

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 MONDAY OCTOBER 6 MEETING

*Please note date—due to Yom Kippur we will hold our meeting on Monday rather than Wednesday*

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

1. Nomination of Officer Slate
2. Vote to Amend Bylaws
3. Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update
4. Proposed Traffic Calming Measures
5. Update on Neighborhood Halloween Party—Boo Ha Ha!
6. Park Enhancement Grant (PEG) applications for Nina, Nellie and Eads Parks.
7. Report from Rebuild Wakefield Committee
8. Approve minutes from August meeting.

*Child care and light refreshments will be provided.*

### AHCA Nominees for 2009 Officer

Elections to take place at the November meeting):

*Elected Positions*

President - Bruce Cameron

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President - Mike Dowell

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President - Van Newstrom

Treasurer - Gail Fleming

Business Secretary - John Kriese (John will continue as

Web Master for [www.aurorahighlands.org](http://www.aurorahighlands.org))

Correspondence Secretary - Paul McAree

*Appointed Positions:*

Webmaster—John Kriese

Liaison to Rebuild Wakefield Committee—Mike Dowell

Newsletter Distribution Coordinator—Martin King

Newsletter Editor—Bruce & Maria Cameron, Editors

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee -

Bruce Cameron and Chris Mann.

Others will continue to play their liaison roles for ongoing concern issues. In December, we will review our AHCA slots (8) at the Civic Federation for updating for 2009.

Other Nominations will be accepted at the meeting!

**Bylaws Amendment:** Please see website for August Newsletter description of proposed amendments.

- Better align membership cutoff dates with elections.
- Clarify signing authority over the AHCA bank account and ensure double signature for larger checks.
- If amendments accepted, they be effective January 1, 2009.

**Traffic Calming:** We will vote to nominate the area of Joyce at Joyce/16<sup>th</sup> for traffic calming. There is money available to AHCA and ARCA for Joyce, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Ridge Road. This is the spot county staff felt would best match within AHCA and we still need to coordinate with ARCA.

**Historic Designation**—The Historical Designation for AHCA is expected to be finalized during October 2008.

**Association Updates**—It's been a busy month and the AHCA leadership has been advocating for our neighborhood on a wide variety of fronts:

**Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan** update: The AHCA NC plan should be accepted by the County Board in December. This will give AHCA significantly more points in the NC process. Projects resulting from the NC Plan include:

- Ives Street between 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: nearly complete.
- In design stage—600 and 700 blocks of 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

- At the September AHCA meeting members voted to nominate Ives Street between 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> as our second NC project.

### **Sidewalks:**

Missing Links (a subset of NC program) we continue to nominate smaller sections of missing sidewalk and have several before staff for the October Missing Link funding round. We have included Fern Street between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> on west side of street for consideration as well as several other interior street sections.

Please keep in mind, the Right-Of-Way (ROW) in front of most of our homes is county right-of way. If you take this as your own for gardens or trees or ornamental walkways, you may have to watch as it is taken out to make way for the sidewalk grid to be completed.

**Working with County Board**—County Board Member Mary Hynes spent a full hour with AHCA President Bruce Cameron on September 25th going through our neighborhood and talking about the many issues faced by AHCA and ARCA. And while it wasn't scripted, it couldn't have been planned any better they ran into Cheryl Mendonsa (a prior AHCA President) along the way, Jim Hohman, and Chick Walters (a VP of ARCA). It was great as they were looking at the Ives Street NC sidewalk project and Jim drove by and said what a great thing and how these sidewalk projects are making a huge difference in the neighborhood. Have to say, nice for Mary Hynes to hear that. They discussed everything from Virginia Highlands to Eads Park, sidewalks, traffic calming, community center, etc.

**County Manager Ron Carlee** has agreed to meet in Aurora Highlands with a small group from the neighborhood to talk with us about our community needs and how best to work within the county budget process. Date to be determined based on Mr. Carlee's availability. We hope to pick a few AHCA Officers as well as 4-5 others so we have can have a broad spectrum of folks for Mr. Carlee to chat with.

### **Virginia Highlands Park Update**

- One of the softball fields IS being left open for community use when not scheduled. And so far, no bad doggies (nor dog owners) have left their marks.
- The volleyball court installation into the park has been deferred into next year. We must continue to work this issue as there is no final word that the courts won't be installed right in the middle of the remaining open space.
- We continue to push with County Leadership and Staff for this park to be in queue for what they call Master Park Planning. And for a nearer term (next two years) fire

fighter themed spray park.

d. The Operations Manager has assured AHCA they do intend to come in the next few weeks and rework the surface of several key spots within the open space.

**Community Center** - We recently became aware that if a neighborhood group wants to use the Community Center at night there is very significant hourly fee.

**Waste Water Treatment Plant** – No change by County in addressing concerns of impacted neighbors.

**Vocelli Pizza:** AHCA has voted to recommend denial of a use permit requested by Vocelli Pizza. The Civic Association met with the applicant and appreciates the desire of responsible merchants to move into our neighborhood. However his proposed use is incompatible with the location, which is inappropriate for any delivery business. The issue is not the sincerity of the proprietors nor the number of conditions placed on them. The 700 block of S. 23rd St. is situated in the middle of our single-family residential neighborhood, surrounded by houses and narrow streets. The driveway is on S. Hayes St. which is residential. Traffic generated would be incompatible with maintaining the quality of life of our community. Many issues were considered, including delivery drivers, trucks for food deliveries, trucks for trash removal, dumpsters and rats from trash storage, late night pizza pick-ups, increased traffic on S. 23rd St, increased exhaust fumes, and others. The site is within a block of three large daycare centers and two heavily used tot lots. When Dominos Pizza was located on S. Eads St., the situation was unbearable and the neighborhood had to insist that they find a more suitable location elsewhere, which they did. More recently, the Hyland Market on S. 20th St. caused serious problems because of delivery trucks, etc. Rather than belabor the point, the AHCA requests that the use permit for Vocelli Pizza not be approved.

