

## UA Alumni Association continues to bring people together

By Meryl Williams  
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The annual Upper Arlington Alumni Association Block Party will be a big event this Independence Day, with a car show and informal reunion.

The party will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 4 at Barrington Elementary, 1780 Barrington Road, and will start after the parade concludes.

"The overall purpose is to see other people that went to Arlington," said Event Chairman and sponsor John Kost, who has lived in Upper Arlington all his life.

"It's right on the parade route, and we're out on the field."

He said all the reunion classes from every five years, back to 1943, will have tables set up under a large tent, so alumni can look for their class and meet up with them at a designated spot. Kost himself is a member of the class of 1974.

"Everyone's invited to come after the parade," he said.

"Tom Mignery (All Jazzed Barbeque), from the class of 1987, is providing food and Luke the Juggler will be there with balloon animals."

The party will feature its vintage car show and also games for children, a bounce house and a giant slide.

"We started with the classic cars about four years ago," said Kost. "People with cars in the parade are welcome to bring them to Barrington."

"That's a big attraction," said Ellen Clark, president of the association and member of the class of 1969. "People love to go around and look at those."

Kost said attendance is expected to be in the thousands.

"We usually get a couple thousand people," he said. "It's the only gathering in the city where the people are the main event."

Kost takes pride in the city's festivities.

"There's nothing like the Fourth of July in Upper Arlington," he said.

"People move away, but they come back for the Fourth."

"John Kost has made it so easy for the rest of us," said Clark. "He pretty much arranges everything."

"He has underwritten the block party now for eight years in a row, very quietly, and very modestly."

Kost is the single largest donor to the association, she said.

"Without him, we couldn't do this," she said.

The association is honoring Dr. Edward Rosenow, class of 1952, as this year's Distinguished Alum.

"He is internationally renowned for his work at the Mayo Clinic," said Clark.

"We're honoring him for his dedication and leadership in the field of medicine."

Upper Arlington is special in its level of community spirit, Clark said, and the parade is a big deal each year.

"The block party is often a culmination, although this year, since it is on a Friday, it may be sort of a kickoff," she said.

There is no admission charge to the block party, but there is cost for food and games, said Kost.

He said the UA Alumni Association's database has more than 17,000 names in it. People at the party will have the chance to update their own information if they choose to do so.

For more information, visit [bearalums.com](http://bearalums.com).

Clark, who married her high school sweetheart, said the association has helped many people in unique ways.

"We've even had people get married as a result of our Bear Alums Web site," said Clark.

She met a man on the site who graduated with her father, who died when she was young. She is going to Las Vegas later this year to meet him, after hearing stories about her father that she might not have heard otherwise.

"It's very satisfying to know we've brought a lot of people together in their hometown," she said.



Dr. Edward Rosenow