

## ■ reader feedback

### Next-Door Neighbors

I enjoyed your "10 Great Neighborhoods" story (March/April 2013), but it had two glaring holes. Your reporter neglected to mention Lyon Park and Ashton Heights, both of which have deep roots in Arlington. Lyon Park was established in 1919 and Ashton Heights in 1921.

Both of these neighborhoods count among the most-sought-after communities in Arlington for prospective buyers and renters. They have a number of historic homes (original Sears bungalows and postwar Colonials); are close to public transit, restaurants and shopping; have an abundance of lovely parks, playgrounds and great schools; and participate actively in the county's tree steward program.

Lyon Park has the only community-owned and operated park and community house in Arlington. Built in 1925, the Lyon Park Community House is run by a volunteer board of citizens, and each year is host to Arlington's 5K Turkey Trot, a Halloween bonfire and parade, a spring fair, a chili dinner cook-off, craft fairs, bake sales,

candidate nights, bingo games and a pancake breakfast.

Ashton Heights virtually shuts down Jackson Street for a Halloween extravaganza that is visited by people from miles around. In May, both neighborhoods team up for an annual Villas & Vistas Home and Garden Tour. Block parties, book clubs and barbecues are frequent occurrences.

#### Natalie U. Roy

Executive Committee Member,  
Lyon Park Citizens Association  
Real Estate Agent, Team Cathell,  
Keller Williams

I recently reviewed your March/April issue and will not be subscribing. It seems the intent of your magazine is to perpetuate a myth that Arlington has somehow become Beverly Hills east, or Bel Air or Potomac, Md. Many see this as something to aspire to, but I see it as a prime example of what is wrong today. A bungalow that sells for \$779,000 is what is wrong. If you average the home prices in the neighborhoods in your cover story, "10 Great Neighbor-



hoods," you end up with an average sale price over \$1 million. Madness!

We don't need an inflated housing market any more than we need a few more overpriced restaurants. There are members of the greatest generation who own modest homes in Arlington and can no longer remain here due to inflated property taxes. They can't even fulfill their dream of passing their homes down to their offspring (who can no longer afford it, either). People who have invested their lives in this place are having to surrender all that they hold dear to a privileged bunch who somehow have found the finances to move everybody else out.

**John K. Schwarz**

Arlington



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