

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 MONTHLY MEETING:
WEDNESDAY: NOVEMBER 12—7:00pm**

WWW.AURORAHIGHLANDS.ORG

Agenda:

Guest Speaker: Aaron Wohler of Arlington PRCR re: Nina Park

Action Items

Vote on AHCA Officers for 2009

Vote on proposed amendments of AHCA Bylaws for 2009

Vote on Virginia Highlands Park NC Project

Follow up on Traffic Calming committee for Joyce Street at 16th. James Harrison agreed to lead this committee and report back to AHCA.

BIG NEWS FOR AHCA:

Historic Designation complete for Aurora Highlands

Boo Ha Ha, smashing success

NC Plan and Missing Links Updates

Feedback on County Board/Manger interactions

County Board vote on Vocelli Pizza: 5-0 Against Special Use Permit

Interactions with County Board Members and the County Manager

Other Updates:

Park Updates

County and AHCA Budget updates

AHCA (\$8900 overall, less \$1700 designated for BHH=\$7200)

Wakefield and Gunston updates

Building Replacement

Graduation Rates: Why 65%? -APS and Wakefield Principal are working on explanations.)

Gunston special activities

Update of AHCA priorities as previously stated over past year.

Brainstorms and Challenges:

Volunteer Tree Planting

December Holiday Party with Fire House #105

4th of July Party in Virginia Highlands Park

**NEIGHBORHOOD RECEIVES DESIGNATION
“AURORA HIGHLANDS HISTORIC DISTRICT”
OCTOBER 22, 2008**

Guest Speaker

Aaron Wohler of Arlington Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources will attend the November 12th meeting to talk about design and budget plans for replacement equipment in Nina Park. The budget, including staff time is expected to be \$100,000 and the work may get done before the end of calendar year 2009.

Election of Officers

AHCA Nominees for 2009 Officer

(Elections to take place at the November meeting):

Elected Positions

President - Bruce Cameron

1st Vice-President - Mike Dowell

2nd Vice-President - Van Newstrom

Treasurer, - Gail Fleming

Business Secretary - John Kriese

(John will continue as Web Master for 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

Appointed Positions with Concurrence from Executive Committee:

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee - Bruce Cameron and Chris Mann

Membership: Mike Dowell

Publicity: Cheryl Mendonsa

Planning: Ted Saks

Zoning: Ted Saks

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. Also, we are looking to spread the chairing duties of some of the standing committees, for those that would like to step forward.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments:

· Better align membership cutoff dates with elections.

· If amendments accepted, they will be effective January 1, 2009.

Article III - Membership:

Section 3. Dues

Except as otherwise provided, every membership in the Association shall expire on *[strike - June 30]* **[insert -October 31]** of each year unless renewed by the payment of annual dues. The amount of annual dues shall be set by a majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting of the Association. *[strike -Members joining in May or June shall pay the dues for the next year and no additional dues for the current year].* New members shall be eligible to vote *[strike - after they have been on the Association membership rolls for two weeks]* **[add-if they have paid membership fee by October 31 for next annual year, beginning November 1 and ending October 31].** **[add - Members may be elected to an Officers position if they have paid dues by October 31 and a member may be elected to be President if they have been a member of the Association for the full prior year].**

Article IV - Officers

Section 2. Officers shall be nominated at the monthly meeting in October, and the list of nominees shall be provided to the membership **[add - prior to or]** at the annual meeting **[add -in November]**. Election shall be by voice vote, unless a member requests a secret ballot. A plurality is sufficient to elect.

Article VIII -Duties of Officers

Section 6. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep a record of the income and expenses of the Association, and shall pay the usual and customary bills of the Association not exceeding \$100.00 by check, countersigned by either the President or Vice-President. Expenses and bills exceeding \$100.00 must be presented for approval by the membership unless they are in a budget specifically approved by the membership **[add -and/or reimbursed by donations made for specific purposes or events]** . **[add - AHCA will publish in the monthly newsletter and web site a monthly summary of the association bank account].**

BIG NEWS FOR AHCA:

First, **a major portion of Aurora Highlands has received the designation of "Historic District,"** see below:

Dear Colleagues: A new NRHP listing, announced today.

VIRGINIA, ARLINGTON COUNTY,
Aurora Highlands Historic District,
Bounded by 16th St. S., S. Eads St., 26th St. S.,
and S. Joyce St., Arlington, 08001018, LISTED,
10/22/08

(Historic Residential Suburbs in the United States,
1830-1960 MPS)

Marc C. Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221
P: 804-367-2323 X-115
F:804-367-2391
Web: <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov>

The first ever Boo Ha Ha was held on Friday, October 31, 2008 in Virginia Highlands Park from 4:30-7:30pm. In the opinion of the newsletter editor, it was a SMASHING SUCCESS.

