



Arlington Ridge Civic Association

2604 South Grant Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- ◆ ARCA's Concerns to be heard at County's Planning Committee
- ◆ Traffic Control and Pedestrian Safety Update

Page 2

- ◆ ARCA's Concerns to be heard... (contd).
- ◆ Protect our Periphery, Enhance our Community

Page 3

- ◆ ARCA Budget Update
- ◆ Community Survey for the NC Plan
- ◆ Keep Sidewalks Clear

Page 4

- ◆ School News

Page 5

- ◆ ARCA By-Laws and Elections
- ◆ Traffic Control... (contd).

Page 6

- ◆ Upcoming Events
- ◆ ARCA Meeting Schedule
- ◆ ARCA Points of Contact

ARCA's Concerns to be heard at County's Planning Committee

By Chris Mailander

Representatives from ARCA, Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA) and Crystal City neighborhoods have assumed seats on Arlington County's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) to review the plan for the redevelopment of Crystal City. Arlington County has undertaken a comprehensive strategic development initiative focused upon the redevelopment of the Crystal City area. The Jefferson Davis corridor is the strongest economic 'engine' within Arlington County. Therefore, the objective of this initiative is to further develop and redevelop this area so that it not only remains healthy after the impact of base realignment and closure (BRAC), but grows as a vital office, retail, and residential area.

The 'Crystal City Vision Plan 2050' is currently being reviewed by the LRPC, and the current draft is available to the public for download at www.plancrystalcity.com. ARCA residents and other members of the community are strongly encouraged to download, review, and comment upon the draft document, as implementation of the plan will inevitably have an impact on many dimensions of our communities, both positively and potentially negatively.

Continued on page 2

Traffic Control and Pedestrian Safety Update

By Andrea Walker

Given the many exclusions the County's term "Traffic Calming Program" entails, ARCA no longer uses it to describe efforts to control traffic speed. ARCA continues its 3-part approach to address pedestrian safety and traffic control in our neighborhood. Part 1 tries to follow up on the previous impressive achievements on Ridge Rd. and 23rd St., and to expand that work throughout our neighborhood. Part 2 is the development of our Neighborhood Conservation Plan which gives ARCA a chance to communicate its vision for the neighborhood to the County Board and staff. Part 3 is taking an active role in the planning phase of the Crystal City redevelopment (with the possibility of getting developer "set-aside" funds to control traffic impact).

Since our last newsletter, progress on Part 1 of the approach is as follows:

1. The Executive Board approved a formal request to the County for \$60.5K of the existing \$170K in developer set-aside funds (from the Potomac Yard development—thank you, Dick Herbst and past ARCA Board for this funding) for traffic control on the Ridge Rd. and S. 23rd St. arterials. Using the County's pricing, we've requested:
 - a) Two additional permanent speed displays on Ridge Rd., one placed northbound in the vicinity of 19th St. and the other placed southbound in the vicinity of 24th Street. A sign indicating that a school/pedestrian crossing is ahead is to be posted with the latter. Speed displays are generally placed on existing electrical poles.
 - b) Pedestrian crossing bollards on Ridge Rd. (like those at 19th and 20th Streets) to replace those at Lang and 28th Streets.

Continued on page 5

"A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has..."

- Margaret Mead

Join us at the next ARCA meeting. Come share your thoughts and feelings with your neighbors. Help change your neighborhood so it is nicer than ever.

Next ARCA Meeting: July 16, 2009

at Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 S. 18th Street, Arlington VA 22202

ARCA's Concerns to be heard at County's Planning Committee *Continued from page 1*

The LRPC is meeting through the summer on the Vision Plan to provide County staff with additional comments and input. The first meeting was on 9 June 2009, and two additional meetings have been scheduled for 8 July 2009 and 30 July 2009. ARCA's principal representative to the LRPC is Christopher Mailander. Patty Lynn is the first alternate, and Chick Walter is the second alternate.

ARCA has joined with AHCA and Crystal City neighbors to create a community-wide Working Group focused upon receiving better input from the residents throughout the entirety of the 22202 zip code. The Working Group is currently preparing a consolidated response to the LRPC for purposes of expressing the voice of the primarily residential neighborhoods within the wider geographic confines of the Jefferson Davis corridor which collectively share transportation, retail, schools, and other physical infrastructure.

