



## DPCA MEETING

StudioPAUSE  
Monday, February 24  
7:00 pm

### NEXT DPCA MEETING

**Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

Join our first Douglas Park Civic Association meeting of the year as we receive remarks by Congressman Don Beyer, discuss Douglas Park projects in 2025, and, among other things, announce the Spring Egg Hunt.

**Location:** StudioPAUSE  
4710 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204

### Message from the President

By Steve Jordan Tomaszewski

I would like to challenge everyone to get more involved with our Douglas Park Civic Association this year. In 2024, we had a number of volunteers answer our neighborhood's call for help by helping to plan events, taking on improvement projects, and keeping our neighbors informed. We are also happy to have financial support from families by paying their annual dues or making additional contributions. Annual dues are our main source of operating income for the Civic Association, and it allows us to put on events and give back to our neighbors.

Overall, I am continually impressed by the great work our neighborhood is doing to help others—from working monthly food banks to supporting a tragic recovery of a plane crash. My goal this year is to have 200 families pay dues to our Civic Association, check out the last page of this newsletter to see the ways to contribute, and help us achieve this goal.

## Welcome Neighbors at the Irving Street Group Home

By Steve Jordan Tomaszewski

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new neighbors at the Irving Street Group Home. The home is now fully staffed, and residents are moving in. The home can accommodate up to five people permanently with developmental and physical disabilities, and an additional room for respite temporary living space.



The Douglas Park Civic Association welcomed our new residents with a gift box. Included was a pineapple (a symbol of hospitality), peanuts and sunflower seeds (to prepare for baseball season), local favorites Old Bay spice and Mumbo Sauce, and a copy of our Neighbor News newsletter. The first time this home was mentioned in this Neighbor News newsletter was in 1989 when Arlington County was in the process of purchasing the property and developing it, and our civic association wanted input from neighbors on what the home should turn into.

# Lost Dog Cafe

By Rasha Leigh

The bartop was made by: Russell Doyle Beyer (who was the bar manager at the time)

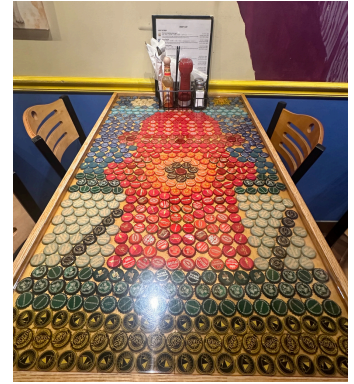
The bar cap collection originated from regular's suggestion of donating bottle caps in order to support St. Jude's cancer research. After awhile, it became a habit of collecting bottle caps and the excess was suggested to be used to make the now existing and matching bottle cap bartop and table tops.

The owners agreed under the condition that Russell would be in charge of the project. Russell stated that he further collected bottle caps from LA Bar Grill and Twisted Vine cap donations to finish the whole bartop.



### Few fun facts (per Russell):

"I had never done anything like it before. I did some research on what materials I would need and then took to separating the caps by color in order to plan out the designs for the bar and tables. In the process of making one of the tables, while letting the epoxy resin set and dry. I accidentally pressed my thumb onto the surface and now my thumbprint is a permanent part of that table. (I later etched my initials below it with a paperclip lol).



Another fun story was a similar situation nearing the end of the bar top's creation: a customer set his entire palm on the bar while the epoxy setting and I thought it was ruined, but luckily the resin evened itself out and left no mark, so I got lucky there!"



AMY WEASE

COMPASS

Hello Douglas Park!

My name is **Amy Wease** and South Arlington has been my home since 2007 when I bought my first condo at West Village Shirlington and in 2019 I moved into a single family home on Randolph St. While many of you know me as your neighbor, you don't know that **I am also a real estate advisor with almost 20 years of experience in the DMV.**

My specialties lie in helping sellers take their homes from "average" to "wow" with my unique formula for selling your home tailored for you and the concerns and challenges you face.



**Amy Wease**

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Jen D.  
Home Seller, Nauck

Scan to learn more about me!



# Randolph Food Pantry

By Cassie Ravo

The Randolph Food Pantry has operated with regular distributions since March 2020 serving all families who have one or more children who attend Randolph Elementary School. The food pantry has gone through a few iterations since March 2020, including providing non-perishables, produce, eggs, and ready-to-eat meals. In the first 17 months (March 2020 to August 2021), we served an average of nearly 140 families per week with a weekly outdoor distribution every Friday.

When school fully reopened in the fall of 2021, we shifted to a monthly distribution, with weekly non-perishable items available within the school. Since the fall of 2021, we have served an average of 120-130 families per month, with the number of families coming to the food pantry steadily increasing 2024.



