



Arlington Ridge Civic Association

2604 South Grant Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202

Website: www.arcaonline.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- ◆ *Please Take the NC Survey*
- ◆ *Crystal City Citizen's Review Council (C3RC)*

Page 2

- ◆ *Mini Survey #2 Results*
- ◆ *New Density and Zoning Proposed at Pen Place*
- ◆ *Forming a Local Moms Group*

Page 3

- ◆ *School Update*
- ◆ *President's Message*
- ◆ *Treasurer's Report*

Page 4

- ◆ *Update on 15% Design Plan and Other Fixes for Ridge Rd and 23rd St.*
- ◆ *ARCA Meetings/ Upcoming Events*
- ◆ *ARCA Points of Contact*

Save \$ and Trees!

Our 2011 goal is to increase electronic-only delivery of the ARCA newsletter. If you can forgo the paper copy, please sign up to receive the newsletter by email by sending your name, home address and email address to arcaneighbor@gmail.com

Please Take the NC Survey at www.arcaonline.org/survey

We know you have been waiting for this day for more than a year! We are finally ready to start the community survey for the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) plan. Each adult ARCA resident is requested to take the neighborhood opinion survey online (preferred) or complete a paper survey **by March 1, 2011**. More information is attached with the paper survey. If you do not receive a paper survey, or have questions, contact Sonali Soneji at sonalisoneji@gmail.com or 703-867-6042.

Crystal City Citizens' Review Council

The Crystal City Citizens' Review Council (C3RC) is being established by the County Board to ensure citizen involvement in the implementation phase of Crystal City redevelopment. The charge was crafted to focus on monitoring accomplishment of the sector plan's goals and objectives, leaving the door open to modification of the plan details as analysis indicates adjustments are necessary. This nineteen-person council will have seven seats for community representatives: two each from ARCA and AHCA and three from Crystal City. In the coming year, the C3RC will establish benchmarking "measures of progress" for the area that includes Crystal City. Metrics, such as traffic congestion, school enrollment and crime levels will be assessed every two years for the next several decades to ensure that our unique community remains a friendly front-porch neighborhood with extraordinary access to the surrounding city. A traffic monitoring program will be instituted in 2011 to provide a baseline for traffic analyses. In addition, C3RC will be developing additional design guidelines for the areas abutting our single-family neighborhood. Two S. Eads St. locations are slated for redevelopment this year (current Post Office site at 18th St. and the ART bus terminal) and will receive the initial focus.

To ensure our representatives will be able to articulate our citizens' views, ARCA will also constitute a C3RC support team representing both expertise and neighborhood demographics. This standing team will help coordinate ARCA's input to C3RC including recommendations for tracking metrics; review of design proposals; implementation assessments; and the community's requirements for additional urban guidelines. The latter will be determined in part from the results of the upcoming neighborhood survey.

We thank all C3RC volunteers. Nominations for ARCA reps based on that list have been submitted, and final selections will be announced by the County on 25 Jan. We still need more volunteers for the support team. If you are worried about traffic impacts, noise, crime or what a revitalized Eads Street will look like, this is your chance to help. We fought hard to get this chance to ensure that neighborhood views are heard throughout the lifetime of the CC development. If you are concerned that original intentions are lost as projects develop, this is your chance to be a decision-maker in the process. This independent citizen assessment team for a major development is a new organizational concept for Arlington and could set a precedent for future development efforts. Please help ensure ARCA has a role in this evolution of citizen involvement.

Next ARCA Meeting: January 20, 2011 at 7 pm

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

Agenda will include: Neighborhood Opinion Survey & NC Plan; Crystal City Citizen Review Council team; Pen Place proposal; Community Center Long Range Plan;

ARCA Mini Survey #2: How do your household members commute to work?

ARCA's second mini-survey was conducted in December 2010 using our listserve to gather data on work commutes of residents. Residents were asked how many days they used the different travel modes available in our area for work commutes: driving alone, Metrorail, bus, carpool/vanpool, bicycle, walk, or telework. Responses were received from 73 households with information on 94 residents. Results show that ARCA residents drove alone to work half the days worked, used Metrorail about 25% of days worked and teleworked approximately 8% of days worked.

It is interesting to note that many residents (30%) used different primary travel modes on different days of the week for their work commutes. It can also be assumed that workers used more than one travel mode in a day, since those using Metrorail would need to walk or take a bus to the station or those who teleworked may make a work-related trip during the

day. Many of our residents seem to work non-traditional weeks (i.e. more or less than 5 days/week) and almost 40% of responses were received for persons who were retired or did not work outside the house. While these respondents do not travel to work, they probably make more trips in a day than workers.

While this was not a scientifically conducted survey, the responses give us a good idea of the transportation needs and attitudes in the area. The responses also help us prepare for the survey effort to be launched this month for the Neighborhood Conservation Plan. Satisfaction with the transportation system plays a big role in our quality of life, and the numerous travel options available in our area help to meet the diverse needs of ARCA residents. Travel options for trips at all hours of the day and a range of destinations will need to be evaluated as we try to improve the standard of living in our area.

