



# Arlington Ridge Civic Association

2604 South Grant Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202  
 Website: [www.arcaonline.org](http://www.arcaonline.org)

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## **Board Proposes “Snow Police” Ordinance With Possible Civil, Criminal, and Abatement Penalties**

*Chick Walter, President, ARCA*

Based on last winter’s snow experience, the County Board tasked Staff to develop a Snow Removal Ordinance applicable to sidewalks and streets abutting your residence. Failure to clear sidewalks to a width of 36 inches within specified timeframes could result in a Civil Fine [ticket], and could also cause the County to have the snow removed, then bill you. In addition, if you put snow from your property onto a public street you could be liable for Criminal Penalties applicable to a Class 4 Misdemeanor.

ARCA worked with AHCA from late 2002 to mid-2004 to address sidewalk obstructions due to overgrowth from private property, and found the existing County mechanisms for keeping sidewalks clear of obstructions throughout the year to be sadly lacking. Our primary successes were achieved outside of the normal Code Enforcement mechanisms, by appealing to high management levels in the County for special efforts. Because of our concern over the lack of County focus on clear sidewalks throughout the year, I sent an email message to the Board on May 6, excerpted here: “Arlington Ridge Civic Association would like to have... you... address the need and cost of a snow removal ordinance, when we have been unable for decades to get sidewalks cleared of year-round overgrowth under existing codes.

We remain discouraged and concerned that existing ordinances and County policies at the staff, Manager, and Board level have left many of our sidewalks compromised for decades due to overgrowth from private properties. Our understanding from Code Enforcement is that we have no effective penalties for these blockages. The sudden interest in criminal and civil penalties for snow, based on an all-time record series of snow events, seems curious given the sad record we have of trying to get effective enforcement of semi-permanent blockages.

*Continued on page 2*

## **At What Cost?**

*By Joan Quinn*

The Department of Defense’s plan to relocate offices from Crystal City may have been a spur for Arlington County to develop a visionary plan for redevelopment of the area, but aging buildings also mandated change. The draft Crystal City Sector Plan idealizes massive redevelopment, creates new zoning codes to permit the radically increased densities, denies (by ignoring) substantial negative impacts to the health, safety, and welfare of people living and working in Crystal City and neighboring communities, and proposes that Arlingtonians pay for the “public infrastructure” to accomplish this “Smart Growth” to the tune of \$90,980,000 over a 6-year period beginning with fiscal year 2011.

*Continued on page 4*

**What makes Arlington Ridge such a great place to live, work and play? You do!!**

**Come share your thoughts, meet your neighbors, and get involved in ARCA’s efforts. Join us at an upcoming meeting or event. See you soon!**

**Next ARCA Meeting: May 20, 2010 at 7 pm**

at Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Arlington VA 22202

**Featuring Guest Speaker: Anthony Fusarelli, CPHD, Planning Division (Crystal City Plan)**

Other Agenda Items: Arlington Budget Impacts & Snow Removal Referendum

## Board Proposes "Snow Police" Ordinance *Continued from page 1*

The County's response to this year's snow events appeared as problematic as that of property owners. The expectation that people should be out pushing baby carriages in the immediate aftermath of these storms seems unrealistic. We suspect a snow ordinance will be extremely troublesome and costly to implement; and we have little interest in seeing a snow ordinance absent more effective ordinances, penalties, policies, and practices to keep sidewalks clear throughout the year from all obstructions."

The Board voted to advertise the draft ordinance at its April 24 meeting, and plans to vote on an

ordinance at its June 12 meeting. In the meantime, a public meeting is planned for May 20, 7pm at 3033 Wilson Blvd, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor conference room E & F.

ARCA urges you to express your opinions on this proposed ordinance and new County bureaucracy to [countyboard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countyboard@arlingtonva.us) and to copy us at [arcaneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:arcaneighbor@gmail.com). The Staff report and proposed ordinance are available on the County's website. The SunGazette did an April 27 article, which can be viewed on their website followed by a citizen comment blog.