Food insecurity is growing in Arlington, and in the greater DC region. At Randolph, we have seen our numbers grow from averaging 120 families the first half of 2024 to surpassing 140 families at our December distribution. This past September, Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) released its 2024 Hunger Report; it included that 23% of households in Arlington County struggle to afford enough nutritious food. We are proud to be a CAFB distribution site and are grateful for the produce and shelf-stable items they provide for our families each month.

Douglas Park has provided a great deal of support for the pantry over the past 5 years, and we sincerely thank everyone who has ensured we can continue providing this important service for our families.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the food pantry, please reach out to Cassie ([cassie.ravo@gmail.com](mailto:cassie.ravo@gmail.com))!

# Friends of Arlington Public Library

By Andrew Goodwin

Love your library, support the eCollection! Join the Friends of the Arlington Public Library (FOAL) to support library programs like Summer and Winter Reading, The Shop (makerspace), kids programming and Arlington Reads author talk programs.

FOAL needs your help to advocate for permanent funding for the popular OverDrive eCollection. The collection's popularity is evident, with eBooks and audiobooks circulating 1 million times in FY23 and increasing by 43% to 1.5 million in FY24. Valued for its 24/7 online accessibility, OverDrive helps connect individuals who cannot visit the library, those with vision or learning disabilities, or who learn better through listening.

FOAL is a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing literacy and community engagement through Arlington Public Library. You can help by becoming a member, volunteering, shopping at book sales, or joining the FOAL Board. FOAL also advocates for library funding, including support for the OverDrive eCollection, which provides eBooks, audiobooks and digital magazines.

Thank you for supporting FOAL's mission to build a strong, vibrant, and engaged community through our local library. Visit [www.arlingtonlibraryfriends.org](http://www.arlingtonlibraryfriends.org) to learn more.

## Four Ways to Support the Library

From the Friends of the Arlington Public Library

1

**Become a FOAL member**



2

**Volunteer**

3

**Shop at FOAL bookstores or semi-annual book sales**



4

**Advocate!**

**Speak or write in support of the Library during the County budget process**



FRIENDS of the Arlington Public Library

# DOUGLAS PARK IS A COMPETITIVE MARKET

(Lucky for you, the best real estate team happens to live in your neighborhood.)



**3 DAYS**

**AVG. DAYS ON MARKET**

*Versus 49 day market average  
2024 Q4 Data*



**\$832K**

**MEDIAN SALE PRICE**

*2024 Q4 Data*



**106%**

**KF TEAM LIST-TO-SOLD STATS**

*Other agents = 92%*



**Check out our most recent sale!  
Under contract in 3 days, over-asking, with a RECORD sale price for Douglas Park!**



**WHAT'S YOUR HOME WORTH?**



**(571) 348-4604**

**clientcare@kfteams.com**

**dcnovarealty.com**

## Evolve All: Our Neighborhood Gym

By Dan Brady

On just about any day of the week, from lunchtime to the evening, you'll find members of the Douglas Park community (including me) on the mats at EvolveAll, a martial arts and training studio on South Walter Reed Drive, one block up from Columbia Pike.

EvolveAll offers the most programs of any martial arts school in Northern Virginia including classes in Youth Martial Arts, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and Boxing.



Douglas Park's Allegra Jabo was recently featured on their website as a member of the mid-day fitness bootcamp. Neighbor Damon Gabriel teaches self-defense seminars and is a purple belt in the studio's Brazilian Jiu-jitsu program. Countless kids have come up through EvolveAll's Youth Martial Arts program over the last 15 years. As the studio gets ready to sign a 10-year lease, countless more will continue to enjoy classes there.

For information, email [welcomecrew@evolveall.com](mailto:welcomecrew@evolveall.com) or visit their website at [evolveall.com](http://evolveall.com).

## Holiday Fund Drive Recap

By Rita Wiggins

We are so happy and proud to report on the outcomes of this year's DPCA Holiday Fund Drive. It was a banner year! Through the generosity of our neighbors, we collected a record amount of contributions. Between cash and in kind donations, we were able to support the children and families of Randolph Elementary School with a total of \$6,330!

These funds were used to purchase gifts, gift cards and wrapping supplies that were distributed at the Randolph Holiday Shop on 14-15 December. The DPCA donations were directed towards gifts for 50 Randolph children. In addition, we were able to use excess funds to contribute to the Randolph Pantry which distributes groceries to families once a month and provides emergency food assistance to families in need throughout the year.

