



Arlington Ridge Civic Association

2604 South Grant Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202
 Website: www.arcaonline.org

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Library and Senior Center Take Major Hits in Proposed FY 2011 Budget

(Based on AHCA March newsletter articles by Mike Dowell and Cara Tenuta)

The proposed Arlington County budget for 2011, issued on February 10, calls for across-the-board cuts to most programs. Of particular interest to us are the cuts to the Aurora Hills Senior Program, the Aurora Hills Library and the District 2 Police. Our Senior program, one of 6 senior program locations in the County and the only location that is close to Metro, is one of 2 targeted for elimination. The Senior Center is part of the Aurora Hills Library building with part-time staff to coordinate activities, trips, classes and movies for seniors throughout the year. All activities are paid for by seniors and classes/activities are only held if there is enough interest. In this manner, the County provides a great program at very little cost to the tax-payer.

The Aurora Hills Senior Center serves 75-100 seniors three days a week. By closing the Aurora Hills Senior Program, the County will save an estimated \$31,000, which is less than 2.5% of the overall County Senior Program budget of \$1.28M. The cost of the Senior Center to the taxpayer is less than \$2.75 per senior per day. The County's proposed resolution is to have seniors pay for transportation to other neighborhood Senior Centers at a cost of \$5 per senior per day. The nearest center is the Walter Reed Senior Center, located on the far side of the Army Navy Country Club. We think the County can trim \$30,760 from the general Senior Program budget without having to close any Senior Centers, and hold true to the principle of equity for all.

The Aurora Hills Library and other branches are to lose one full service day a week. That takes our library service down from 49 to 41 hours a week. Though troublesome, this cut appears to be equally spread among all Arlington branches and the Central Library. Finally the district police teams will be cut by 50% with the focus changing from crime prevention to crime response.

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Campaign for a Better Arlington

By Aaron Ringel

The Arlington County Firefighters and Paramedics Association along with Arlington's Police and Teachers associations have recently kicked off "The Campaign For a Better Arlington," an effort aimed at moving Arlington from the current "County Manager" form of government to a "County Board" system. Arlington County voters will have the opportunity to decide this measure during November's election, but 13,000 residents' signatures are required by mid-July to put the question on the ballot.

Under the current form of government the Fire and Police chief are legally prohibited from communicating their concerns directly to County Board members. Instead they are required to pass any information through the office of an un-elected County Manager, who makes the final decision on what ends up in front of Board Members. During the last 20 years Arlington has grown by over 100,000 residents. Yet our Fire, EMS and Police units have not grown since the 1970's. Furthermore, they face yearly cuts to staffing, services and training necessary for the safety of both County residents and our first responders.

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**Spring is here!
 Sunny days and
 blooming gardens
 are sure to renew
 vigor and optimism.
 Let's put our spring
 fever to good use
 by working to enrich
 our community.
 Join us at the
 next ARCA meeting
 to meet neighbors
 and support
 neighborhood
 efforts.**

Next ARCA Meeting: March 18, 2010 at 7 pm
 at Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 S. 18th Street, Arlington VA 22202
Featuring Guest Speakers from Gunston and Wakefield Schools, and Arlington Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association (APFPA)

Library and Senior Center Take Major Hits in Proposed FY 2011 Budget *Continued from page 1*

We need to acknowledge that the fates of the Senior Center and Aurora Hills Library are intertwined. If the Senior Center is closed, the building utilization will fall to the point that library closure will be the only logical conclusion.

Please consider filling out the attached letter of support for the Senior Center / Library and send it in.

Campaign for a Better Arlington *Continued from page 1*

Differences between the proposed County Board system and our current County Manager form of government include:

- 1) The County Manager would become a County Executive, with a significant portion of the current power transferred back to the County Board. County Police and Fire Chiefs would have the ability to directly communicate their concerns to the County Board regarding the needs of our first responders.
- 2) Move from our current system of electing all 5 Board members through County-wide "at-large"

County Videos Reflect Vision of Neighborhood Association

By Chick Walter

Videos of past Board meetings provide an easy-to-digest view of the vision and goals that neighborhood activists are working toward for ARCA and AHCA. Go to www.arlingtonva.us, select County Government, then Board Meetings. Under "Regular and Recessed Meetings," select a date noted below, and click on "video." The televised Board Meeting will then load onto your computer screen. You can fast forward through the meeting to view specific speakers. These real-life neighborhood dramas required a few years of effort by your neighbors. We specifically urge you to view and hear your neighbors' and Board members views from three meetings highlighted below.

8 September 2007 Regular Board Meeting: Approval of the 25 mph speed limit for S. Arl. Ridge Rd. and S. 23rd St. – one of several changes to make these streets safer for pedestrians, schoolchildren and other residents. It represented a change in policy by the County on how it sets speed limits. Comments by neighbors and the Board are worth hearing. ARCA and AHCA positions were presented by Elizabeth Mailander and Cheryl Mendonsa, respectively. The issue begins after about an hour (so fast-forward to that point) and lasts about 56 min.