## Our Neighbors in Action

*By Kit Whitely, ARCA Secretary*

Our neighborhood is known for its wonderful homes, mature trees and great 23<sup>rd</sup> street restaurants but one of its hidden gems is its wonderful spirit of volunteerism. ARCA would like to recognize these hardworking neighbors by introducing this new feature to our newsletter. In it we will highlight the tireless efforts of many of our dedicated friends who exemplify this spirit of giving. If you have a volunteer you would like to recognize, please forward your write-up to [arcaneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:arcaneighbor@gmail.com).

We start with two special people who exemplify an often unsung group of "behind-the-scenes" volunteers -- Nenetta and the late Marco Amoni. In 1994, after Nenetta and Marco retired from running a large, successful catering and restaurant business, they bought a home in our neighborhood so they could spend part of the year close to their daughter and her family including their two grandsons who attended Arlington schools. Nenetta and Marco quickly became part of our community, with a growing network of friends and neighbors. As former Wakefield PTA president Sue Super says "They are the "go to" family members, friends, and neighbors who always seem to come through when we ask them for help with school programs, even at the last minute. We know we can count on them to pitch in when we need them -- or volunteer in our place when we can't -- and they'll do a great job". Nenetta and Marco provided whatever help was needed with book fairs, magazine fund raisers, school bond flyers at the polls, teacher appreciation breakfasts and lunches, cast

parties after school plays, the high school concession stand, and more. Their friendly faces were always evident at these events, and their ability to make change and do math in their heads was a marvel much appreciated. Marco, who learned Spanish when he was 60, also tutored at Oakridge and Gunston.



In April, APS honored the Amonis with the Honored Citizen award recognizing their 18-year contribution to our neighborhood schools. In her "free time" Nenetta knits for the underserved through community organizations and churches, such as the Aurora Hills Senior Center. She recently received the Aurora Highlands Senior Center Volunteer Recognition Award.

Volunteerism is integral to Nenetta's life and not limited to her activities in Arlington. After Marco's death in October, and her return for the winter to Florida, she found the time & spirit to assist in an effort to raise \$5000 needed to replace the motorized wheelchair for the condominium superintendent's handicapped son. Though Nenetta returned to Arlington before the effort was completed, she received news this week that the fundraising goal was reached and the chair was presented to the family. Thank you Nenetta, for all your efforts.

- From your friends in Arlington Ridge

### Post Office Replacement

Good news!! Concerns about the permanent loss of our Post Office have been allayed. Post Office officials are finalizing a deal to relocate the current facility at Eads and 18<sup>th</sup> Street to Fern street (Millenium building). Issues with the loading dock have been resolved. The current lease expires in Feb 2011. POC for this effort is Mr. Dennis Perry [dperry2@usps.gov](mailto:dperry2@usps.gov)

May 2010

**You Are Invited to a Membership Coffee**

*By Patty Joyce, ARCA Membership Chair*

Many thanks to our neighbors Stephanie Antosca Boright, Sue Fyffe, Miriam Gennari, Susan Hand, Ann Lane and Molly Watson who have joined me in forming an ARCA Social Committee. Our goal is to introduce social gatherings and charitable activities to our neighborhood. If you are interested in helping out on social events, or just want to be part of the fun (and, believe me, there will be fun to be had!), be certain to fill out the membership form in this newsletter and send it in with your membership check. Or, simply email [arcaneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:arcaneighbor@gmail.com) and get your email address on the neighborhood listserve. Also, please be on the lookout in the next newsletter for more information on how to help out with, or participate in, our activities.

As Lady Bird Johnson once said, "While the spirit of neighborliness was important on the frontier because neighbors were so few, it is even more important now because our neighbors are so many." We are a great bunch of people; let's get to know each other better!

One way to get started is to attend one (or more!) of the series of Membership Coffees we have organized to coincide with the annual ARCA membership drive. If you choose, you can go ahead and bring your membership form and renew at the Coffee. Coffees are scheduled from 9am-11am.

- On May 24, your hosts are Miriam Gennari and Tom Patchen, in the home of Miriam Gennari, 727 S 26<sup>th</sup> Place.
- On May 25, your hosts are Ann Lane, Molly Watson and Sue Fyffe, in the home of Ann Lane, 1036 26<sup>th</sup> Rd. S. (the eyebrow street off Ft. Scott)
- On June 11, your hosts are Elizabeth Mailander, Stephanie Antosca Boright, Susan Hand, and Patty Joyce, in the home of Elizabeth Mailander, 2012 S. Arlington Ridge Rd.

