



Arlington Ridge Civic Association

2206 South Knoll Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- ◆ *ARCA Revitalization*
- ◆ *Ridge Road Traffic Calming – Phase 2*

Page 2

- ◆ *2009 ARCA Meeting Schedule*
- ◆ *Committee on Code and Zoning Enforcement*
- ◆ *Interim Treasurer for ARCA*
- ◆ *Ridge Road Traffic Calming – Phase 2 (contd).*

Page 3

- ◆ *ARCA Schools Committee*
- ◆ *Time to Raise the Dues*
- ◆ *ARCA Needs Your Support*

Page 4

- ◆ *ARCA Revitalization (contd).*
- ◆ *Announcements*

ARCA Revitalization

Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA) is recognized by Arlington County as our neighborhood's voice on issues that matter to us. In recent years, ARCA has advocated for: traffic calming on Ridge Road and 23rd Street, including work on the intersections at I-395 and Glebe Road; ensuring clear sidewalks for our pedestrians; cleaning up and beautifying the areas around Hume School and the I-395 intersection; and many other ad hoc issues that arise on a regular basis. Future and continuing issues include: traffic calming and safety; the future of our public elementary, middle and high schools; and the use of a substantial cash resource allocated to our neighborhood by the County.

It is essential that our neighborhood have a voice with Arlington County when issues arise or when our residents identify concerns that should rightly be addressed with the County. For this reason, ARCA needs engaged volunteer leadership and resident 'members.' Simply by virtue of living in the ARCA neighborhood, you are considered a member of ARCA – dues paying or not.

Our longstanding elected volunteer leadership of ARCA – President Dick Herbst, Don Clarke, Vice President Chick Walter and Treasurer Art Koeckert – have, for many years, been the backbone of ARCA: representing our neighborhood's interests in one-on-one meetings with County officials and at scheduled County meetings; tracking issues as they arise with the County; writing, printing and distributing the ARCA newsletter; scheduling regular ARCA meetings; and managing the membership list and our small budget.

During the past few years, however, a recurring theme in conversations with them has been their collective desire to 'retire' from their ARCA roles, to secure a future for ARCA, and to support a smooth transition to new leadership for our community organization. In an informal meeting last fall, they voiced their thoughts on how to re-energize ARCA and create a path to transition ARCA leadership roles and responsibilities as well as the historical knowledge of ARCA's advocacy with the County.

Continued on page 4

Ridge Road Traffic Calming—Phase 2

By Andrea Walker, ARCA's Phase 2 Point Person

ARCA is seeking additional measures for pedestrian safety and traffic calming from the County for the entire neighborhood. This includes launching a "Phase 2" Arlington Ridge Road initiative, working with neighbors on Fort Scott Drive in their traffic calming effort, and having a voice in the County's decisions to use of about \$265,000 in developer "set-aside" funds, which are to be jointly applied to traffic calming along Ridge Rd., S. 23rd and S. Joyce Streets

Ridge Road residents and pedestrians have generally applauded the calming achieved since ARCA's Spring 2005 campaign. The speed limit has been reduced for pedestrian comfort and safety. Pedestrian crossings have been added from S. 19th St. to the intersection with S. 28th/S. June Streets. Radar-activated speed indicators posted by the County appear to slow traffic. Elimination of the dual through-lanes and inadequate merge distances in both directions at the 23rd Street intersection has reduced aggressive driving behavior.

More remains to be done on Ridge Road. The downhill portion of Ridge Rd., particularly at S. Lang St. near Gunston Middle School, remains intimidating to pedestrians. Significant problems remain at S. Glebe Rd. and at the I-395 exit ramp. High-speed, oblique right turns at the I-395 ramp and at S. Lang St. are incompatible with pedestrian safety. Remedies sought include a stoplight at Ridge Rd. and Lang St. that can be pedestrian-activated, as well as two more radar-activated speed monitors across from the existing ones.

Continued on page 2

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time... We are the change that we seek.”
- Barack Obama

What our new president said about our country is also true for our neighborhood. Our community needs your help. There is no time like the present to get involved to make a difference.