Thanks go out to everyone in our community for the robust response to our call for help. You all generously donated your money, time and talents and we cannot thank you enough. We'd like to send a shout out to the following people who found time during the busy holiday season to shop for the kids: Lyndsey Arthurs, Martha Balis-Larsen, Geeti Bawa, Alli Hoffman, Kaitlin Misenheimer, Allison Reed, Casey Robinson, Diane Shinn, Sandi Somers and Shannon Taylor. Thanks also to the neighbors who worked in the Holiday Shop doing anything from checking people in, to helping parents choose presents, to wrapping those presents. Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain a full list of those who helped at the shop, but you know who you are, and we truly appreciate your efforts. Thank you to Jen Baitinger, the Randolph School Counselor and coordinator of the Holiday Shop, as well as the Randolph PTA who provided tremendous support in the effort. Finally thanks to our DPCA President, Steve Tomaszewski, Vice President, Josue Bastidas, and Treasurer, Andy Price, who all provided indispensable assistance in the administration of this program.

You know it, and we know it, but it feels good to say it out loud, **"DOUGLAS PARK ROCKS!!!"** I can't wait to see what next year brings!

## Shop Local, Earn 5% Back

By Josue Bastidas

The Columbia Pike Partnership, in collaboration with BluDot and Arlington Economic Development, has launched the Open Rewards program to support local small businesses. Consumers can earn 5% cash back on purchases at participating Columbia Pike small businesses, with rewards redeemable for future local shopping.

**EARN 5% REWARDS**

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD APP

<https://www.bludot.io/open-rewards-columbia-pike>

# Randolph PTA Update

By Lyndsey Arthurs

Before spring break, the Randolph kids are taking part in a book grab where they can choose one or two books to take with them over spring break and to keep. To that end, the PTA is asking for donated books in good condition for elementary aged kids.

The Randolph Food Pantry is always looking for paper bags with handles for our families to take their food distributions home with them.

You can donate books and/or drop off bags (paper bags or even reusable bags) 3515 17th Street S, Arlington, VA 22240 in the box to the right side of the house, past the bush on the corner that says, "Paper Bags for Randolph Food Pantry." For questions feel free to contact me, Lyndsey Arthurs at [lkarthurs@gmail.com](mailto:lkarthurs@gmail.com) /404-964-8937.

**Volunteers Needed:** The Randolph PTA issues mini-grants to the teachers to help them with classroom projects. We will need volunteers to help review the mini-grants. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Mangones at [amangones@gmail.com](mailto:amangones@gmail.com).

# Backyard Concert Series

By Henry Dunbar

For the fourth year, we will be hosting a series of Saturday concerts in our backyard at 1616 S. Pollard Street. These are open to all neighbors and friends (and their friends and neighbors). Musicians are all local or Virginia-based. We ask for donations for the musicians, but welcome everyone. These events are meant to build community and support some very talented performers. Please join us.



The DC/Arlington-based Celtic band Ardmore plays a Backyard Concert in 2023.

## 2025 Backyard Concert Series Schedule

- April 19, 6pm, Veronneau
- May 3, 6pm, No Better Off
- June 14, 6pm, Griefcat
- July 12, 6pm, Ardmore
- Sept 20, 6pm, Crooked Sparrow
- Oct 11, 6pm, DEMZ
- Nov 8, 4pm, Black Muddy River Band

Admission is Pay What You Can. All proceeds go to the musicians. Outside lawn seating, some chairs provided or bring your own. You may BYOB, but no smoking please.

Contact: [htdunbar@gmail.com](mailto:htdunbar@gmail.com) or 703-472-1881.

A couple more dates may be added for young traveling bands. Stay tuned at the Facebook Group: [Arlington Backyard Concert Info](#).

## STAY IN TOUCH!

- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/douglasparkarlington/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DouglasParkArlington>
- Website: <https://www.douglasparkca.org/>
- Email ListServ using Groups.io: Email "Subscribe" to [dpca-listserv+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:dpca-listserv+subscribe@groups.io)
- Google Calendar: <https://bit.ly/DPCAcal>

DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION • ARLINGTON, VA  
MEMBERSHIP FORM—FY2025  
MARCH 2024 — FEBRUARY 2025

- ENCLOSED ARE MY ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD DUES OF \$25.00  
 I'M/WE'RE DONATING THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 A CHECK FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address (incl Apt No) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arlington, VA 22204  
 Home Phone (incl Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

I'D LIKE TO HELP WITH:

- |                                                                  |                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth of July Picnic and Parade        | <input type="checkbox"/> Election Day Bake Sale         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Fund Drive                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing newsletter articles    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Halloween Trail of Terror               | <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute/deliver newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call me anytime; I'll see if I can help | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter advertising         |

MAIL YOUR CHECK, PAYABLE TO 'DPCA', ALONG WITH THIS FORM TO:

Treasurer, Douglas Park Civic Association  
1716 South Pollard Street  
Arlington, VA 22204-5050

Or, join/renew with PayPal at <http://www.douglasparkca.org/join/>

Thank you!