

Wakefield Scholarship Idea. This is an e-mail AHCA President Bruce Cameron sent to Mr. John Clisham at Wakefield High School:

Dear John, Objective: In a 2 minute video presentation to be recorded on DVD, we are looking for a Wakefield Senior or Junior (must actually attend Wakefield) to address the question, "Why Wakefield should be rebuilt as soon as possible." The highly preferred preference is for a 2 minute video, but videos may go up to 5 minutes if extremely well done and thought provoking. Responses must be rational, polite and well stated. Also, applicants may submit one written page with videos, but judging will be primarily on the video presentation. My wife and I are making this award as a family that will some day feed our kids into Wakefield. Additionally, as the President of Aurora Highlands Civic Association, I will be challenging my civic association to take a vote at our next meeting, May 14th, to match our \$500 with another \$500 for a total scholarship of \$1000. Additionally, if other organizations or individuals learn of this scholarship, we will welcome their matching contributions as well. Videos must be submitted by May 30, 2008. We hope to be able to make a final selection prior to June 19th, - the Wakefield graduation date. We will work with Mr. Clisham to set up a small committee to review and make a final selection. We will also be spreading the word via a list serve in our area as well as the AHCA monthly newsletter that will be coming out this week and posted on www.aurorahighlands.org site. Also, we would like to have permission to share the winning video (as well as all videos submitted) with the School Board, the School Superintendent and the County Board. Bruce and Maria Cameron & Rory-8-Claremont, Gibson-6-Claremont, Carly-4-preschool. 716 S 21st Street, Arlington, VA 22202, home phone 703-892-5071, cell 703-795-6575, (President, Aurora Highlands Civic Association).

FY2009 Park Enhancement Grant (PEG) Program – County seeks proposals for small capital improvements to parks, recreation facilities and open spaces for up to \$12,000. Applications are due by May 15, 2008. Van Newstrom is leading the charge to see what we might be able to get for Nina, Nellie Custis and/or Eads Parks. Please send your good ideas her way ASAP.

And we hope another round for Missing Links (sidewalk projects) will open this month. Please submit your good ideas, currently we are thinking of a small ML by Eads Park along Fort Scott Drive as one possibility.

Celebrate! AHCA would like to promote/sponsor/host a Halloween Party at Virginia Highlands Park, hopefully dovetailed in with the great Halloween Parade already well established as neighborhood tradition. Van Newstrom is taking the lead to put this together and reach out to our broader community on this side of 395.

We (Maria and I) would like to facilitate one other fun competition for AHCA and the broader area inside 395. We will donate \$200 which AHCA can choose to match or not. We invite people including kids to write a one page paper describing how they think our community center and old fire house could be renovated and/or refurbished for the betterment of the whole area. We encourage participants to remember the unique 9-11 connection of our center and old fire house. Each submittal could include one drawing of any size. AHCA and other interested parties would form a small committee to pick the best three ideas. These ideas will be used not as final ideas but as conversation starters with the county leadership. I suggest ideas be submitted by our July monthly meeting (hopefully 4th of July will put people in a patriotic spirit for idea generation.)

Important note: The competitions, the Halloween Party idea, and opportunities to bid on announcements of funding competitions offered through Arlington County hopefully will get us all to put our creative thinking caps on and come together through some community building opportunities (sorry, no pun intended). AHCA leadership hopes to generate more fun ideas like these to bring us together and to show support for our local schools and local activities and groups. So stay tuned, we are just getting started, but we need your help and ideas to make it all happen.