

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 JULY 9 MEETING

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

### Guest Speakers:

1. John Blevins and Robin Leonard from Arlington Department of PRCR plan to attend and speak about more creating more community access to the softball fields in Virginia Highlands Park.
2. KIMCO Representatives to attend meeting to talk about Costco Block Proposal

*Child care and light refreshments will be provided.*

### **Costo Block Proposal**

To be presented are the proposed redevelopment plans for entire block on which Costco and other shops are currently located. *The County Board is expected to vote on the proposal this month.* The overall plan would be implemented in three phases.

The first phase, which would be built immediately, includes two office buildings and a parking garage. One office building and the above ground parking garage would be along 15<sup>th</sup> Street, opposite the Southampton Townhouse condominiums. The other office building in this phase would be next to the Metro entrance and would be the tallest structure in all of Pentagon City.

The remaining phases propose replacing all the existing buildings with new office, residential, retail, hotel buildings and a new network of streets and open space. In total the development, called Pentagon Centre, proposes over time a mixed use development of 1,829,520 sq ft to include approximately 776,982 sq ft of office, 327,070 sq ft of retail, a 250-room hotel and 600 residential units.

Being requested is approval for both the proposed three phase plan (PDSP) for the block and the three buildings proposed for phase 1 (Site Plan). The civic association has requested community

benefits that might include contributions to improve the recreational center and incorporate the abandoned firehouse space and/ or provide a children's spray park in the neighborhood. There have been no commitments as of this date.

### **President's Note:**

Timing is everything. You will see that Steve Wyner (below) has made great strides to move AHCA Neighborhood Conservation (NC) plan along, but we must finish that over the next few months. This is key because the additional points AHCA will receive will place AHCA much higher in NC cue for project approvals. And it will require active engagement over the next year or two in the NC Advisory Committee. Johanna Soli intends to step out her roles for AHCA at the end of 2008, one of which is she is one of two AHCA reps to the NC process.

Traffic Calming funds dedicated for AHCA/ARCA. Hopefully, by August, we can finalize a list of 2-4 projects to take back to county staff for consideration for this special set aside.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) –Hopefully, one or two issues of concern to AHCA will be mentioned in CIP that will be approved by County Board July 19<sup>th</sup>. Either way, AHCA must track and participate in the next two year cycle of the six year CIP that will take place between July 2009-July 2011.

Also, mentioned below, ADU issue will be voted on at July County Board meeting.

And now is the time for *membership dues* renewal and hopefully generous contributions to help build up the reserve account of AHCA.

#### *This is YOUR Neighborhood—Get Involved*

This is your neighborhood and if you want it maintained and improved, that requires something of each of you. It requires your time to educate yourselves on the Arlington Way, and it requires your willingness to get involved in the county budget and commission process on behalf of your neighborhood.

#### *This is YOUR Neighborhood—Take Care of It*

And on a more simple and direct point, there are a few simple things that can be done by all of us right here in our neighborhood to improve and enhance the appearance.

- When the grass gets long, cut it,
- When trash cans have been left out for more than 24 hours take them in. Putting cans in means behind the front line of the house by county code, it doesn't mean parking them in the county right of way all week long for the rest of the community to enjoy as "lawn ornaments."
- When trash piles have been picked up by the county and debris is left in the street or on a sidewalk, clean it up.
- If your trees and bushes block the street or sidewalk, cut them back.
- If broken tree branches are in your street and aren't overly large, be a good neighbor and throw them away, don't just leave them for the next car to run over.
- If you live at a corner lot and the turning view is obstructed by bushes and trees, think how you will feel when someone gets hurt or killed because they couldn't see around the corner and were run into by another driver.
- And if you see trash on your street or sidewalk, don't be afraid to pick it up and throw it away.

We live in a community – together, and if we expect our elected officials to act on our behalf, then we need to act like this is our community, not just a bunch of individuals who happen to live in the same place.

#### **NC Update from Steve Wyner:**

The draft of our Neighborhood Conservation Plan has been passed along to the County Staff, who will be adding the photographs and maps.

As soon as the draft is "Complete" it can be posted on the AHCA website for comment. We will announce on the list serve when it's available for comment. Copies will be available in the library for those without home computers. If neither of these options work, people may request a copy sent to them. The civic association will need to vote to approve the draft before it gets officially submitted to the Neighborhood Conservation program for review and acceptance.

