

November 1, 2011

Dear Neighbors,

As I draft my first article for our newsletter, I find it important to acknowledge the great work done by our prior leadership team. I can tell you, this is not an easy job. It requires time, swift thinking and a balanced perspective. It is so clear that Chick Walter, Kit Whitely, Renee Messalle and Andrew Smith provided so much benefit for our community. Will you please join me in thanking them again for everything they have done to stage our success going forward?

I'd also like to thank the membership of ARCA for voting in our recommended by law changes in September. Because of this important consensus, we now have ten members on the Executive Committee. This provides us with more diversity in our ability to represent your views, but also should lighten "the load" borne by each of your volunteers. We keep looking for that day, but the activity level with County initiatives has been high! Plus, we have our own priorities for which we are working to provide results.

As it relates to the County, you will find more information in the newsletter regarding these initiatives. We have assigned ownership for all of these so you can count on having an ARCA representative close to the situation. All of it is important as it relates to the future health of our community measured by property values. I bet that is something that all of us care about! And we all know that values are driven by "livability" - can we commute efficiently, can we send our kids to well-rated public schools and do we have adequate public services to absorb anticipated growth? I hope you agree that these are important attributes.

As for our priorities, we have several, not many. In this case, less is more and we are really focused on initiating and finalizing several important initiatives. To start, the Neighborhood Conservation Plan will be finalized and submitted to the County. Did you know that this is the vehicle by which we are granted funds to fix / improve things in our neighborhood? Do you live on a street that has missing links of sidewalks, or need improved lighting? So you can see that this is important for that punch line - property values. Secondly, we have begun to form the committee that will lead a thorough review of our bylaws and recommended revisions. This has not been done for many years and we believe it's important to review them for recommended updates. Perhaps we need to create the ability for electronic voting? Thirdly, we have begun the work to update our communication methodologies. The goal here is to make it more meaningful to you in a way that minimizes your time in staying current. After all, if you don't stay current and speak up regarding your needs and desires, how can we be as effective as needed? Lastly, we really do hope to make this fun. We have such a wonderful community already in so many ways, but are there things that we could be doing to have even more fun while creating an environment where we attract attention from our surrounding communities and the region? How fantastic would it be if the buzz became, "Did you hear what those folks in ARCA are doing? Wow!" Talk about the power of boosting property values!

Well, that's all for now. A sincere thank you for everything you do in this wonderful neighborhood!

Katie