



Arlington Ridge Civic Association

2604 South Grant Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202

Website: www.arcaonline.org

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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

Survey Lays Solid Foundation for NC Plan

The 2011 Neighborhood Opinion survey has had an excellent response rate – more than enough to satisfy the County that this is a valid survey that represents the neighborhood. The option of taking the survey either online or on paper, as well as outreach to make neighbors aware of the survey, were the keys to this success. As of the March 1 deadline, we had about 420 responses. Most were received online, and volunteers entered the 70 paper surveys we received. While the majority of responses were from single-family houses and townhomes, 65 respondents were from multi-family high-rise households.

The 2011 survey provides a statistically reliable basis for updating our Neighborhood Conservation Plan - characterizing our neighborhood's vision, what we value, and what we perceive our problems to be. Comments provided will help us to isolate localized problems, as well as illustrate widespread issues. We also have enough responses to analyze any difference in opinions of single family versus high-rise residents. Final statistics will be posted on our website soon, but preliminary highlights are provided here.

Respondent Demographics: Nearly 10% of respondents had lived here only a year, and about a third had been here 5 years or less. We will compare this to the 2010 Census data to see how well our survey respondents represent the neighborhood.

The Good News: Neighbors like living in here because it is an "Oasis near big city" [187 responses], "Near work" [126], and "Walkable neighborhood" [102]. About 90% of respondents agreed we live in a safe neighborhood. About 80% felt Police, Fire and Rescue have been adequately responsive, and 19% had no opinion.

The most appreciated community services (rated "Good") were: Trash collection [87%]; Curbside recycling [83%]; Water/sewage [76%]; Leaf collection [65%]; Street cleaning [58%]; and Park maintenance [57%]

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Aurora Hills Community Center—Planning For the Future

By Andrea Walker

The Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA), with ARCA support, has developed a partnership with the County to open the community center to everyone, not just seniors. The County will continue to fund the Senior Program on MWF from 10-3PM, and the community will supply the time and energy for classes, workshops, clubs and groups that meet at the center at other times. AHCA's "Passport to Summer" program was one product of that effort. AHCA then expanded that effort by requesting that the County create a plan for making needed improvements to the facility.

The dialogue has started. On January 10th, County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman, County Manager Barbara Donnellan, and Senior County Staff met with AHCA, ARCA, and Senior Program representatives to hear our thoughts about improving the community center and make that space more useful for the community.

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Next ARCA Meeting: March 17, 2011 at 7 pm

6:30pm - Meet and Greet with Oakridge Principal and Asst. Principal

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

Agenda includes: Neighborhood Opinion Survey Results & Next Steps for the NC Plan

Survey Lays Solid Foundation for NC Plan *Continued from page 1*

Widespread Problem – Traffic: A strong majority of respondents saw problems with: Speeding [75%]; Cut through traffic [69%]; High volume traffic [65%]; and Dangerous intersection/stretch of road [65%]. This suggests that the current traffic in the neighborhood is already at a problematic level, even before the dramatic density growth we expect to our north, east and south. This perception is unchanged from our 1997 survey, in spite of the many traffic and pedestrian improvements installed in recent years.

212 respondents cited specific streets/intersections meriting added traffic control and pedestrian safety measures. 49% disagreed that pedestrian crossings are adequate and safe, while 42% felt they were. The top concern about new development around the neighborhood was Traffic [68%]. The top response on where to place emphasis on improvement projects was Traffic Control/Pedestrian Safety [225 respondents], followed by Community Center [200], Sidewalks [179], and Street Lighting [173].

The lowest rated Community Service was Speed Limit Enforcement, which also drew the highest number of responses for suggested improvements.

Other Significant Problems, Some in Confined Areas: Many other issues were cited at a lower, but significant response rate. Some of these are area-specific, like drainage and parking issues. As we are able to present more statistics and specific comments, these areas will become clearer and more actionable.

Pen Place Update

By Joan Quinn

The 1,809,000 square feet of office space proposed for Pen Place (Army Navy Drive & Eads St.) is 1,809,000 square feet of fancy. No such density for office space exists in Pentagon City under the existing Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP). That PDSP has guided and controlled the mixed-use development in the area since 1976 and helped to mitigate the effects of development upon neighboring residential communities as well as protect those communities from some of the worst impacts of over-development.