It has been proposed by the LRPC that an additional chapter be drafted by the County to specifically address the issue of community benefits from the redevelopment of the Crystal City area, and to better 'humanize' a strategic plan that is strongly focused upon economic and development issues. The Working Group has been specifically tasked with providing input to this additional chapter. Issues of particular focus for this exercise include addressing the potential negative effects of creating separate, non-integrated communities within Crystal City; the lack of integration of Crystal City with the neighboring communities of Aurora Hills and Arlington Ridge; the inadequacies of the traffic analysis due to its limited focus on intra-Crystal City traffic, and not the surrounding arterial routes; the impact of the increasing density on green space in Crystal City; the realization of tangible and quantifiable community benefits in exchange for the increasing density and demands on Crystal City,

Aurora Hills, and Arlington Ridge; the impact of increased density and traffic on the transportation infrastructure in not only Crystal City, but also Aurora and Arlington Ridge; and the impact of increasing and changing density patterns on neighborhood schools, libraries, community centers, parks, and on other common infrastructure, as well as on emergency, fire, police and medical services. The core objective of the Working Group is to set forth a vision for what this larger community can be in terms of lifestyles, work, and play, and better address how the vision affects such diverse communities as the elderly, families, singles, and others.

There are several pathways through which ARCA and individual residents can influence and shape the development of the long-term 'Vision'. These include attendance and comment at the planned LRPC meetings to be held on July 8 and July 30 to continue review of the draft Plan. ARCA members are particularly encouraged to attend the July 30th session, when it is anticipated that the aforementioned community issues will be specifically discussed. Individuals and civic organizations may communicate directly with staff and the planning commission at any time. There will also be future public hearings to review the Vision Plan and receive public input, which are currently anticipated to begin in late September or October.

Feedback and input from Arlington Ridge residents directly to the Working Group is sought immediately to enable it and the LRPC representatives to best share concerns and opinions with the County. Contact Chris Mailander (christopher.mailander@gmail.com), Patty Lynn (pattylynn@aol.com) and/or Chick Walter (chickandsandy@msn.com) for any additional information pertaining to the LRPC or Crystal City Vision Plan 2050, and/or to provide immediate input and comments related thereto.

Protect our Periphery, Enhance our Community

By Nancy Swain

For many years our community has worked to protect our periphery, and maintain and enhance our neighborhood. The evolving plans for Crystal City invite our looking anew at our community efforts in this regard. The revisions to the zoning in Crystal City will bring increased density. (Zoning changes never seem to go "down;" they go "up.") Most people recognize that some density is inevitable and desired near the Metro; the discussion is and will be about the amount of density, and implications for our neighborhood. While some changes to our neighborhood may be positive, other changes will be an increase in traffic as

well as air and noise pollution. No matter how many people use Metro, bikes, train, buses and proposed trolley cars, there will also be more cars which rather naturally use our neighborhood street system. Therefore, now seems a sensible time to continue and move forward to protect our periphery, and maintain our neighborhood boundaries. It's a time to enhance our neighborhood and improve its livability, stabilize the "weaker" spots with necessary improvements, and preserve, maintain and improve what's working. We should send a signal the community we care about is strong.

July 2009

ARCA Budget Update

By Chuck McFadden

As Acting Treasurer, I am happy to report that we have 110 dues paying members for the first six months, which is more than the 88 total we had all last year! To date we have spent approximately \$2,000 from the dues to pay for two editions of the newsletter, the library petition, the 2008 bill for grass cutting at Ridge Rd./I-395, Hume School clean up, and a donation to the Wakefield Senior Cruise.

However, the bad news is that we have only \$248 left, and we still need to fund 3 newsletters, the 2009 bill for grass cutting at Ridge Rd./I-395 and the Hume school clean up - all of which will cost about \$2,000. In addition, there will be some unplanned costs in establishing the new website, preparing the

Keep Sidewalks Clear

Under Arlington County Code, homeowners are responsible for ensuring that plantings or other structures on their properties do not encroach on public sidewalks. The entire width of the sidewalk, to a height of 10 feet, must be kept clear. Sidewalks often serve two people walking abreast, a parent with a twin stroller, or a tall person with an umbrella. Also, sight lines at intersections and road signs must not be obscured. Unobstructed sight lines are also important for residents leaving their driveways.

