

Are you a homeowner or a renter? If you live in the Aurora Highlands area you are invited and encouraged to come to our monthly meetings where we meet neighbors, discuss topics of interest and share information. ALL are welcome to attend. Come at 6:45pm and meet your neighbors at the Aurora Hills Recreation Center at 735 S. 18th St. at the corner of 18th and Hayes Streets (where the library / fire station is located).

## OUR UPCOMING May 14 MEETING

The press of business continues. This month's agenda includes:

- 1) Robert E. Capper, Arlington County Dept of Parks, Rec & Cultural Resources. County is preparing schematic plans for replacing athletic field lights on the two softball fields at VA Highlands w/state-of-the-art field lighting w/dark sky technology. Consultants are also identifying a possible location for two lighted, sand volleyball courts. We would like to share these plans with the community and receive feedback. As always, child care will be available as well as the usual refreshments. Join us!

Dear AHCA Residents:

Last month, I highlighted many tough long-term issues faced by our area. However, I also want to make sure we praise areas and individuals where

the County and the private sector deliver tangible results or modify a County process that leads to more equitable benefits in our area.

### Thanks and Praise go to:

#### *Traffic Calming Measures*

- Our sister civic association on the Ridge (**ARCA**) has worked with County staff and County leadership to make real progress on Ridge Road and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street traffic issues.
- Cross walk at 18<sup>th</sup>/Hayes is significantly safer thanks to additional signs and relocation of No Parking spots that were obstructing car driver views of those crossing 18<sup>th</sup> going north. Thank you **Elizabeth Diggs** for your efforts to move this forward and we continue to discuss other traffic safety concerns within AHCA with Elizabeth.

#### *Parks & Recreation*

- Water for thirsty park users - In Virginia Highlands Park, between restroom and children's play ground, a water fountain has been reinstalled. Thanks go out to **Steve Temmerman, Lisa Grandel, Kurt Louis, and Christine Simpson** at County Parks Department.
- Improved Communication - Thank you **Steve Temmerman** and **Lisa Grandel** for ensuring that Robert E. Capper reached out to AHCA to schedule presentation at AHCA's May monthly meeting regarding lights for softball fields and lighted volley-

ball courts at Virginia Highland Park. We've asked the county to engage AHCA before actions are taken within our Parks. Thank you for listening!

- Access to fields - The parks staff created a better process to ensure local Crystal City Soccer Club gets more time on the state of the art field at Virginia Highlands park.
- Nina Park - Parks staff's striving to secure 2009 funding for equipment for Nina Park. Thanks!
- Thanks **Jeff Marin** at Parks & Rec staff for rescuing our monthly meeting last month, by allowing us to access a room at Gunston on short notice.

#### *Infrastructure*

- Missing Links Projects: Our neighborhood is becoming safer for pedestrians! More sidewalks have been completed on 700 of 21<sup>st</sup>, 700 of 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 800 of 22<sup>nd</sup> and we hope in next round to see two more pieces on 700 and 800 of 22<sup>nd</sup>. We may have an opportunity during the upcoming spring round of Missing Links. Thank you **Christine Nixon** and **Tim McIntosh** at Neighborhood Conversation office and their counterparts in DES - streets group for making these happen while using as much flexibility as possible.
- Thank you **Dave Hundelt** and **Daryl Smith** for driving through our area and looking at every street and the sidewalk needs.
- We thank **Code Enforcement** and **DES staff** and CVS for trying to clean up trash between the 23<sup>rd</sup>/Eads Intersection down to the CVS Parking area. County staff have been trying.
- Thank you **DES** for the installation of two garbage cans along Eads between CVS & McDonalds.

- **Ram Sarm** – we are grateful for the cobra light installed on 700 of 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Puppy tracks painted at intersection of 15th/ Eads thanks to traffic safety staff
- You know who you are! Many unnamed staff have been helpful and willing to consult with us .

#### *Facilitating Cooperation*

- Thank you County Staff on the Crystal City Task Force who are recognizing some of the concerns of our broader community regarding the future expansion of Crystal City.
- Thanks to County staff that have worked hard to compile data and history of Aurora Highlands for our historic designation.

#### *Our Schools*

• **Libby Garvey** has spent much time in her role as a sitting School Board member to educate us on the Wakefield budget discussions. Thank you for keeping us up to speed on the this key issue.