Office space under the PDSP has been exhausted. In order to build the office buildings proposed, Vornado wants density transferred from the North Tract in Crystal City to Pentagon City Land Parcel 1D, thereby creating a sufficient density allowance to accommodate his proposed office buildings. This should not be permitted: it sets a precedent for eliminating all existing density limits and controls in Pentagon City; it allows for additional construction of

Large Number of Volunteers for Plan Bodes Well for ARCA's Future: About 70 respondents expressed interest in helping prepare the Neighborhood Conservation Plan. We also have 11 volunteers to support the Crystal City Citizen's Review Committee. It is wonderful that so many of our members will be interested and involved in ARCA's major initiatives in coming months. In July, when we must elect a new slate of officers, we will have good support to carry on the machinery of running ARCA.

Next Steps: A summary analysis of survey statistics and comments will be presented at the March meeting, and posted on the ARCA website. Discussion of the analysis and the drafts of the various sections of the NC Plan will be presented online as well as in meetings. Neighbors interested in the NC Plan who have provided an email address will be invited to join a GoogleGroup (by March 31) where we can post comments and have open conversations. Neighbors can opt out of the GoogleGroup, but still stay informed through occasional updates circulated on the ARCAneighbor listserv or the ARCA website. Neighbors can attend the working meetings (watch for notice through email or on the website). We will need leaders for work groups drafting a particular topic. Let us know your particular interests. Our first working meeting will be on April 21, 2011 at the Aurora Hills Community Center.

Thanks for making the 2011 NC survey effort a huge success. We hope you will continue to support the NC plan and other ARCA activities.

the most harmful of building-types--office space--the type that generates the greatest amount of traffic; this in an area already overwhelmed with traffic. (The new buildings propose to incorporate more than 2,200 parking spaces.) And the Pentagon City Metro is struggling to handle existing capacity.

Both ARCA and AHCA have passed resolutions that development should stay within the parameters of the PDSP. ARCA opposed the changes not only because the proposal allowed for the transfer of density into the Pentagon City tract, but also because of the additional traffic and air pollution that would result from the construction of 4 additional office buildings.

If we cannot count on long-standing plans for Pentagon City, how can we expect the same developer to respect the Crystal City Sector Plan? Stay tuned for future developments--and let your views be known.

March 2011

School Update

By Kathie Laird

17 March, 6:30 pm - Meet the new Oakridge Principal, Dr. Lynne Wright, and Assistant Principal, Linda Kelleher, during the 6:30-7:00 p.m. meet-and-greet period before the ARCA meeting. Parents of prospective students are especially encouraged to attend.

Oakridge

5 April, 7 p.m. - PTA meeting, with School Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy and School Board Chair Libby Garvey to discuss such topics as capacity and budget issues. Please join us.

22 May, 2-6 p.m. - Oakridge's Annual Spring Fling Carnival and Silent Auction. Mark your family calendar for this terrific neighborhood event that directly supports our neighborhood school! Our goal this year is to make the carnival portion of Spring Fling affordable to all neighborhood children. To do this we need sponsorships. Community support is always welcome. To make a cash donation to sponsor the carnival or to contribute an item to the silent auction, please contact Molly Watson at Mollyswatson@gmail.com.

School Capacity - Oakridge Elementary is among the fastest growing schools in Arlington County and is predicted to be among the most overcrowded. The Oakridge PTA is forming a committee to review the impact on our school and summarize the county data for our community. Contact Oakridgepta@gmail.com or MollySwatson@gmail.com to participate.

Gunston

12 March, 7 p.m. - Gunston students perform "A Midsummer's Night's Dream" in the Gunston Theater.

31 March, 7 p.m. - Gunston staff vs Jefferson staff in a March Madness basketball game, at Wakefield.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in advance from the Gunston office.

9 April, 7 p.m. - Gunston's Silent Auction, at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. All are welcome.

Wakefield

9 April, 9 a.m. - The Run for Wakefield 5k (Run/Walk) - Support the Wakefield Foundation Scholarship Fund and get some exercise on this fun, annual event. Starts at the junction of the Bluemont & W&OD Trails. \$25 registration fee. For further information, see: www.runpacers.com (click on "events" and then "community races").

Students and teachers in the Wakefield Music programs will compete in a music competition in New York City, 7-10 April.

7 May - The 4th Annual Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Wakefield Booster Club and the Wakefield H. S. Education Foundation (formally the Alumni Association), to benefit scholarships and student activities. Paul Ferguson, Wakefield Hall of Famer (Class of '83), will be the Honorary Chair. More info at: <http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/17595-WakefieldHSBoosterClub4thAnnualG/>

Wakefield's re-building project is due to begin this summer. The current building will remain in use until the new building is completed, in 2013. This summer the English wing will be demolished; those classes will be redistributed in the current building. For further information, check the Design and Construction link on the APS homepage (click on About Us, then Departments, then Design and Construction):

<http://www.apsva.us/1540108285711560/blank/browse.asp?a=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=55009&1540108285711560Nav=|3967|&NodeID=3967>.

