

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 SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING

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

Code Enforcement: We may have representatives of Code Enforcement at the meeting: Gary Greene, Head of Code Enforcement; Dana Wilson, Team Leader; or Richard Freeman - Inspector.

Shahzad Kiani has applied to the County for a permit to open a carryout/delivery Pizza business (Vocelli) at 768 S 23rd Street. He is seeking AHCA support for this business which would serve a three mile delivery radius from this location. AHCA previously opposed a Dominos planned for the area of 23rd & Eads. Given the battle over the Hylands Market and the 23rd Street/Ridge Road traffic calming efforts, this does not seem to be consistent with stated AHCA (and ARCA) positions.

Several of us will meet with **Chris Zimmerman** Thursday September 4, 2008. We hope to take **Ron Carlee** up on his offer to meet with a small group of us in the next month or two to talk more about how the County Budget process and time line works.

Child care and light refreshments will be provided.

KEY TIME LINE UPDATES:

October Meeting—Change of Date: Our October meeting would normally be Wednesday, October 8, 2008. However, because Yom Kippur is October 9th, we will move the October meeting to October 6th (Monday).

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

I propose we vote to amend the By-Laws of AHCA so that memberships run from October 1 to September 30, instead of from June 30th through July 1. That means dues would be due by October 1st. All those with current memberships as of October 1 would be eligible to participate or be nominated (or nominate themselves) on candidates night at the October AHCA meeting. Additionally, in order to vote for AHCA officers in November, one would have to be a member in good standing (having paid dues by October 1) to vote for AHCA officers in November. We typically do our candidates night in October, with voting taking place in November.

Election of Officers: I plan to run for a second and final year as President of AHCA. I am seeking volunteers to work with me in a team fashion. Johann Soli will be stepping down, so in addition to her duties as **Treasurer**, we will need a new **NC Representative**. This will be an important role given the anticipated County approval of our NC Plan. Steve Wyner will also step down from his role as **VP** after carrying us to completion on the NC Plan effort. John Kriese and Van Newstrom will continue in 2009. Marty King has offered to continue, if needed. I hope to leave AHCA with a mix of old and new participants in the Executive Committee that will position AHCA leadership for the next few years. We have several key long term issues that will need seasoned representation by our neighborhood.

We will do our best to give a full update of where AHCA issues stand in the AHCA October news letter.

Treasurers Report: Our account balance for AHCA is \$7021.38 with some expenditure expected for the Boo Ha Ha. During the renewal

process, many of you have been very generous. My challenge to all of us, is to strive for a goal of increasing our AHCA account balance to \$15,000 by the end of 2009. We have many neighbors who are not participating in either contributions of time, money or opinions at this time. We need to reach out to them and persuade them to participate. Also, maybe we can all dig a little deeper. Why build up our account? Because it gives us the ability to demonstrate seriousness on issues of concern to AHCA. As an example, it gives us the ability to say to the county we want X, which costs \$4,000 and we will contribute 50% of that. Given the growth of the AHCA bank account, I propose we revisit the Bank Account Authority so that it takes double signing authority on all major expenditures/withdraws by AHCA. We will propose an amendment on this point at the October meeting.

NEWS ITEMS:

Code Enforcement

Several of us had a productive meeting with Code Enforcement Director Gary Greene.

- Concerns or complaints— Contact Inspection Services Division- 703-228-3232. Request a case number once your concern is taken. Code Enforcement is working with limited staff and budget for the entire county. Where possible, AHCA (and ARCA) will work with Code Enforcement to indicate broader issues and problematic properties within our areas.
- Trash cans, rolling dumpsters, trash and debris— The authority to work with property owners to rectify issues breaks into two county departments. If it is a public space (street, sidewalk, county right of way) issue contact Department of Environmental Services – Division of Solid Waste (Mary Jones 703-228-6582). If it is on private property, contact Code Enforcement.
- Tall grass The county standard is 12", after which Code Enforcement can start to educate and work with the property owners and fine if necessary. Property owners (and renters) are responsible to keep county right of way (ROW) clear where sidewalks exist. This includes grass and overgrown bushes.

Traffic Calming Funds

With ARCA, we need to respond to the County with ideas on where we would like County to focus the use of the \$265,000 for Ridge Road, 23rd Street and/or Joyce Street. (See ARCA newsletter

linked to AHCA website for ideas.) One possibility is to ask the County Manager for broader use of the funds, so that some of the funds could be used for traffic calming on other streets in AHCA and ARCA. This will be done in conjunction with ARCA. I'd like to work with ARCA to get these ideas submitted to the County by the end of October, if not sooner.