The event was sponsored by the Aurora Highlands Civic Association, with significant time and/or financial contributions from Larry & Stefanie Hume, Helen Olson, Cheryl Mendonsa, Steve Wyner, Bright Horizons, Crystal City Sports Pub, RARCO, Weichert Realtors – Lewis Andors, CVS, Harris Teeter, Giant, Kabob Palace II, Mexican Cantina, BB&T Bank, Meadow Farms Nursery, and Arlington's own Police and Fire Departments. Many AHCA members contributed through donations via annual checks to AHCA, so thanks to ALL of you as well.

Special thanks goes to County Board Member Chris Zimmerman who took time away from his own neighborhood Halloween festivities to come join us and help judge the best dressed in the Boo Ha Ha costume parade. There were some great outfits and really cute kids – and parents! Thanks Chris, for spotting the half cow-half horse man!

Also, a special thank you goes out to **Van Newstrom**. From the time I suggested we should do a community event, with no other specifics as to what time of year or when or where, Van jumped on it and made a great first event happen for all us. Thank you. She helped show that our area of "East Arlington," including the neighborhoods of Aurora Highlands, Arlington Ridge, Crystal City, and Long Branch Creek and Forest Hills, that within these neighborhoods, there is a tremendous sense of community here. And she helped us see how much those that have lived here for many years with now grown or no children are willing to be selfless in their actions for those of us who do have young kids.

For those of you who took pictures of our costume winners or a special photo of the Boo Ha Ha, please forward to brucecameronahca@gmail.com. We'd like to get some of these on the www.aurorahighlands.org web site.

The Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NC) – the AHCA updated NC Plan will be presented by Steve Wyner and AHCA officers and leadership to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) on November 13th.

This will be the night after the monthly AHCA meeting on November 12th. The AHCA NC Plan will then go to the Planning Commission on Dec 1st (or carry over to Dec 3 –we will confirm which) and to the County Board on December 13 (or carry over to December 16th – we will confirm which). We would like to have a strong turnout of neighbors for this County Board meeting, - it's a chance to show support for our neighborhood in what should be a very positive exchange with the County Board. A special thank you to Johann Soli for starting this several years ago and to Steve for championing its' completion. There are others who helped that we acknowledge on page 5 of this newsletter.

Missing Links: AHCA believes that the west side of Fern Street between 18th-19th Street will be selected in Nov 2008 round of Missing Links for sidewalk installation.

NC Projects: Ives Street between 18th-20th was just completed under. That puts 19th Street (600 and 700 blocks) as our next NC project, and at the October AHCA meeting, we voted to make the next two blocks of Ives (20th-22nd) the next NC after 19th Street. However, after further discussion, the recommendation is to make Virginia Highlands Park the next NC project after 19th Street. The project at VHP will include a spray park feature as much requested by parents with young kids in the neighborhood, a gateway feature and pavement treatment to VHP at 18th/Hayes and perhaps some additional play equipment/new fencing and adult seating areas at existing small child play area.

Interactions with County Board Members and the County Manager: As mentioned in the last newsletter, last month Mary Hynes took a one hour tour of Aurora Highlands with Bruce Cameron. Then, County Manager Ron Carlee set a date to come visit with a small group from AHCA at the Aurora Hills Community Center, unfortunately, the date would have overlapped with the AHCA NC plan present the night of November 13th. Hopefully this will be rescheduled for sometime in December. Next, as mentioned, Chris Zimmerman attended the Boo Ha Ha and Chris has also agreed to take the same type of tour as Mary, once a date can be found. Barbabra Favola has also agreed to take the same tour as well. And we hope Jay Fisette and Walter Tejada will accept the invitations issued to them as well.

Vocelli Pizza vote for Special Use Permit: At the last County Board meeting, the County Board Members, in a 5-0 vote, voted to reject the special use permit based on its contradiction to the General Land Use Plan (GLUP).

I would encourage all of you to watch on-line via the internet two portions of this County Board meeting (October 18th): the section having to do with Crystal City and the section having to do with the Vocelli special use permit.

Parks Updates: As mentioned, Nina Park is in the process for replacement equipment, hopefully in 2009. Virginia Highlands Park had some surface work done after nine year old Rory Cameron raised the issue of glass in the ground in parts of the park at a County Board meeting. While some of this replacement soil has issues with stones in it, AHCA wants to be careful to thank the County Board and staff for the effort while working to

make sure the issue with the replacement soil gets resolved. Also, the trial period with opening of softball field #4 went well enough that staff has agreed to extend the open period through June 2009. Remember, no doggies allowed! As a neighborhood, we have stated that Virginia Highlands Park and community center/library and old fire house #5 should be put into Master Park Planning by the county. A suggestion has been made that Eads Park also be put into Master Park Planning. An alternative suggestion was made to advocate one or the other. Virginia Highlands should be the #1 priority, as previously stated, but that AHCA should lobby the county leadership as to why both are extremely important when looking at the greater area from the Ridge down through Aurora Highlands (including Pentagon City) and bounded on the other side by Crystal City.