ARCA Needs Your Help

Would you like to be involved in getting to know your neighbors better, and growing ARCA at the same time? You don't have to make an extensive time commitment; we will welcome anyone with any little bit of time or expertise to offer. If you would like to be involved, or if you simply would like to be notified about social events, please email ARCAnighbor@gmail.com and let us know of your interest.

ARCA thanks all of you who have volunteered already.

Wanted: HTML and CSS skills to assist in the upkeep of the ARCA website

If you have basic HTML skills, you can help our webmaster by updating the website with new content. This is a good resume-builder for a high-school student looking to demonstrate their programming skills!

We are also looking for someone with WordPress development skills to help upgrade the website.

If you can help, please email ARCAnighbor@gmail.com with a summary of your skills.

Aurora Hills Community Center—Planning For the Future *Continued from page 1*

While major structural items would have to compete for funds in the County's next Capital Improvement Plan cycle, low cost, short term fixes are a possibility.

In a follow-up meeting on Feb 22, the County staff toured the facility with AHCA, ARCA and Senior Program representatives, making many suggestions for improvements, not all of which can be funded immediately. They asked for input on which improvements we'd like to see in the near-term.

No decisions were made at the meeting, but there was a general consensus that the lobby should be renovated and turned into a more inviting space, that WIFI should be extended from the library into the community center and that it should reach the plaza area in front of the building. It was also agreed that the facility would benefit from a general refresh (paint, rug and perhaps furniture).

Other suggestions included new storage, a kitchen upgrade, turning the back room of the library into a study or group activity room, moving the book store into the lobby, connecting the TV screen to cable TV (which is free for the County) and adding other screens in areas such as the lobby, adding digital

messaging advising of County activities, installing internet connections for laptops, and adding digital/"e-book" center of some sort. We also suggested that the restrooms be made handicap accessible.

The County staff did not firmly agree to - or reject - any specific ideas, as they wanted to hear our views at this point in the process. It is important to understand that because funds are limited, not all of these ideas can be adopted and that, as stated earlier, any major structural improvements would have to compete for funds in the County's next Capital Improvement Plan cycle.

The bottom line is that the County is willing to make limited near-term investments in the facility and wants to continue to work with us. It was a positive meeting. We appreciated the open and cooperative attitude of the County staff and are optimistic about the future of AH Community Center.

If you have ideas or suggestions for improving the AH Community Center, please contact AHCA President, Mike Dowell, at mdowell9@gmail.com or ARCA President, Chick Walter, at chickandsandy@msn.com.

ARCA MEETINGS/ UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ 16 Mar, 4:30 & 6:00 pm (repeated) – Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway Public Meeting at Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 S. 18th Street, Arlington VA.
4:30 Open House 5:00 Presentation 5:30 Q&A Session
6:00 Open House 7:00 Presentation 7:30 Q&A Session
- ◆ 17 Mar, 7 pm – ARCA bimonthly meeting at Aurora Hills Community Center
6:30 pm: Meet-and-greet with Oakridge Principal, Dr. Lynne Wright, and Assistant Principal, Linda Kelleher
- ◆ mid-Apr (tentative) – Grand opening of new Post Office in the Millenium, 1300 block of Fern St.
- ◆ 21 Apr, 7 pm – NC Plan Working Meeting at Aurora Hills Community Center
- ◆ 19 May, 7pm – ARCA bimonthly meeting
- ◆ Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 935 South 23rd St.
Ph: 703-979-1558 Website: www.mvbccc.org
Weekly services: 11am Sun & 7pm Wed
Evangelism Ministry: 7-9pm 2nd Fri of the month. Story telling, readings, movies, and fun. Popcorn, snacks & drinks. Free.
Bread of Life Ministry: 1-3pm 2nd Sat of the month.
Aspiring young cooks (Toddler - Pre-teen) learn to follow simple recipes. Free.
YogaFit for Seniors: Tues & Thurs. Small fee.
11am-12 noon Sit & Be Fit; 6:30-7:30pm Hatha Yoga;
Check www.arcaonline.org for updated event details.

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 ARCAnighbor@gmail.com

Please email your phone no. and email address to ARCAnighbor@gmail.com for ARCA's membership records & official ARCA notifications only.

For bulletins of neighborhood interest, request to join: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/4D-A/>.