actions in order to avert further tragedies:

All gas-fueled furnaces should be serviced annually per the manufacturer's recommendations. The best time for this to take place is in the early fall, before the furnace is fired up for the winter. The homeowner should request that the combustion of the furnace be checked, and the burners cleaned and adjusted if need be.

Additional ventilation should be provided for the gas fueled appliances. The best method to achieve that is to install an air intake drawing combustion air directly from the outside in an approved manner. The homeowners should consult with a certified technician to explore which solution fits their particular appliance the best.

Warwick Village homeowners should also have a certified technician inspect their chimney for deterioration and cracks allowing combustion gases to seep into their home, and to ensure appropriate repairs are made or that chimney lining is installed.

All homes with gas-fueled appliances should be equipped with a carbon monoxide detector. The best place for the detectors to be installed is in the basement, where the furnaces and water heaters are located. This will provide early warning to the occupants that carbon monoxide is accumulating in their home. Occupants should evacuate the home and call 911 from fresh air once they have determined that their carbon monoxide detector has activated.

WarwickVillage.org
Twitter.com/WarwickCitizens
Facebook.com/WarwickCitizens

Warwick Village Pet of the Month

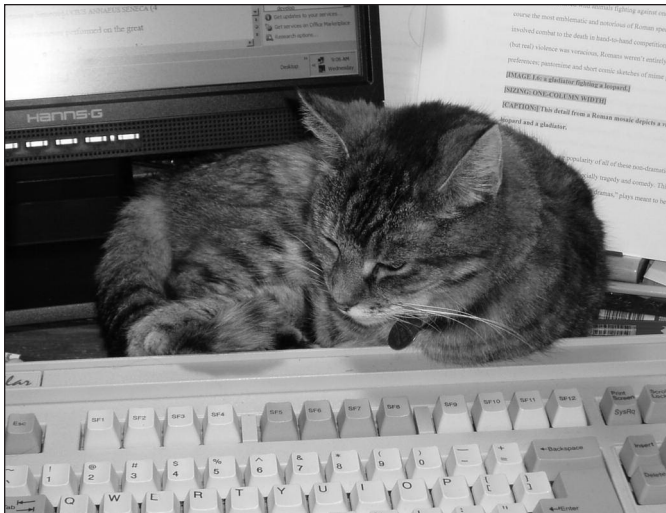
Let's Ring in the New Year with Morgan!

This is Morgan, who has been keeping a close eye on matters on her stretch of Ancell Street for more than a decade. My previous cat, who had lived with me in six different apartments in four states, enjoyed only a few years of having her own townhouse. After George died (at age 17), I went to a shelter—and when I took Morgan out of her cage, she climbed up my arm, stuck her nose in my ear, and started to purr. I guess George had left a stamp on my forehead visible only to other cats (an S for

“sucker” perhaps?), because Morgan is extremely shy with other people.

But it's a busy life, whether she's checking out the new grape arbor (courtesy of Snowpocalypse) or keeping ready to suggest an edit. All that, and 20+ hours of sleep a day! (From Alice Falk, 35 Ancell)

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 @ 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, homewardtrails.org.

—Shanie Bartlett



Parking in the Village

We appeal to each Villager's sense of common courtesy to ensure that parking in the access roads is available to Village residents. Villagers have a strong tradition that respects the property line of individual residences, allowing each resident the use of the parking space in front of their house. Residents park in the space(s) in front of their house. Residents do not park in front of their neighbor's house. Additional vehicles of residents and their guests must park on the main road. Residents are responsible for informing their guests of this policy. If a car is parked in violation of this policy, please talk to your neighbor or the car's owner. As a resident you also reserve the right to notify proper authorities of violations.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

The business portion of the December 2011 monthly meeting was brief, as neighbors gathered primarily to celebrate our community at the annual Holiday Party. Glenn Christianson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Nominating committee chair Andy Duncan introduced the uncontested slate of officers running for the 2012 WVCA Executive Committee: Glenn Christianson, Flora Buckalew, and Maryjo Baxter will continue as President, First Vice President, and Secretary respectively. New on the committee will be Mark Malseed as Second Vice President and Alice Falk as Treasurer. The WVCA sincerely thanks Harry Falconer for his 14 years of service as WVCA Treasurer.

The election took place with a show of hands.

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 23, 2012, at the Pool House.

—Maryjo Baxter

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

Warwick Village
 established 1953

Start 2012 off right! 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.

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.).

Name (1): _____

Name (2): _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

What's on your mind?

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

Address: _____

Mail this coupon with your check (payable to WVCA) to WVCA, 35 Ancell Street, Alexandria VA 22305, or bring to the next meeting. Membership is good for the entire calendar year.