Mark your Calendars – 2009 Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA) Meetings

The ARCA leadership has established the following dates for meetings for 2009:

- January 28 at Aurora Hills Community Center
- April 16
- July 16
- November 19

All meetings will begin with a social at 6:30 PM and the actual proceedings will start at 7 PM and end no later than 9 PM. Meetings will be held in the library at Oakridge Elementary School, unless otherwise noted.

Additionally, October 14, 2009 is a Joint "Meet the Candidates" event with Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA). The meeting will be held at the Aurora Hills Community Center (co-located with the Aurora Hills Library) at 735 S. 18th Street. Details will be published by AHCA. All residents and members of ARCA are invited to attend these meetings.

Committee on Code and Zoning Enforcement

By Chick Walter

ARCA plans to have a committee of interested neighbors to address enforcement of Code and Zoning violations. In the past 6 years, the County has gone from overriding Code enforcement rules to recently issuing multiple, questionable violation notices on a single homeowner. Neither extreme serves the interest of ARCA. Chick Walter, Dick Herbst and several neighbors have worked on these issues with mixed success – often in concert with the Aurora Highlands Civic Association.

Interim Treasurer for ARCA

By Dick Herbst

After many years of service, Mr. Art Koeckert has decided to step down from the ARCA Treasurer's position. We would like to thank Art for his many years of dedicated service to our community and we look forward to his continued participation in ARCA meeting and events.

To fill the role of Treasurer, effective immediately, Charles V. (Chuck) McFadden has been appointed Acting Treasurer. In addition to being a longtime member of ARCA, Chuck is also a professional Financial Management Consultant.

Ridge Road Traffic Calming—Phase 2 *Continued from page 1*

S. 23rd and S. Joyce Streets present simpler issues than Ridge Rd. because they do not have multiple blind curves. 23rd St. has a downhill speeding issue. We will coordinate with AHCA on changes needed to the Joyce St. intersections. We will work with the County on adding radar speed indicators on S. 23rd St. and improved pedestrian crossings, particularly at S. Hayes St. where the disabled use the bus stop.

The quarterly ARCA newsletter will be published at least one week prior to the scheduled meetings (except for the joint one with AHCA). Where possible, the newsletter will include a draft agenda for the upcoming meeting. ARCA residents and members are encouraged to contribute articles on local news and residents' perspectives to the newsletter.

Please email articles to the newsletter editor, Ms. Sonali Soneji (sonali_soneji@post.harvard.edu), at least 3 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date(s). Text must be provided in Microsoft Word or compatible format and graphics suitable for black and white publication should be sent as separate files in a common graphic format (jpeg, gif, bmp etc.). If you do not have email, mail newsletter articles to: ARCA Newsletter Attn. Ms. Sonali Soneji, 2623 S. Arlington Ridge Road, Arlington, VA 22202. Proposed agenda topics for ARCA meetings should be submitted to Ms. Soneji or the President or Vice President of ARCA at least 3 weeks prior to each meeting.

We have had successes in sidewalk clearing, junk car removal, and in blighted property cleanup; but often the County has not pursued full compliance. Several neighbors have expressed interest in this area. Significant weaknesses in the County's approach to enforcement have come to light recently, including lack of funding, staffing, and homeowner penalties. For Code Enforcement issues, contact Chick at chickandsandy@msn.com

ARCA anticipates holding its annual 2009 officer elections during the summer, at which time any ARCA member may stand for election to the office of Treasurer. In the meantime, we are most appreciative of Chuck's willingness to step into this important role. During the meeting on 28 January 2009, Chuck will update us on the status of ARCA finances and our current budget. Should you wish to reach him immediately, contact him at cmsd100@comcast.net.

We will elaborate and answer questions on traffic calming at our January 28 meeting. If you have a pedestrian safety and traffic calming issue you want considered, please email Andrea Walker tasteless@verizon.net or call at 703-838-6244.