Review all the proposed cuts by going to <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ManagementAndFinance/budget/page72453.aspx> Click on: *Budget Reduction Summary by Department (FY 2010 and FY 2011)*. Of special interest to us are -

- 1) Dept of PRCR item #24: Senior Centers
- 2) Libraries item #5: Service Hour Reductions and
- 3) Police Department item #6: District Teams

elections to a district based system. Establish 4 electoral districts in Arlington, each represented by its own member of the Board, with only the Chairman elected countywide for a total of 5 members.

Mike Staples, President of the Arlington Firefighters and Paramedics Association, will speak at the March ARCA meeting. As a retired Arlington paramedic and firefighter and Arlington resident, Mr. Staples is very concerned about the current treatment of our first responders and is looking forward to asking for our support as well as answering any questions we may have regarding the proposed ballot initiative.

December 13, 2008 Board Meeting: AHCA's updated "Neighborhood Conservation Plan" – a formal statement of vision and goals for that community that is largely shared by ARCA. AHCA's Steve Wyner gives an excellent presentation on the community vision, documented in the new Plan, which was tirelessly crafted over 3 years with AHCA [and ARCA] inputs. The relevant part of the meeting begins at 1:13:45 into the meeting and lasts 47 minutes.

January 23, 2010 Board Meeting: The 5 childcare facilities along S. 23rd St. It reflects our continuing commitment to reclaim our central neighborhood roads for residents – rather than giving preference to cut-through commuters as in the past. ARCA mothers and I emphasize the "Main Street" character of S. 23rd St. and the broad range of community services along its length. What we are gradually achieving for S. 23rd St. and Ridge Rd. is a level of civility already enforced in Alexandria and Falls Church, and in most small communities I am familiar with in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic. The daycare agenda item begins at 32:50 into the meeting and lasts about 50 minutes. ARCA parents Aidan Duffy and Jo Maney speak as concerned parents, and I present ARCA's position.

Membership Dues and Volunteers Solicited

Help ARCA carry on the wonderful work of protecting and enhancing our community involving street/traffic issues, preserving community resources, and beautification projects. Please send your 2010 dues of \$20 to the Treasurer, Chuck McFadden, 2322 S. Arlington Ridge Road, VA 22202. Contact ARCA officers to volunteer.

March 2010

Upcoming Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Fixes

By Andrea Walker

Come Spring 2010, Arlington County and VDOT are to start some of ARCA's requested traffic and pedestrian safety fixes for Ridge Rd., S. 23rd St. and the I-395 ramp at Ridge Rd. As Wayne Wentz, Arlington County's Transportation Engineering & Operations Bureau Chief, described at our January meeting, the County will use \$60.5K in contributions from the developer of the Potomac Yard site for the Ridge Rd. and S. 23rd St. improvements.

Along Ridge Rd. the County will:

- Install two additional speed displays (with new signage), one southbound between 2350 and 2360 Ridge Rd, and the second northbound near 1925 Ridge Rd;
- Replace pedestrian bollards at Lang and S. 28th Sts. with ones similar to those located at S. 19th St.;
- Prepare a preliminary design (which will be shared with ARCA) to install permanent curb, gutter and sidewalk at the intersection of Ridge Rd., Oakcrest and S. 23rd Streets.

Along S. 23rd St. the County will:

- Install two new permanent speed displays, one near 745 S. 23rd St. for westbound traffic and the other near S. Lynn St. for eastbound traffic.

Crystal City: County Board Tentative Hearing Date May 22, 2010

Two more community organizations, Center for Urban Education (CUE) and The Book Club, have written to the Board expressing their concerns about the impact of the Crystal City redevelopment; their issues are similar to ones expressed previously at ARCA meetings and in newsletters—impacts from density increase, traffic congestion, air and noise pollution, and park

Community Center Proposal to be Presented at March Meeting

By Miriam Gennari

Please join us as at the ARCA meeting on 18 March 2010 to hear a top-level overview of a plan that will not only protect services threatened by the proposed budget, but expand the uses of the only facility in our area that is not privately owned. We propose a public private partnership, and we will seek commercial space to be made available to qualified approved businesses, organizations and citizens to provide workshops, tutoring, and intelligent activities to all interested members of our community, coupled with a community center that can be used to offer a

- Replace existing crosswalks at S. Grant, S. Hayes and S. Ives Streets with high-visibility laddered crosswalks and pedestrian bollards (similar to those on Ridge Rd.).
- Install a school zone sign at SOC Enterprises (750 S. 23rd St).

However, the County will *not* install a traffic light, as requested, at the intersection of Ridge Rd. and Lang St., saying that the intersection does not meet Federal traffic control requirements. See www.arcaonline.org for the County's written response.