The AHCA President has been invited to be part of Focus Group for the county that will discuss how best to balance cost recovery via tax dollars and user fees for county parks and recreation facilities. These groups will be on November 5th and 6th. Also, the public has been invited to give comment regarding impact of the Long Bridge Park on recreational use at National Park Service land at Gravelly Point, Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary and the Mount Vernon Trail. Between November 12th and December 12th, comments may be emailed to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov.gwmp> or go to public scoping meeting on Wednesday, November 12th at 6:30-8:30pm at Indigo Landing.

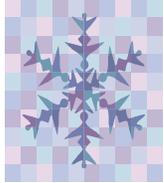
MT Vernon Baptist Church

You are invited to visit: us at:
MT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH
935 South 23rd Street,
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: 703.979.1558
WWW.MVBCCC.ORG
EMAIL MtVernonBaptistChurch
@verizon.net
Weekly services:
11am Sunday
7pm Wednesday.

Brainstorms and Challenges:

Volunteer Tree Planting: Jim Oliver, a neighbor within AHCA, has undertaken a volunteer effort in his part of the neighborhood: you buy the tree and he will plant it. What a great idea, we hope more people will take his lead to help our neighbors in our area while increasing the tree canopy.

December 11th (THURSDAY) AHCA



monthly meeting: Capt. Patterson and Fire House #105 have accepted an invitation from AHCA to join us for our annual holiday potluck dinner. Many of you know in prior years we have invited the Fire Team over to the community center to enjoy the holiday dinner and end of year meeting with us. This year there is a twist. The pot luck dinner party will be at new Fire House #105 and we will treat the fire Fire House to dinner. How many kids get a chance to eat with real firefighters in "their house." Please let us know if you plan to attend and if you will be able to contribute a dish so we have an idea of how much food and space will be needed.

4th of July Party at Virginia Highlands Park:

The Boo Ha Ha was inspiring. This brainstorm idea is put out there for consideration with two caveats. First, for those of who have long standing traditions, we are not trying to take away from those. Just create an option for those that would like something different than has occurred in the past. Secondly, while AHCA received many generous donations to cover cost of the Boo Ha Ha, we would have to be thrifty about the budget for the summer event. The timing could be early afternoon to early evening, allowing people time to depart by foot or car to find those prime fireworks viewing spots. In this case, we could have a potluck dinner or work with our local restaurateurs to highlight their wonderful cuisine. And while we had bountiful bouncing moons for the Boo, we might adjust to one or two rushing water slides (blow up) connected to nearby water sources. They might help us prove how much kids in our area will utilize a spray park if installed in VHP.

\$100,000 Challenge (Brainstorm): Given these will be tough times for Arlington County, the idea is to raise a \$100,000 community contribution (all voluntarily) to go with a major NC

park project in our area. Why? It shows AHCA and our neighboring areas are serious and that if these an issue of some shortfall because of budget constraints, AHCA will make up that difference. Plus, it will give us a bigger say so in how the funds (both AHCA donation as well as County dollars) get used and the facilities that get designed for our park. AHCA could vote to contribute \$2,500-\$3,000 as the base of the fund, then go out and raise it from local neighbors, businesses, associations and others that give to these types of projects. We would be showing the County that this area is not going to wait and not going to accept excuses of why we can't get projects done on this side of 395 in "East Arlington." To put the math in terms of families: think two \$50 dinners per family by 1000 families. Ask yourself, if we all chip in and with a few larger donations from some major corporations and/or foundations, is it really that big of a goal to reach?

Note:

It appears Archstone Smith may be delaying the Lofts II project, whether this a short term or long

Alice Andors	Jeannie Andress	Natasha Atkins
Kendra Breichle	Bruce Cameron	Janet Dunkelberger
Martin King	Penny Kriese	John Kriese
Joanne Mann	Dawn McCoy	Cheryl Mendonsa
Becky Middleton	Elizabeth Mook	Van Newstrom
Jim Oliver	Ted Saks	Johanna Soli
Brent Spence	Sue Super	Chick Walter
Timothy Werbstein	Steven Wyner	

Special thanks for the contributions of our past and present Civic Association Presidents

Aurora Highlands wishes to acknowledge the Arlington County Staff Members who assisted us with this plan, especially Tim McIntosh.

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 Aurora 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 (Issued passed on pilot basis by County Board)**
3. **Wakefield High School Capital Rebuilding and quality of academic programs.**

Near Term Neighborhood Specific

1. **Social Event (Boo Ha Ha – success)**
2. **NC Plan (plan presentation to County Board in December 2008)**
 - 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

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.

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—Please visit <http://rebuildwakefield.blogspot.com/> Discussions have been taking place with School Board Members and Doris Jackson, Principal of Wakefield, as to what is behind state wide graduation rates for area high schools, as presented by the state. Stay tuned, there may be a much more positive story than what the state wide tables show.

Gunston: Has invited AHCA leadership to meet a group of 40 students who will be receiving "Distinguished Citizens" awards this quarter. The idea is to talk with the students about becoming active citizens in their local neighborhoods and communities.

How to Get on the List serve

The list serve hosted by Alice Andors is an independent community resource (it is not connected with AHCA). To join, send an email to Alice at andor-sali@comcast.net.

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.