Come over, have a 'cuppa' coffee, meet your neighbors... help build a community.

**Treasurer's Report**

First, ARCA is continuing to broaden its scope and needs your support. We represent you at the County Board meetings on issues like traffic calming, Crystal City expansion, sidewalk installation, brush removal and the latest issue – the new snow removal ordinance (or what is affectionately called the "snow police"). We are also starting a new effort for community service programs. Please support ARCA by sending in \$20 in the enclosed envelope (addressed to Kit Whitely, our Secretary) as soon as you can.

Second, we are looking for a new Treasurer. Our Treasurer is in the process of selling his house on Arlington Ridge to move closer to his sail boat. We need a volunteer to take over his duties-- writing two or three checks monthly and keeping the budget straight—not a lot of work but it keeps you involved in all the issues in the neighborhood. This is a low tech operation--you don't have to be an accountant. Please contact me or Chick Walter if you are interested.

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It's time to pay dues again! Please fill in your contact information and mail with your check for \$20 payable to "**Arlington Ridge Civic Association**" in the enclosed envelope to Kit Whitely, 2729 S. Grove St. Arlington, VA 22202. Additional contributions in any amount are always appreciated.

Name(s) of Household Member(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter delivery:**     Electronic     Paper

**Special Interests:**     Social     Finance     Traffic

Beautification     NC Survey     Membership     Other \_\_\_\_\_

## At What Cost? *Continued from page 1*

Note that the developer will not bear any of the “public infrastructure” costs that are necessary to add 15 million square feet of development to Crystal City and that vastly enrich the developer's profits. Is a developer entitled to rezoning for massive redevelopment? Was his investment in Crystal City not initially predicated upon a nice return upon that investment under existing zoning—the inherent value of Crystal City's location guaranteeing the recapture of costs in upgrading and renewing building stock as well as a handsome profit?

What are some of the “public infrastructure” costs for Crystal City that the County proposes that Arlingtonians fund? Beginning in FY 2011 and continuing until FY 2016, the County estimates that \$21,250,000 will be spent on “Crystal City Street Improvements”. These include road realignments (read loss of existing park space) and new traffic patterns including related signage and striping and updated traffic signals. Also covered in this estimate are bike lanes, utility undergrounding, “clear zone sidewalks and crosswalks”, streetlights, trees, and transit shelters. The County hopes to secure \$18,000,000 of the cost of transportation improvements from the Federal government!

Although the County-sanctioned traffic studies concluded that there would be no traffic impacts due to the increases in density, we do not believe the City envisioned in the vision plan can be accomplished without extensive and formidable traffic impacts. The only limits to Smart Growth are those imposed by the infrastructure. Traffic is an infrastructure breakpoint. At present, traffic access to Crystal City—the METRO, U.S. 1, I-395, and VRE commuter rail service—are at capacity or near capacity. Development initiatives along the U.S. 1 corridor underway guarantee even greater congestion. The traffic generated by this ongoing development has been ignored in the planning for

traffic abatement and control in Crystal City. In addition, the thousands of new office seekers and others envisioned for Crystal City are expected to arrive by Metro, bus, bike, foot, or streetcar rather than by automobile although massive numbers of new parking spaces are planned for the complex. How will those cars reach Crystal City?

And how does a proposed streetcar manage to solve the traffic congestion problem in Crystal City? The County proposes that streetcar transit will be adequate to answer traffic issues within Crystal City, i.e., a Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway designed to “extend the reach of the regional transit services to development throughout the neighborhood.” It is certain that the Crystal City vision cannot go forward without some sort of traffic solution. Is the streetcar transitway a sufficient solution to traffic issues that transcend Crystal City and are worsened by the development proposed in Crystal City? The capital expenses for the Crystal City Potomac Yard Streetcar are estimated at \$69,480,000 over the 6-year funding cycle. Are Arlingtonians prepared to pay so heavily for a debatable traffic management plan?

Finally the County proposes that \$250,000 be spent for Crystal City parks and open space in fiscal year 2015. What sort of quality of life for the denizens of Crystal City does this envision? Are Arlingtonians prepared to pay the infrastructure costs for this massive redevelopment?