New Density and Zoning Proposed at Pen Place

The developer, Vornado, has asked the County to approve 4 office buildings on the last undeveloped land in Pentagon City—currently zoned and approved for 930 residential units and 582 hotel units. Vornado would transfer the 930 residential units rights to the MetPark parcel it owns just to the South – a transfer approved by the County in July 2009. Thus the office buildings require approval of new density and zoning for the Pentagon City tract, covered by the 1976 Phased Development Site Plan.

Vornado and County officials at our November meeting had little to add to the proposal, submitted in September 2010. County rep Natalie Sun explained that the County will be using the Long Range Planning Committee (subgroup to Planning Commission) to provide the citizen review. Over a series of three meetings, beginning this month, the group will assess impact of the proposed land use change from hotel/residential to hotel/office as well as the

proposed density increase. Chick Walter and Don Clarke will participate for ARCA. Site Plan meetings will follow in the spring with a full Planning Commission and then County Board review in fall/winter of 2011. See pg. 4 for the latest LRPC meeting dates.

ARCA has been active in Pentagon City planning since the 1970s, and residents have concerns over potential negative impacts on traffic, transit, crime and the environment by adding density and departing from the zoned residential character that was planned here. There is also concern about the legal precedents that may be set for other future developments by allowing new density in the manner proposed. Read about history and community concerns on this issue in the AHCA newsletter at http://aurorahighlands.org/_Media/news2011_01.pdf.

See your neighbors' comments about the Pen Place project on ARCA's website under "Breaking News" at www.arcaonline.org

Forming a Local Moms Group

By Regina Meeks

Calling all moms in the Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highlands neighborhoods: After moving into the area, I've been unable to find a local group for moms beyond the PTA. So, please join me to start one. This group will be for all moms, no matter the grade or age of your children, or if you are a working or stay-at-home mom. The success of the group will depend on

the activity level and expectations of each person. If you are interested, please join me on February 11, at 6:30 pm. Bring a snack or beverage to share if you wish, and we'll discuss how the group would work. Please email me at reginameeks@gmail.com for the location, as well as any questions/input. I look forward to meeting you!

January 2011

School Update

By Kathie Laird

5 Feb, 12:00 pm - Saturday String Fling (formerly known as the Pyramid Orchestra Concert) in the Wakefield Auditorium; All South Arlington schools--elementary through high school--will participate. The concert is free and open to the public.

Wakefield High School

Jose Flores Valverde (Bucknell University) and Celena Madlansacay (Pepperdine University) have been awarded full-tuition, four-year Posse Scholarships.

Gunston Middle School

Kudos on the following awards: 10 students selected for honors band and honors orchestra; 18 eighth graders won a competition to write a novel in a month; and Scholastic Art Competition awards (8 gold keys, a silver key, and 3 honorable mentions).

President's Message: Maintaining A Residential Oasis Amid Development and Change

By Chick Walter

Our Civic Association's stated purpose is "...to promote the general welfare, safety, and civic spirit of the community...its environs, and the County..." In the nine years that I have volunteered, ARCA has sustained a steady effort at improving pedestrian and resident safety through sidewalk construction and clearing, improved traffic controls, and marked pedestrian crossings. Other focused efforts have dealt with perceived threats to community tranquility and services. The attempt to impose a money-losing baseball stadium on our area incited the largest spontaneous outpouring of citizen involvement I have witnessed--in ARCA, Aurora Highlands, and County-wide. We have also worked to save our library/community center, add daycares, and preserve single-family zoning. Most recently, we struggled to have our voice heard in the County Board's steady march toward increased density in Crystal City and elsewhere in the County.

In 2011, we face challenges on many fronts. Completing the design improvements for the 23rd/Arl Ridge/Oakcrest intersection; supporting creation of the Aurora Hills Facility Master Plan; preparing for implementation phase of Crystal City redevelopment;

The gold and silver key winners' work will be displayed at the Arlington Central Library. Gold key projects will go on to the national competition in New York.

Gunston TV has been chosen as a finalist in the Signature Theater Silent Film Contest. The student film, "True Love at Last," was selected as one of 5 finalists competing against adult filmmakers! Check out the film on the Network 21 blog: <http://gunstontv.blogspot.com/?1563Nav=|&NodeID=4121>. Congratulations to Mr. Costner & Gunston's eighth grade participants!