ARCA Schools Committee

By Kathie Laird

ARCA is home to Oakridge Elementary and Gunston Middle Schools. Our neighborhood public schools exist symbiotically with the community. They both support and rely upon community involvement. The well-known Oakridge Tutoring Program is founded and staffed largely by volunteers from our neighborhood. Strong neighborhood schools are reflective of strong communities, and benefit home owners in many ways, including sustained real estate values. Because of the centrality of neighborhood schools to our community, ARCA is forming a Schools Committee to facilitate communication with the schools and to support our families whose children attend the schools.

The proposed ARCA Schools Committee will have 4 members representing our neighborhood schools (Oakridge, Gunston, and Wakefield) and the Oakridge Tutoring Program. The committee members will elect a chairperson within the committee. Each committee member will serve as a contact person for information about his/her school, to relay key information about events and issues for the school s/he represents that need broader community (or specifically ARCA) input or support, and relay relevant ARCA information back to the school.

This is a great opportunity for parents to become involved in their children's school and to let everyone know about upcoming school fundraisers, social events,

and time-sensitive issues that involve their school and the neighborhood. Schools Committee members, except the chair, would have very little structured time commitment, other than to attend PTA or ARCA meetings necessary to keep abreast of current events, and to attend occasional schools committee meetings. Almost everything can be handled by phone or e-mail.

The committee chairperson would liaise between the individual school representatives, the ARCA newsletter editor/ communications committee and the ARCA leadership. The chairperson will have frequent e-mail and occasional phone contact with Schools Committee members, and will relay information to other ARCA committee chairs; s/he may have occasional conversations with others who seek information about school matters. The chairperson will attend 8 ARCA general body or board meetings per year, and may go to some broader school system meetings or functions, in order to follow particular issues that affect ARCA's neighborhood schools.

Volunteers needed: If you have a child in one (or more) of these schools, or if you are an Oakridge Tutor, and would like to serve on the new ARCA Schools Committee, please contact Kathie Laird, at oakridgemom@yahoo.com, or come to the ARCA meeting on 28 January 2009.

Time to Raise the Dues

By Chuck McFadden

After 10 years of keeping the annual dues at \$10, the time has come to raise the dues to \$20. ARCA has run an annual operating deficit for the last two years and drawn on dwindling reserves. Printing the newsletter costs \$500 per issue and we have been doing two a year. With the revitalization of ARCA, the board wants to go to 4 issues per year plus increase our efforts in: beautification – especially Hume School and the small parks in the neighborhood; community involvement – support of our schools, fire/police departments and the senior center; and possibly social events – kids parades, 4th of July celebration, Halloween, etc.

Following the by-laws, the proposed increase to \$20 will be introduced at the January meeting, voted on at the April meeting, and will not go into effect until June 2009. This does not stop you from a voluntary increase in your dues now. ARCA needs your personal and financial support in order to carry out its renewed vision and make our streets into an active community.

To join or renew, please bring a check payable to "ARCA" to the next meeting, or forward to Chuck McFadden, 2322 S. Arl. Ridge Road, Arlington, VA 22202.

ARCA Needs Your Support

By Patty Joyce

What kind of neighborhood do you want to live in? One with good schools, safe parks, walkable streets and neighbors who say hello and look out for one another? What makes a neighborhood more than just a point on a map are the people who live there. It's up to us.

In recent months, ARCA has been working on a plan to engage and activate our membership through outreach, inclusion, neighbor-to-neighbor contact and social activities. If you have a bit of time to spare (that's all any of us have!) and are interested in helping out, please ARCAneighbor@gmail.com for more information. Otherwise, please demonstrate your support by making sure your contact information is up-to-date (see newsletter insert) and by attending upcoming membership events. Thank you!

ARCA Revitalization *Continued from page 1*

Informal meetings and conversations have resulted in: brainstorming on ways to increase ARCA's membership and engage more members; defining roles and responsibilities of the different leadership positions; identifying the issues before us and the appropriate structure of a re-energized ARCA to tackle these issues effectively while not placing too heavy a burden on any one individual's shoulders; and establishing an open and inclusive nominating process for new leaders to include those who might be interested but are not currently engaged.