#### *Business Community*

- Thank you to the **Crystal City Business Improvement, Inc.** (CCBID, Inc.) for the good efforts it is making in the heart of the business zone within Crystal City.
- We appreciate **Kenton Drury** and **Archstone-Smith** for reaching out to the US Postal Service to see if it can be reincorporated into the future plans for 18<sup>th</sup>/Eads corner. Also, we applaud efforts by Archstone to use a more creative design approach at this corner. However, we recognize the key is to be sure both of these actually come to fruition.
- Thank you **Freddie Lutz**, owner of Freddie's Beach Bar for leading the effort to obtain the screening fence at corner of 23<sup>rd</sup>/Eads. What a great improvement.
- Acknowledgement goes to **Costco** as well for attempting to reduce the amount of loose carts floating in our area.

#### **But More Help and Cooperation are Needed**

- **Wakefield** – parity on level and timing (ASAP) of facilities funding. This should be an easy statement for any School Board Member, School Board candidate, or County Board Member to get behind.
- **CCBID, Inc.** – representational parity for neighborhood residents. In the Rosslyn BID, Inc., four residents (two are Civic Association represen-

tatives, one is a representative of a group that works with the homeless, one is an unaffiliated resident, and two are county staff) are part of the 6 person team that represents the County to the Rosslyn BID. In the CCBID, Inc., four county staff represent the County to the CCBID, Inc. There is no equivalent citizen representation in the CCBID, Inc. similar to the Rosslyn BID. The Crystal City BID and our neighborhood association boundaries overlap and a mile-long common borders along Eads Street.

- The **Neighborhood Conservation** program and process is not equitable and timely to address larger neighborhoods such as AHCA with larger populations and unique sets of needs (example, only AHCA and ARCA feel impact of the waste water treatment plant and cut through traffic from Crystal City and Pentagon City). Under current guidelines and funding levels of the NC Program, it will be years before our collective NC needs could be met.
- Renovation of our **community center** (commonly known as the worst one in the county) and old fire house as well as the addition of a spray park to Virginia Highlands Park.
- Recognition that our neighborhood Virginia Highlands Park is in fact a regional and county wide resource and should be supported as such.
- Tangible progress to address emotional impact of waste water treatment plant expansion on the families that live close by.
- While we applaud the County staff for efforts along 23<sup>rd</sup> between the 7-11 and CVS, there is still noticeable and constant trash in front of the 7-11, the adjacent Kabob restaurant and the row of small food businesses just across the alley next door. This is in contrast to the achievements of 23<sup>rd</sup> street restaurants thanks to the leadership of Freddie Lutz. In addition, there seems to be a limo business operating and taking place using the various street parking spots and commercial

#### Other Notes:

Given space considerations, draft meeting notes from the April AHCA monthly meeting have been posted to the web site [aurorahighlands.org](http://aurorahighlands.org).

We have updated Goals and Contacts List in Newsletter and Website will be updated as well (please consider this a work in progress, we will keep adjusting as we go).

For June or August meeting, we will ask Johanna Soli to give an updated AHCA Treasury

## Other Updates:

**NC Plan** – The draft of the revised AHCA Neighborhood Conversation Plan is starting to take shape and a rough draft has just gone to the editor. We hope to have a rough draft for comments on the web site in the next few days.

**Missing Links** – We should see two more ML projects starting this week on 700 and 800 block of 22<sup>nd</sup>

We also note that power poles appear to be moving along Ives, which will allow the long awaited NC sidewalk project on Ives between 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Streets to move forward this spring.

**Waste Water Treatment Plant** –It was our understanding from county staff that a quieter option for next round of pile driving had been sent forward to County Manager and County Board for consideration. AHCA sent a letter to the County Board asking them to support this option. We got a pro forma email saying county staff would get back to us on our request.

**Application for Walking Town Meeting**—We have received a letter from County Board chair saying that the deadline for applications from civic associations to host a Walking Town Meeting has been extended to April 18<sup>th</sup>. AHCA had submitted by the original deadline.

## Aurora Highlands Civic Association

P.O. Box 25201 - Arlington, VA 22202

“The Association is a non-partisan organization of community residents formed to work in the overall community interest in promoting civic pride, enhancing the quality of life in the community, preserving the character of the community and planning for the orderly, safe, and humane development of the community” (AHCA Bylaws, Article II). The AHCA meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except August) in the Auror/a Hills Recreation Center (735 S. 18th St.) at 7:00 p.m.