If you notice infractions of the Code, you may try sending a gentle neighborly reminder to the responsible owner. Or you may contact Arlington County's Office of Community Code Enforcement at 703.228.3232 who can encourage the owner to correct the hazardous encroachment without

Community Survey for the NC Plan

Please be prepared to provide input for ARCA's neighborhood conservation (NC) plan through the community survey scheduled to be conducted this summer. The survey is not only a requisite step for preparing the plan, but also an essential one in defining the community's vision of our neighborhood. The survey form should arrive next month on your doorstep or email inbox. There will also be an electronic version on ARCA's new website. Volunteers are



Neighborhood Conservation Plan, and supporting the new Crystal City Committee.

So we would like to thank all that have paid dues so far this year and make a plea to all others to support ARCA so that we can follow through with our plans. ARCA is trying to reestablish itself and be a positive force in your neighborhood, so please help if you can. Annual dues have been raised to \$20 this year. For questions on dues or ARCA finances, please contact Chuck McFadden at 703.553.8332 or email: CMSD100@comcast.net

Checks for \$20 made out to 'ARCA' may be sent using the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

generating confrontations between neighbors. As you stroll or drive through your neighborhood, consider whether the obstruction you look around or duck under might cause injury to someone less agile or cautious.

The Arlington County Extension Office at 3308 S. Stafford St. (in the Fairlington Community Center) can provide literature on proper pruning. They can be contacted at 703.228.6423 or via the web at www.ext.vt.edu. The actual plant pruning or removal, however, remains the responsibility of the homeowner.

required to help distribute the survey forms and analyze the responses.

Survey results will be tabulated and then developed into recommendations and/or projects for execution. The Neighborhood Conservation (NC) program provides funding for a variety of capital improvement projects including sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, park improvements, neighborhood art, and beautification.

For more information or to volunteer to support this effort, please contact Sonali Soneji (703.867.6042 or sonali_soneji@post.harvard.edu) or Michael Reamy (mreamy3@comcast.net).

School News

By Kathie Laird

New APS Superintendent

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy will become the Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools on 1 July 2009. He has accepted an invitation for 4 August, 7:00 pm, at the Aurora Hills Community Center, for a chat and Q&A on the school system. All those interested in our schools are encouraged to attend.

Oakridge Elementary

The Oakridge PTA would like to thank the community for helping raise over \$41,000 for Oakridge this year, especially:

Aurora Highlands Civic Association ♦ Aurora Hills Women's Club ♦ Conklyn's Florist ♦ Consumer Electronics Association ♦ Crystal City Business Improvement District ♦ Glerum Design Group ♦ Northern Virginia Family Practice ♦ Pulmonary & Medical Associates of Northern Virginia ♦ Jenelle Hatch, Realtor ♦ PMC Mortgage Corp. ♦ Jim McCowan, Realtor ♦ Darrell Henry, ROQ Strategies ♦ Louis Andors, Realtor

Particular thanks to the local businesses who sponsored our events:

Athena Pallas ♦ Café Italia ♦ Café Pizzaiolo ♦ Crystal City Sports Pub ♦ Freddie's Beach Bar and Restaurant ♦ Siné Restaurant ♦ Urban Thai

Oakridge Tutors

Tutors are wanted for next school year at Oakridge (mid-Oct. 2009 to mid-May 2010). There are always children in line for after-school help. It's only 2 hours per week, 2:40 –3:40pm, Tuesday and Thursday; or you may sign up for one day per week. You will get to know the child you are assigned to. No prep required; all materials are provided, as well as orientation in the program and contact with other tutors and teachers. This is a wonderfully rewarding experience. Contact Malcolm Tronic (Oakridge Librarian) at malcolm_tronic@apsva.us

Gunston Middle School

Gunston is seeking tutors for the next school year on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. (8th period). We also love having parents and community members speak as experts on different topics of interest or expertise. Please contact Mary Callow at MConklin@arlington.k12.va.us

Rebuild Wakefield - Schematic Design Approved!