We will ask for a vote to approve the AHCA NC Plan in August so it can circulate to the County departments for comment until September, and be ready for a formal presentation to the NC committee at their September meeting. Then we will push it to the Planning Commission for October and the County Board for November, so that we get approval in time for the fall round of funding.

**Note from Bruce:** The critical issue is to get the plan in and approved, it can always be amended or updated in near future, but we don't get critical points in NC process until we have an approved plan.

#### **Other AHCA Activities**

##### **Meeting Ron Carlee (County Manager) and Marsha Allgeier (Deputy County Manager)**

Bruce Cameron, President, AHCA, met with them on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Mr. Carlee was very helpful about explaining the county budget process and discussing the Capital Improvement Program cycle. He indicated that at some point in the near future he is willing to sit down with five or six residents from our neighborhood to take them through the budget process and to explain how the various citizen commissions feed into that process. Also, Mr. Carlee seems willing to help make sure the traffic calming funds allocated for AHCA/ARCA are well focused on neighbor needs and priorities.

**Van Newstrom** – Continues to work on the Boo Ha Ha and PEGS efforts and will give updates at the July meeting.

**ADU** – County Board is expected to vote on this initiative at July 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**CIP** – County Board is expected to vote on the CIP for 2009-2014 at the July 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The CIP is a six year plan that only gets revised every two years. The CIP includes language regarding funding of Wakefield rebuilding. It will be important to see that the language is

**Wakefield Foundation,  
Note from Paul Ferguson:**

Dear Aurora Highlands Civic Association,

I am writing so that you are aware of the Wakefield Scholarship Foundation. Over the past 22 years, the Foundation has awarded 179 scholarships and committed or paid out over \$828,500.00 in scholarship money to Wakefield students. In addition to outstanding achievement, many of these students have overcome challenging personal and family circumstances.

As a 1983 graduate of Wakefield, it is rewarding to see the achievement of these scholarship awardees. I have served on the Wakefield Scholarship Foundation for the past 13 years.

Since Wakefield is our neighborhood High School, I am asking you to consider contributing to the foundation. I can assure you that the money will go to a deserving student and make a difference in their lives. You can contribute by sending a check payable to the **Wakefield HS Scholarship Foundation** sent to: Wakefield Foundation, c/o Wachovia Bank, NA, Charitable Services NC 6732, 100 N. Main Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27150. Please note on your check "civic association". You can also contribute through the United Way Campaign number 8707 or the Combined Federal Campaign number 66600. If you have any questions, please email me at [information@wakefieldalumni.org](mailto:information@wakefieldalumni.org).

It is possible that you may have a child, grandchild, neighbor or friend benefit from the Wakefield Scholarship Foundation. Thanks for considering a contribution.

Paul Ferguson

Clerk of the Circuit Court, 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

(former County Board Member)

## 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.

**Note from Bruce:** As we were not able to pursue the idea of student input for rebuilding Wakefield, Maria and I will contribute directly to the Foundation.

## Membership dues/contributions/donations:

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME! Dues still stand at \$6 per family and \$3 per individual. I encourage you to take an extra step and contribute above and beyond this to the AHCA reserve fund. It will give our neighborhood greater ability to host neighborhood events as well the ability to put seed funds into efforts to improve our neighborhood.

Please save us the expense of printing envelopes by sending checks to:

Membership Chair  
Aurora Highlands Civic Association  
P.O. Box 25201  
Arlington VA 22202

Please included your name, address, phone number and email address.

*Minutes from the June meeting are posted on the website—**Aurorahighlands.org**.*

**Don't forget—Keep working on those ideas for the community center! Encourage your kids to share their great ideas as well.**

## 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>)

Wakefield Update—see note under CIP. For more information, please visit <http://rebuildwakefield.blogspot.com/>

## 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.

## AHCA E-mail List

Occasionally we would like to reach out to AHCA neighbors on a more urgent and focused basis than the broader 4-D listserv. If you will e-mail your contact info to [brucecameronahca@gmail.com](mailto:brucecameronahca@gmail.com), we will update our AHCA e-mail list. If you would encourage your immediate neighbors to send their contact info as well, that would be helpful.

## 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