Along the I-395 ramp prior to its intersection with Ridge Rd., VDOT promises flashing beacons (facing traffic with a blank toward Ridge), with signs attached to a warning of an "intersection ahead", and another 25 mph speed advisory. VDOT will provide the funding and the County is to install and maintain the flashing beacons. Installation is expected in April. At our November walking meeting, VDOT explained at length why they believe a stop sign here would be a disaster because it would promote even more aggressive driving plus result in increased rear-end collisions.

conservation. These two letters are posted on our website at www.arcaonline.org under Crystal City Redevelopment. The County Board is scheduled to consider advertising the Crystal City redevelopment plan on April 24, 2010. This will be followed by various commission hearings and the plan will be considered by the Board on May 22, 2010. Stay tuned.

relaxed and comfortable indoor space to our families, young adults and seniors. The current facility, combined with the old fire station, is waiting for us to put it to good use. Together we can determine the best use of our valuable asset. Community members are lining up to offer their expertise and funding. We need everyone's support to tell the County Board loud and clear that 735 18th St. S. is the center of our neighborhood and we are united in preserving, protecting and utilizing it for the good of Arlington County residents.

ARCA Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan - Survey Coming Soon!

The survey is a requisite step in the NC plan and is essential in defining the community's vision for our neighborhood. We will conduct the survey by door-to-door contacts, email and the website. Please take the time to give us your opinions. The survey covers 8 areas: Streetscape; General Neighborhood Conditions; Land Use, and Zoning; Traffic and Parking; Public Safety; Community Services, Parks and Recreation; Local Businesses; and Project Priorities. Survey results will be the basis of projects submitted for NC program funding.

Schools News

The Pyramid Concerts for Band and Orchestra, on 20 February, were a huge success.

Oakridge Elementary

Spring Fling – Sunday, 25 April, 2-6 p.m. Mark your calendar for Oakridge's annual festival, with numerous carnival rides, food, and a great silent auction. This is the biggest community event of the year! Family, friends, grandchildren, and neighbors are welcome at this community event!

Gunston Middle School

The Gunston Middle School community raised \$8,000 for relief efforts in Haiti. The money is being used to purchase 8 shelter boxes. A shelter box contains a tent and supplies to set up a household for 10. Gunston students raised the money through small fund raisers and personal efforts, like shoveling snow and doing odd jobs for teachers.

Celebrate Gunston - 19 March, 6-8 p.m. Gunston's annual community open house. All are welcome!

Silent Auction - 16 April, 6-9 p.m. Come & bid on hundreds of useful and unique items.

Reading Mentors Needed: Gunston needs volunteers to work one-on-one with students. Students read out

loud to an adult volunteer for 20 minutes. This is a very flexible program; we can place volunteers for 40 minutes to 2 hours any day between 8:15 a.m.-1:30p.m. Contact Mary Callow at 703-228-6906 or mconklin@arlington.k12.va.us

Wakefield High School

3rd Annual Golf Tournament - April 30, at Fairfax National Golf Club (Centreville, VA). The event is a 4-person scramble with various contests. ARCA resident Doug Wheeler is the honorary chairman of this year's event. The Wakefield golf tournament supports student activities & college scholarships. Wakefield supporters and alumni are invited to participate in this fun fund-raising event. Fee includes: greens fee, cart, driving range balls, a box lunch, dinner at the awards reception, and our SILENT AUCTION following the golf. Or, sponsor a hole! All sponsorships will include a hot link to your company website on the tournament website, pre- and post-event marketing, and a full color print ad in the Wakefield H.S. Fall Sports Program. Contact Paul Kealey for all Silent Auction Donations or questions at PKealey@nw.org. Contact Paul B. Greenfield with any questions or suggestions for golf sponsorships at 703.928.0228 (cell) or pbgreenfield@verizon.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ARCA MEETINGS

◆ 18 March, 7pm – ARCA bimonthly meeting at Aurora Hills Community Center (735 S. 18th Street, Arlington VA 22202)

Meeting Agenda:

- 7:00-7:30 Overview of recent activities (Chick)
- Impact of Arlington Budget Cuts: Library, Senior Center, 2nd district Police
 - NC Survey overview/kickoff
 - Community Neighborhood Alliance overview (Miriam)

Guest Speakers

- 7:30-7:55 Madge Gill, Gunston Middle School Principal
 7:55-8:20 Cathy O'Malley, Wakefield High School
 8:20-8:45 Mike Staples--Arlington Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association (APFPA)
 8:45-8:50 Final Remarks (Chick)

◆ 23-25 March - Public Budget and Tax Rate Hearings

◆ 24 April - Board Adopts Final FY2011 budget

◆ April 30 - Deadline for requests for "Free Trees", Arlington Trees 2010

◆ 20 May, 7pm – ARCA bimonthly meeting

Check www.arcaonline.org for updated event details.

Please email ARCAneighbor@gmail.com with your phone no. and email address for ARCA's membership records. Your contact information will be used for official ARCA notifications only.

ARCA Officers and Points of Contacts

President	Chick Walter	703-519-9487
Vice-President	Jeff Orner	703-836-6647
Vice-President	Andrew Smith	703-486-4224
Secretary	Kit Whitely	703-739-9515
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
ARCA History	Dick Herbst	703-892-5290
Membership	Patty Joyce	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

We would love to hear from you!

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

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