In October 2008, the School Board approved a conceptual design for a new Wakefield High School and authorized the commencement of the Schematic Design Phase. Since then, the architect (Bowie Gridley Architects), various volunteer committees, County and APS staff have worked to develop a design scheme consistent with the approved concept diagram and to address unresolved issues. They presented a Schematic Design Report to the School Board in May 2009 which is of comparable level of quality and amenities with the new Washington-Lee and Yorktown High Schools, and is within the \$169 million total project cost parameter set forth in the 2008 CIP. In June 2009, the School Board approved the Wakefield Schematic Design. For more information, see the PDF file of the design at: [http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/Public?OpenFrameSet; Then click on: 05/26/2009 School Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.; then: F. Information Items: and then: 4. Wakefield Schematic Design.](http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/Public?OpenFrameSet;Then click on: 05/26/2009 School Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.; then: F. Information Items: and then: 4. Wakefield Schematic Design.)

Wakefield High School

Congratulations to the neighborhood students who graduated on 18 June! Best wishes to the Class of '09.

Newsweek magazine recently published its ranking of U.S. high schools, and Wakefield, along with all of the APS high schools ranked in the top one-half percent of high schools in the United States.

The APS school year will begin on Tues., 8 Sept. Until then, enjoy a wonderful summer vacation!

Thank you SOC!

ARCA and SOC Enterprises, a non-profit organization located in our neighborhood, have renewed their support for each other. The April and July newsletters have been printed by SOC at a great price. SOC's mission is to assist, support and empower people with disabilities to achieve employment, independence and integration in the workplace and in the community. SOC employs about 300 people to provide labor-intensive services such as printing, mailing, distribution, and photocopying. Please consider bringing your business to SOC too.

July 2009

ARCA By-Laws and Elections

By Kit Whitely

The ARCA Revitalization Committee, as part of their efforts to streamline the association management processes, conducted a review of the current by-laws. This document was last revised in 2003 and the committee felt that some updates were required to facilitate effectiveness and efficiencies.

Three recommendations were approved by the membership at the January/April meetings: increase the president's approval authority to \$100 for expenditures not included in the budget lines; increase annual membership dues to \$20.00; and move the annual officer election from June to July.

The committee would like to propose additional modifications to the document for approval by membership during the July meeting: addition of a 2nd VP which would allow a split in focus between internal and external issues and would replace the 3 at-large elected executive committee members; and

revision of the meeting schedule from monthly to bimonthly sessions. This change would actually increase the number of sessions as we have been meeting quarterly. Approval of these changes should provide the impetus required to help energize the association.

The Revitalization Committee, in its role as the Nominating Committee, also proposed the following slate of officers during the April membership meeting:

Chick Walter	President
Andrew Smith	External Vice President
Jeff Orner	Internal Vice President
Chuck McFadden	Treasurer
Kit Whitely	Secretary

If elected, these officers will serve for the 2009/2010 term. The election will be by hand vote on July 16, 2009 and will continue until a nominee has received a majority of votes.

Traffic Control and Pedestrian Safety Update *Continued from page 1*

- c) Two new permanent speed displays on 23rd St., one placed eastbound (downhill) just past 26th St. (opposite Kent) and the second across the street (uphill) on Kent (opposite 26th St). Both would be generally placed on existing electrical poles with extension arms for increased driver visibility.
 - d) Two pedestrian crosswalks with bollards on 23rd St. at Ives, Hayes, and Grant Streets. Bollards would have the same pedestrian crossing signs as those on Ridge at 19th and 20th Streets.
2. Metro bus (aka Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority—WMATA) letter: While we don't have an official report from WMATA on our request to have bus speed clocked, unofficially bus speeds clocked by WMATA the 2nd week of May were within the speed limit range. Drivers were reminded to obey speed limits. WMATA appears to acknowledge that the visibility of their staff clocking bus speed slowed drivers down. A request for an

official report was made, including a response to our request that out-of-service buses use routes other than Ridge.

3. Ridge and 23rd St.: ARCA continues to seek adequate pedestrian space on the southeast corner of this intersection - a critical school crossing for Oakridge Elementary students. In addition, we seek improvements on the southeast corner for turning buses. County staff will get back to us by the end of July on results of the County's informal (i.e., no cost) feasibility study.
4. Ridge Rd. maintenance issues: County staff is to give us a status report before our meeting on July 16 on our requests for bollard replacements at all Ridge intersections, a modification of speed indicators to display speeds greater than 34 mpg and a repair of the loop indicator (i.e., activate traffic signal) for traffic on 23rd St. at Ridge.