### 2008 Issues

#### Long Term:

1. **Crystal City Long Term Plan as well as CCBID and CCBID, Impact on AHCA**
2. **ADU Initiative**
3. **Wakefield High School Capital Rebuilding and quality of academic programs.**

#### Near Term Neighborhood Specific

1. **Social Event**
2. **NC Plan (finish drafting plan)**
  - A. **Community Center & Virginia Highlands Park**
  - B. **Sidewalks**
  - C. **Nina/Nellie Custis/Eads Parks**
3. **Waste Water Treatment Plant—near term noise issues.**

#### Association Officers & Committee Chairs

- ◇ President – Bruce Cameron 703 892-5071
- ◇ Vice President – Steve Wyner 703 920-1629
- ◇ 2nd Vice President – Van Newstrom 703 683-5911
- ◇ Treasurer / Membership - Johanna Soli 703-655-5895
- ◇ Business Secretary – John Kriese 703 519-0961
- ◇ Corresponding Secretary – Martin King 703 979-7299
- ◇ Aircraft Noise Liaison - Denis O’Sullivan 703-521-6425
- ◇ Meeting Hospitality - Judy King 703-979-7299
- ◇ Newsletter Distribution - Martin & Judy King 979-7299
- ◇ Newsletter Editor—Maria Cameron 703-892-5071
- ◇ Police and Waste Water Treatment Plant Liaison -Brad & Louise Garris - 703-548-1944
- ◇ Urban Planning Ted Saks 703-683-1312
- ◇ Newsletter printing compliments of the Sheltered Occupational Center, 750 South 23rd St. 703-920-9400)

Items for the Newsletter: Send items in e-mail messages (not attachments) to the newsletter editor, Bruce Cameron at [brucecameronahca@gmail.com](mailto:brucecameronahca@gmail.com); no later than the 26th of the month.

## Standing Committees:

### A. Neighborhood Conservation:

Steve Wyner, Johanna Soli, Bruce Cameron

1. Community Center & VA Highlands Park  
Bruce Cameron (temporary)
2. VA Highlands Park spray park  
Bruce Cameron
3. Nina/Nellie Custis/Eads Parks  
Van Newstrom, Jeannie Ohm-Andress,

Becky Middleton

4. Sidewalks, Bruce Cameron

### B. Membership

Open

1. Outreach to Parent Playgroups, Cheryl Mendosa, Becky Middleton
2. Outreach to our school groups, Sue Super, Cheryl Mendosa, Art Mirrow (Oakridge), Mary Callow & Jessica Cogen (Gunston), James Lander (Wakefield) and TBD Claremont

3. Wakefield HS area support network, Sue Super

4. Meeting Hospitality, Judy King

### C. Publicity

Open

1. Newsletter Publishing, Martin King, Bruce Cameron
2. Newsletter Distribution Coordination, Martin & Judy King
3. Newsletter Printing, Compliments of SOC
4. Webmaster, John Kriese
5. Social Event, Van Newstrom, Cheryl Mendosa

### D. Urban Planning, Ted Saks

1. Crystal City Long Term Plan, Ted Saks, Steve Wyner

- 1a. CCBID, Inc. Bruce Cameron, Van Newstrom
2. Costco Site, Tim Werbstein, Ted Saks
3. Waste Water Treatment Plant Liaison, Louise Garris

### E. Zoning

1. ADU Initiative

### F. Other

Police Liaison, Louise Garris

Aircraft Noise Liaison, Dennis O'Sullivan

Our sincere thanks to SOC for their support of AHCA by printing our newsletter.

## SOC Enterprises

750 South 23rd St. Arlington, VA 22202  
703-920-9400 Fax: 703-299-3255

### "Business and Rehabilitation"

We combine both to provide meaningful training and work for our community's disabled  
SOC for Printing, Mailing, and Fulfillment Services

## Important Phone Numbers:

- Streetlight Outages/Power Outages Contact Dominion Virginia Power at 1-888-667-3000.
- Arlington Non-Emergency Number 703-558-2222 for County Police / Fire / Rescue
- Water Pollution Control Plant (odor complaint number) 703-228-6867 (Phil Loar). When you call this number it will also give you a number for the Shift Supervisor for immediate assistance after regular business hours, holidays, or weekends.
- Inspection Services 703-228-3800 for concerns / complaints about construction
- Refuse / Recycling Pickup call the Department of Environmental Services customer call center at 703-228-6570.
- Unkempt Property / High Grass To report high grass or unkempt properties, call Arlington County Code Enforcement at 703-228-3232. .

## School News

For general school information, see the APS website (<http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/aps/site/default.asp>)

## How to Get on the List serve

The neighborhood listserv is hosted by Alice Andors. It continues to be an independent community resource (it is not connected with the civic association). To join, send an email to Alice at [andorsali@comcast.net](mailto:andorsali@comcast.net) with a note that you'd like to participate. She'll walk you through the drill.