KIMCO/Costco site

As part of the Site Plan Approval and Phased Development Plan Approval for this site by the County Board, significant funds will be given by KIMCO for use by the County to address local community needs within Virginia Highlands Park and Community Center as well as the possibility of Urgent Care Space within the redeveloped site. AHCA and ARCA must work closely with the County to understand by what milestone date the funds become available to the County. We must also work within the County process to make sure funds are spent where and how we feel best serves our local neighborhoods and broader area concerns for Virginia Highlands and Community Center

Park Designation—We need to continue to push to get Virginia Highlands Park designated as a significant county park for "Master Planning" by the County. And we need to continue to educate ourselves on the two-year period we are now in that builds into the next round of updating the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). That happens two years from now, but all the debates and discussions and process takes place well before 24 months from now.

NC Plan

The final draft of the Neighbor Conservation (NC) Plan was approved by a majority vote at the August AHCA meeting. The NC staff has distributed that draft within various County Committees for a 30 day comment period. It will then be presented at the November meeting of the NC Advisory Committee (NCAC) by Steve Wyner, Johanna Soli, and myself and others and to the County Planning Commission December 1, 2008 and the County Board December 13, 2008. If fully accepted, it gives us many points for our next projects with NC process.

We owe **Steve Wyner** and **Johanna Soli** a huge thank you for getting us this far in the renewal of our NC Plan. Thank you so much to you and all that helped feed in ideas and edits.

Our next project on the NC list, after the section of Ives between 18th and 20th which is just being completed (7 years in the system), is the 600 and 700 block of 19th Street (at least 3 years in the system). I recommend we nominate the next section of Ives between 20th to 22nd so that Ives becomes complete. This will become our second project on NC list after the 19th Street project.

Missing Links (ML)

As a subset of the NC Program, we have been able to make more progress via Missing Links. In the past few months, ML projects have been completed on Ives Street between 23rd and 22nd, the 700 block of 22nd, 600 block of 19th, and a little piece on Fort Scott Drive by Eads Park. We have submitted applications for the September funding round and will see if any of them get picked.

Wakefield

There will be a joint School Board and County Board meeting September 12, 2008 from 3:00-5:30pm at the Wakefield High School library to discuss the design process for Wakefield.

The Washington Post article "A New Look for the Old School" Thursday, August 21, 2008, by Kimberly Anderson, the Student Program Coordinator for the NEA's "Outreach to Teach" said "...Wakefield was by far the neediest." When referring to schools considered for make overs in Fairfax, Alexandria, and as far south as Fredicksburg. She went on to say, "...it was not inviting at all." However, the current edition of the Arlington Citizen, published by the County government, does not mention this concern about Wakefield when describing the shiny and inviting high schools in Arlington and asking citizens to approve the Bonds for Yorktown. It does not mention how far behind the possible new construction of Wakefield will be when compared to the new Washington & Lee or the new Yorktown.

CCBID (Crystal City Business Improvement District)

We are still awaiting feedback from the County Board on their offer to create representation for AHCA in the process of interaction between the County Board and CCBID, Inc. (CCBID, Inc. is the not-for-profit that was set up to administer the special taxes generated within the CCBID tax zone created by the County). We have asked for similar representation as to what community associations in Rosslyn area have that are affected by the Rosslyn BID zone.

ADUs—Will give feedback from July County Board vote at meeting.

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; no later than the 26th of the month.

Boo Ha Ha

We will give an update on the Halloween party effort at the monthly meeting.

PEGs (Park Enhancement Grants)

We will give an update on the PEG efforts for Nina, Nelly Custis and Eads Parks led by Van Newstrom at the monthly meeting.

Waste Water Treatment Plant.

No progress has been made by the County to address the impacts felt by our neighbors in immediate area of the construction at plant site.

Membership dues/contributions/donations:

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME! We've had a great response, and appreciate your support. Still, a very small percentage of families actively support AHCA. Make your voice heard. 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. I will repeat my challenge—to increase our AHCA account balance to \$15,000 by the end of 2009.

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.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING (CERT) BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

Individuals who live and/or work in Arlington County are invited to participate in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The eight-week course, which follows a national curriculum, covers disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, fire suppression and utility shut-off, disaster psychology, team organization and terrorism. Participants must be at least 18 years old (16 and up if accompanied by an adult) and able to participate in all aspects of the training, some of which requires lifting and carrying. Two courses, which meet six weeknights and two Saturdays, are scheduled to begin in September. To-date, almost 400 County residents have completed this training, many of whom are active members of neighborhood teams. Contact ArlingtonCERT@aol.com for additional information.

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

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

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 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, 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.