What are the true costs—those already incurred, those proposed, and those likely but unaddressed in the vision plan—of the Crystal City redevelopment plan in terms of its scale and impacts upon our community as well as upon all Arlington taxpayers? If you are concerned about the above issues or have other questions about the Crystal City vision plan, come to the next Arlington Ridge civic association meeting to discuss them with Anthony Fusarelli, Arlington County Urban Planner for Crystal City.

## Neighborhood Conservation Plan Survey - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Members of ARCA are currently in the process of revising our draft NC Plan survey. Though the County approved the survey in its current form, feedback from the community suggests that the survey is too long, so we are working to consolidate.

For ease of tabulating results, we anticipate having an online version of the survey in addition to hard-copy questionnaires, which will be delivered door-to-door. For those of you in the neighborhood who have Internet access and feel comfortable taking the

survey on your computer, we encourage you to do so. It will save ARCA members who are aggregating survey results a great deal of time at the end of the process.

If you would like to help in either the streamlining effort or are interested in volunteering to conduct the survey, please contact us at [arcaneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:arcaneighbor@gmail.com).

May 2010

## Schools News

By Kathie Laird

### Oakridge Elementary

Thanks to the community, neighbors, and numerous restaurants for their support of our annual Spring Fling in April. It was an excellent and successful event!

HUGE thanks to our neighborhood volunteer tutors for their commitment to tutoring a child. This year's tutoring is complete, but volunteers are needed to work with a child after school once or twice each week in the fall.

### Gunston Middle School

In observance of Earth Day, Gunston students cleaned up the stream that flows through Troy Park, near the school. The students picked up and classified trash with the help of a teacher and an Arlington County Park Ranger. In total, 10 pounds of recyclable materials, 20 pounds of trash and 80 pounds of scrap metal were collected.

### Wakefield High School

Congratulations to 2 WHS students (and ARCA/AHCA residents) on their acceptance to highly selective summer programs. One will go to the 2010 Governor's School (for German Language). She has also just won a Goethe Prize (for German composition) from the Goethe Institute. Another was accepted to the Summer Leadership Seminar at the United States Military Academy, West Point. The SLS program will expose him to life at West Point and is a key step in his pursuit of an appointment to West Point.

## 2011 Arlington County Budget

The Arlington County Board approved the Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. A \$955.9 million General Fund budget was adopted. The total budget, which includes appropriations to the Arlington Public Schools, as well as Utility Fund and other self-supported funds, is \$1.2 billion.

Due to the combination of increases in real estate/sanitary district tax, real estate assessments, and water/sewer and refuse rates, the average household tax burden is expected to rise by \$346—a 5.7% increase. Fees for motor vehicle licensing and some parking violations have also been raised.

The good news is that our community associations were heard and key areas slated for cuts or eliminations were restored, including the Aurora Hills Senior Center program and our 2<sup>nd</sup> district police team. Thanks to all who took time to get engaged,

Wakefield social studies and history teacher Colette Fraley has been named the Arlington Public Schools 2010 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Fraley has a Master's degree from the University of Virginia, and is currently the social studies department chair at Wakefield.

Spring Concerts - The Wakefield Orchestra and Choirs will perform a spring concert on Wednesday, 2 June, at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium. This will be a special performance, with a WHS student who has performed solo recitals on The Millennium Stage as a guest performer in J.S. Bach's Oboe and Violin Concerto. The Band and Jazz Band will perform a concert on Wed., 3 June, at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

On 27 April the County Board unanimously approved a use permit for construction to rebuild Wakefield High School. Funding and timing remain undecided, so this is a critical time for residents to make their support known for 2010 bond funding. Timeline:

May 25 - County Board Public Hearing

June 12 - County Board will adopt the CIP

July 10 - County Board will adopt the Nov. 2010 Bond referenda

Both ARCA & AHCA have written letters in support of putting Wakefield into this bond cycle

<http://www.arcaonline.org/docs/ARCAwakefieldbond042110.pdf>. Your voice can make a difference.

Contact the Arlington County Board

([countyboard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countyboard@arlingtonva.us) or 703-228-3130) or

School Board ([schoolbd@arlington.k12.va.us](mailto:schoolbd@arlington.k12.va.us) or 703-228-6015)

show support, send letters and speak at the Board meetings in March.