Oakridge Elementary School

17 Mar - New principal, Dr. Lynne Wright, and her assistant will be guest speakers at the ARCA meeting.

analyzing the newly submitted developer proposal to add density and change zoning for the last undeveloped parcel in Pentagon City; and conducting our first comprehensive neighborhood opinion survey in 14 years as well as writing our Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

ARCA Needs Volunteers

To accomplish these activities, the Association needs neighbors who can devote their time and effort to a myriad of activities. We need people to analyze and monitor County and developers' planning processes, to monitor the Board's Advisory Commissions for Transportation, Planning and Housing and to participate in the newly formed Crystal City Citizens Review Council (C3RC) and its supporting ARCA team. As our by-laws set 2-year term limits, our entire slate of officers will be up for election in July 2011. We will need folks willing to assume these officer positions and take on key aspects of running the machinery of the Association. So if you are interested in getting involved in any capacity, please contact us at arcaneighbor@gmail.com, or call me [703-519-9487] directly to discuss your interests.

Treasurer's Report

By Renee Messalle

For 2010, ARCA collected \$5,818 in dues. Thanks to all contributors!! About 40% of the expenses went toward 5 newsletters and the ARCA website. ARCA also paid for Hume School clean-ups, grass cutting by I-395, the Halloween Parade, 'Passport to Summer' at the Library, a Wakefield Senior Cruise donation, membership coffees, and the annual civic association dues. In 2011, we hope to increase the number of homes that receive our newsletters electronically, and redesign our budget to let us react more quickly to arising issues.

Update of "15% Design Plan" and Other Fixes for Ridge Rd and 23rd St

By Andrea Walker, ARCA Traffic Control/Pedestrian Safety Coordinator

On December 22, neighbors and ARCA officials met with County staff to "walk" the changes the County made to the "15% design plan" for the intersection of Ridge and 23rd. These changes were based on comments that you provided last fall.

Sidewalk at SW corner of Ridge and 23rd: Making this sidewalk pedestrian-friendly has been a long struggle. The County says it can do little because of right-of-way constraints. Given continuing neighborhood concern, County staff agreed to take another look at alternatives neighbors proposed.

Supplemental Advisory Traffic Signal at Oakcrest: This traffic signal at NE corner of Oakcrest and Ridge will be synchronized with the traffic light at Ridge, and should help ensure that northbound traffic on Ridge stops at the "stop here" sign, i.e., before the intersection with Oakcrest, says County staff.

Realignment of Meade & Ridge: to create a "T" intersection and constructing curb, gutter, sidewalk and plantings with buffer areas will stop errant Ridge traffic coming onto Meade. The current entry to Meade further south on Ridge will be adjusted and better defined.

Some neighbors noted the complication in their driveway exit. County staff noted the resultant slowing of traffic and improved pedestrian access. See www.arcaonline.org/docs/15_Arlington_Ridge_Plan.pdf.

Bus pull-off at NE corner of Ridge: Elimination of the bus pull-off area will shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians, provide better visibility, wider sidewalk and better Metro access, says County staff. (Metro buses run along this route between 6:30 and 8:30 AM.)
Sidewalk on north side of 23rd St. from Ridge to Nash: will be upgraded, made ADA accessible, and curb and gutter will be added. No permanent easements will be necessary. Parking will be retained. Staff recommended that continuation of curb, gutter and sidewalk to Army/Navy Dr be addressed in the upcoming ARCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

Other enhancements to 23rd St as of 12/23/10: New laddered crosswalks and bollards for 23rd St. at Hayes and Ives have been installed; the handicap ramp and other drainage improvements for S. Grant and 23rd Sts. are under design; and County staff continues to work with Dominion Power for the power supply to the speed indicators.

ARCA MEETINGS/ UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ 20 Jan, 7pm – ARCA bimonthly meeting at Aurora Hills Community Center (735 S. 18th Street, Arlington VA)
Meeting Agenda to include:
 - Neighborhood Survey and NC Plan vision
 - Crystal City Citizen Review Council team
 - * Edge Development team
 - * Traffic studies team
 - * Other impacts and tasks
 - Pentagon City/Pen Place proposal
 - Community Center Long Range Plan
 - 2011 budget, elections, meeting schedule
- ◆ 23 Jan, 8 pm (7 pm social) – Edgar Allen Poe Birthday Celebration at Aurora Hills Community Center
- ◆ 25 Jan, 3 pm – County Board Session: CCCRC reps announced
- ◆ 27 Jan, 7 pm – LRPC Pen Place @ 2100 Clarendon Blvd,
- ◆ 5 Feb, 12 pm – String Fling @ Wakefield High
- ◆ 17 Feb, 7 pm – LRPC Pen Place @ 2100 Clarendon Blvd,
- ◆ 17 Mar, 7pm – ARCA bimonthly meeting

Check www.arcaonline.org for updated event details.

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

ARCA Officers and Points of Contacts

President	Chick Walter	703-519-9487
Vice-President	Andrew Smith	703-486-4224
Secretary	Kit Whitely	703-739-9515
Treasurer	Renee Messalle	703-931-4842
Traffic Control	Andrea Walker	703-838-6244
Crystal City Dev.	Joan Quinn	703-892-5050
	Nancy Swain	703-684-7830
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

Email: sonali_soneji@post.harvard.edu

Ph: 703-867-6042

Please email your phone no. and email address to ARCAnighbor@gmail.com for ARCA's membership