**Action needed: The County Board will hear this special use permit October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008: Please email and send letters to: Peter Schultz: [pschultz@arlingtonva.com](mailto:pschultz@arlingtonva.com) and to [county-board@arlingtonva.us](mailto:county-board@arlingtonva.us) and or [wtejada@arlingtonva.us](mailto:wtejada@arlingtonva.us) Also, please attend and speak at the Board meeting if possible.**

**Why?** See the staff recommendations below that don't discuss (AT ALL) why this a bad fit for this location:

- The applicant shall develop and maintain a delivery and driver safety training plan which sets forth the content of the course, identifies standards for compliance and identifies other elements of the plan. The County Board has found that the exception for this use is justified only*

### **MT Vernon Baptist Church**

You are invited to visit: MT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH

935 South 23rd Street, Arlington, VA 22202

Phone: 703.979.1558 /

WWW.MVBCCC.ORG

EMAIL Address: MtVernonBaptist-Church@verizon.net

Weekly services: 11am Sunday and 7pm Wednesday.

Dan Phillips, Pastor

*Paid Advertisement*

- because the applicant has represented that the use will make deliveries only by vehicles using the commercial frontages and streets to the maximum extent possible.*
- b. *Delivery vehicles must carry a clearly visible identification as delivery vehicles when making deliveries.*
  - c. *The applicant agrees that the hours of operation of the food delivery service shall be limited to between the hours of 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., Fridays through Sundays.*
  - d. *The restaurant owner or designee will establish and continuously maintain ongoing liaison communications with Aurora Highlands Civic Association in order to effectively address any neighborhood concerns.*
  - e. *The applicant agrees that the delivery vehicles will not be parked on the street when not in use for delivery. A maximum of four (4) delivery automobiles that may be used in the business at any one time.*
- The applicant agrees not to distribute flyers in quantity to any apartment buildings.*

### **Overall County Resource Allocation**

- We will follow up with a separate e-mail on resource allocation throughout the county.

### **Allocation of Traffic Calming Funds**

Here are few numbers for you to consider from Washington Post article (September 25, 2008) on Arlington Traffic Calming.

- Since 2003, \$10 million has been spent by the County on approximately 250 speed humps and other traffic calming measures throughout the county.
- There are 57 neighborhood associations. \$10,000,000 divided by 57=\$175,000 per neighborhood.
- Consider three neighboring associations together—AHCA, ARCA, and Long Branch Creek, =\$525,000.
- Divided 250 speed humps by 57 associations comes out to= 4.38 per neighborhood—or a total of 13 for these three neighborhoods combined. Crystal City is not included because the focus of the traffic calming has been on single family neighborhoods
- My question to ALL OF YOU, even with Ridge Road/23<sup>rd</sup> Street traffic calming, do you think our side of 395 has come close to that amount of capital improvement in this category.
- In the meantime, we have not been able to get the county to spend \$260,000 in traffic calming funds set aside for AHCA and ARCA **six years ago** as part of the Pentagon Row/Potomac Yards development compensation.

### **Potomac Crescent Waldorf School**

**FALL FESTIVAL:** Saturday, October 25, 10am - 2pm. Appropriate for children ages 2-10. Crafts, demonstrations, games, music, puppet show, silent auction, and vendors (handwork, wood toys, etc.). \$8 per person/\$15 family maximum. Lunch available for purchase. Potomac Crescent Waldorf School, 923 23rd Street South, Arlington, VA, 703-624-1309.

*Paid advertisement*

## Friendly Reminders—Be a Good Neighbor!

Please be courteous and keep your grass mowed and store trash cans behind the front line of your home (per code). Your neighbors and neighborhood appreciate it. Also, some neighbors have suggested if you have driveway space, please use it— and please do not block sidewalks with the back end of your cars.

### Have a Concern or Complaint? Do Something About It!

Street Tree Maintenance: call 1-703-228-6525

Code Enforcement Violations: : [codeenforcement@arlingtonva.us](mailto:codeenforcement@arlingtonva.us).

Code Enforcement notified AHCA and ARCA it no longer has legal authority to prevent neighbors from draining rain water pipes and gutters directly onto neighboring property. Perhaps an energetic citizen with legal background might want to look into why this is permissible?

Concern about county garbage cans left on public property, county right-of-way (sidewalks) and streets, contact DES- John Miser [Jmiser@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Jmiser@arlingtonva.us) phone 703-228-6596.

Concern about garbage cans on private property, contact Code Enforcement. Code says cans should be stored behind front line of house.

Concerns about businesses that may be operating within AHCA or ARCA that are not fully paying appropriate taxes, contact: Ann Bisson, [abisson@arlingtonva.us](mailto:abisson@arlingtonva.us), 703-228-3015.

**Schools:** The Editor of the AHCA newsletter has been remiss in not encouraging those families and children in the Wakefield, Gunston, Oakridge and Claremont districts to send key information for each school which can be included in the monthly AHCA newsletter. My apology to all, I will do better but ask for all of you to make sure you are feeding us key data for the 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](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