Funding was restored for:

- Fire Department - Support for 2<sup>nd</sup> heavy rescue unit.
- Libraries - Sunday hours at the Central Library. The Aurora Hills Library is still slated to close 1 additional day a week. The proposed day for closing is Tuesday, when the library is currently open 1 pm to 9 pm. Some funding for library materials, including periodicals was restored.
- Police Department - Continue district teams
- Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources – Directors' positions for the Lee Senior Center and the Aurora Hills Senior Centers.
- Sheriff Department - 2 of 5 cut positions were restored.

## Other News

### Arlington Tree Distribution program

ARCA received 41 trees in this year's program. Trees included Sweetbay magnolia, River birch, Swamp white oak and American sycamore. Arlington County uses this program to promote greening of the community's neighborhoods and enhancement of Arlington's tree canopy through the distribution of these trees. Thanks to all residents who participated! Recipients will be contacted individually with details of tree pickup--current plan is May 15, 2010.

### Community Center

Thanks to all of you for taking the time to fill out the survey. We received 205 responses and they are now being tallied. We will report at the July meeting on the results and will also post the results on the website.

### Sidewalk "Missing Links"

The County's Missing Links program helps to complete sidewalks in residential blocks where just a few properties in a block may lack sidewalks and/or gutters. AHCA's Bruce Cameron has used the program with excellent results in the older parts of the neighborhood between S. 16th and S. 23rd Streets, where sidewalks are often discontinuous or nonexistent. In April, ARCA submitted the following

missing link requests (in priority order):

- 1) Sidewalk along Ft. Scott at Eads Park [joint request with AHCA]
- 2) Curbs, gutters, and sidewalk completion on S. Kent between 17th & 18th.
- 3) Sidewalks in front of 1125, 1121, and 1115 S. 18th St. We should receive a decision this summer. If you wish ARCA to submit a missing links request, contact Michael Reamy at mreamy3@comcast.net.

### Police Update

Crime is down in our neighborhood but the police remind us to be vigilant about locking our doors and reporting suspicious activity. They also suggest we record serial numbers of TVs, computers etc. as sometimes they are pawned and with the ID there is a chance they could be returned.

Captain Berke, our second District Police Commander, has completed his three year term and will move on to command the Vice and Narcotics section of ACPD. Acting command of 2D will be assumed by Lt. Reiten, (703) 228-4327, or at dreiten@arlingtonva.us. Sgt. Rizik and the rest of the Second District Community Policing Team will remain. Our thanks to Capt. Berke for his support and we look forward to working with Lt. Reiten.

## UPCOMING EVENTS/ARCA MEETINGS

◆ 20 May, 7pm – ARCA bimonthly meeting at Aurora Hills Community Center (735 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Arlington VA)

### Meeting Agenda:

- Opening Remarks/Status Update—20 minutes
- Guest Speaker: Anthony Fusarelli, CPHD, Planning Division (Crystal City Plan)—15 minutes/20 minutes Q&A
- Report out on Arlington Budget Impacts—5 minutes
- Snow Removal Referendum—10 minutes
- Open Discussion—30 minutes

◆ 24 & 25 May, and 11 June – ARCA Membership Coffee (see page 3 for details)

◆ 24 May, 6:30-9:00pm 1st Annual Schools Sustainability Summit at the Aurora Hills Community Center. RSVP to Miriam Gennari (miriam@metromakeover.com)

◆ 25 May – County Board Public Hearing: School Bond (see page 5 for details)

◆ 5 Jun, 9am-1pm – Aurora Hills Senior Center Trash & Treasure Sale

◆ 28 Jun, 7pm – Planning Commission: Crystal City at County Board Room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

◆ 10 Jul, 7pm – County Board Meeting: Adoption of the Nov. 2010 Bond referenda; Crystal City Development

◆ 15 July, 7pm – ARCA bimonthly meeting

**Check [www.arcaonline.org](http://www.arcaonline.org) for updated event details.**

**Please email [ARCAnighbor@gmail.com](mailto:ARCAnighbor@gmail.com) with your phone no. and email address to be used for ARCA's membership records & 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:

Ms. Sonali Soneji

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