Some of our neighbors have already stepped forward to take on specific tasks requiring immediate attention, infusing new energy and ideas into the process. This willingness to support the work of ARCA is encouraging. ARCA is too important an organization for us to let it founder. The forward motion associated with these informal transition conversations is a strong indication of what is possible as ARCA moves forward. However, there is much work to be done. There are many roles to be filled, from the elected leadership positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary to the ad hoc support for issues that require occasional, infrequent but

reliable engagement. Your input and involvement is very much needed and wanted.

There are so many ways to get involved. Read the newsletter when it comes to your door. Contribute an article on local news or a resident's perspective. Ensure ARCA has your contact information. Attend ARCA meetings to keep abreast of issues and meet your neighbors. Help nominate and elect new leaders. Encourage a neighbor who is particularly passionate about an issue to volunteer with ARCA. Join the neighborhood list serve. Pay your ARCA membership dues.

The agenda for the ARCA meeting on January 28, 2009, includes a discussion on how we move forward. The first step is the transition of roles and responsibilities at all levels of the ARCA organization so that our interests are well-represented with the County and well-communicated among our neighbors. Come join the new and revitalized ARCA.

Please direct questions on the ARCA Revitalization discussions to Elizabeth Mailander at 703-920-3013 or Elizabeth.mailander@gmail.com.

o January 28, 2009 meeting at Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 S. 18th Street, Arlington VA 22202.

6:30pm Social

7:00pm ARCA Proceedings

o School News

13 Jan 2009 - Crystal City's airplane statues will be auctioned. Proceeds from 2 of the planes will benefit Oakridge and Gunston schools.

26 Jan 2009 (7 p.m.) - Kindergarten Information Night for all Arlington elementary schools. More information is available at www.apsva.us or 703-228-7667.

18-26 January 2009 - WHS Spanish Immersion and AP students will practice their Spanish language skills with host families while exploring Costa Rica.

21 Feb 2009 - 2009 Pyramid Concerts in the Wakefield High School auditorium. All South Arlington band and orchestra students will perform. Everyone is welcome to attend. No tickets required.

Join Oakridge families & neighbors at fun fund-raisers:

25 Apr 2009 - Monte Carlo Night Silent Auction

26 Apr 2009 - Spring Fling Carnival

25 Apr 2009 - 2nd Annual WHS Booster & Alumni Golf Tournament at Fairfax National Golf Club (Centreville). ARCA residents and WHS alumni are specially invited. For information, contact Paul B. Greenfield at 703-928-0228, or see <http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/9547-2ndAnnualWakefieldHighSchoolBoos>.

ARCA Officers:

President	Dick Herbst	703-892-5290
Vice-President	Chick Walter	703-519-9487
Secretary	Elizabeth Mailander	703-920-3013
Acting Treasurer	Chuck McFadden	703-684-8532

Executive Committee:

Michael Carver	703-521-8031
Desda Moss	703-519-5677
Lynn Primo	703-920-4485
Carol Rademaker	703-684-8744

Police 703-558-2222
(Non-emergency crimes/ suspicious events)

Arlington County Web Site: www.arlingtonva.us

For bulletins of neighborhood interest, request to join: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/4D-A/>. The group is administered by Alice Andors of Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA).

We would love to hear from you!

Please send comments and questions on the contents of this newsletter to the editor:

Ms. Sonali Soneji

2623 S. Arlington Ridge Road

Arlington VA 22202

Email: sonali_soneji@post.harvard.edu



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Arlington, VA 22202



DID YOU KNOW?

According to Arlington County officials, the 2007 Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA)-hosted neighborhood walking meeting to discuss traffic calming measures was the **BEST ATTENDED** of any neighborhood meeting held in Arlington County. That meeting led to **SIGNIFICANT** traffic calming improvements along Ridge Road and 23rd Street. We have proven strength in numbers, so

LET'S BUILD ON THAT SUCCESS!

ARCA is revamping to better communicate with our neighbors and we want to hear from you! Let us know how to get in touch with you by sending the following information to ARCAnighbor@gmail.com or returning this flyer to the address on the back. **THANK YOU!**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

**Your contact information will NOT be distributed and will be used solely for purposes of ARCA communication.*