ARCA Launches Website: www.arcaonline.org

ARCA will unveil the new website at the meeting on 16 July 2009. Please check it out and add it to your "Favorites". Send comments/suggestions as well as relevant content to be uploaded to the website to our webmaster Chris King (crk@mindspring.com), or to Sonali Soneji (sonali_soneji@post.harvard.edu)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Tuesdays, May 12 to Oct 27, 3-7 pm – New Crystal City Farmer's Market on Crystal Drive between 18th and 20th Streets
- ◆ July 8 and 30, 7:00 pm – Arlington County Long Range Planning Committee meeting at 2100 Clarendon Blvd.
- ◆ July 25, 6:30 -9:30 pm – Bat Fest Arlington 2009 at Gulf Branch Nature Center. \$7/person. See a presentation with live bats, go on a walk to see bats flying and to hear their echolocation calls, and learn about foods that are pollinated by bats. Live bat shows by Leslie Sturges, Director of Bat World NOVA.
- ◆ July 29, 7 pm – Police update at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 830 S. 23rd Street, Arlington VA 22202. A meeting will also be held on the last Wednesday of Oct.
- ◆ August 4, 7:00 pm – Q&A session with Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, incoming Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools, at the Aurora Hills Community Center
- ◆ August 19-23 – Arlington County Fair. Buy honey, photo cards etc. and run into old friends. See www.arlingtoncountyfair.org
- ◆ September 1, 7:30 pm – Civic Federation Meeting at Virginia Hospital Center. See www.civfed.org.
- ◆ September 10, 7 pm - Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Meeting at NRECA, 4301 Wilson Blvd Arlington VA 22203. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month except August.
- ◆ September 26, 8:30 am – County Board Meeting in the County Board Room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington VA 22201. Meetings are also broadcast on the local government TV channel.
- ◆ Summer festivals are a great way to relax, eat, make new friends, and support local businesses. These are in our neighborhood:
 - Thursdays at 7 pm, June 4 to August 20 – Rock concerts at Pentagon Row. See <http://www.pentagonrow.com/events/>
 - Mondays at sundown, May 4 to September 23 – Crystal Screen outdoor movies. See <http://www.crystalcity.org/events>

To keep up with events in Arlington County, go to:
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/calendar/>

ARCA MEETING SCHEDULE

- ◆ July 16 – ARCA bimonthly meeting at Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 S. 18th Street, Arlington VA 22202
- 6:30 pm - Social
- 7:00 pm – Proceedings begin:
 - Welcome and agenda
 - Proposed By-Laws Modification Review
 - Elections
 - Website Introduction
 - Status Updates on Ongoing Initiatives
 - Action Items
- 8:50 pm - Close meeting
- ◆ September – ARCA bimonthly meeting (date and venue to be decided)
- ◆ October 14, 2009 – Joint AHCA-ARCA "Meet the Candidates" meeting at the Aurora Hills Community Center

To be updated on meetings and other issues, please ensure ARCA has your contact information. Email: ARCAnighbor@gmail.com

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).

ARCA Officers and Points of Contacts

President	Dick Herbst	703-892-5290
Vice-President	Chick Walter	703-519-9487
Secretary	Elizabeth Mailander	703-920-3013
Acting Treasurer	Chuck McFadden	703-553-8332
Asst treasurer	Renee Messalle	703-931-4842
Traffic Control	Andrea Walker	703-838-6244
Crystal City Dev.	Chris Mailander	703-929-6643
	Joan Quinn	703-892-5050
NC Plan	Sonali Soneji	703-867-6042
NCAC Rep	Michael Reamy	703-683-7499
Membership	Patty Lynn	703-283-2522
Beautification	Bonnie Flynn	703-920-1157
	Chick Walter	703-519-9487
Schools	Kathie Laird	703-685-4371
Webmaster	Chris King	703-931-4842
Police (Non-emergency)		703-558-2222

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
Ph: 703-867-6042