

Are you a homeowner or a renter? If you live in the Aurora Highlands area you are invited and encouraged to come to our monthly meetings where we meet neighbors, discuss topics of interest and share information. ALL are welcome to attend. Come at 6:45pm and meet your neighbors at the Aurora Hills Recreation Center at 735 S. 18th St. at the corner of 18th and Hayes Streets (where the library / fire station is located).

OUR UPCOMING AUGUST 13 MEETING

The Association traditionally takes August off. However, there is an important issue to be discussed and voted on. For the first time since 1970, Aurora Highlands is updating its Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan. The document is a roadmap telling the county what we envision for our neighborhood. You can find copies of the plan at our website (<http://aurorahighlands.org/>) or at the public library. We will even delivery it to you if you can't get it. AHCA has been working on this update for several years. While it will be open for discussion, there will not be amendments made to the current plan. It can however be amended later. But the first—long overdue step—is to get a plan submitted. Please come to the meeting and vote for the plan.

Four (4) Items of focus:

July 19, 20, 21 County Board Meetings

This will be an important three day series of discussions and votes by the County Board. We encourage people to go and listen and voice their opinions as appropriate. The County Board will be voting on many issues of long-term consequence and impact to our greater area, such as: ADU initiative (Accessory Dwelling Unit Initiative) CIP (Capital Improvement Plan 2009-2014) which includes School Bonds for Wakefield, and reference to 2009 Master Park Plan (which may or may not include Virginia Highlands Park and Community Center), and other key areas of interest such as Hayes Street Improvements within Pentagon City and street improvements within Crystal City, and reference to the Columbia Pike Trolley Line which will end in Pentagon City, and also \$9 million for NC Program and \$200,000 for Missing Links.

- KIMCO/Costco site redevelopment plan which may include local community benefits.
- Site Plan for conversion of office space at 2452 Crystal Drive to a daycare.
- Use Permit for Busy Bee Day Care
- Use Permit for Keshnet Child Care Development Center at 758 23rd Street.

Vote on Neighborhood Conservation Plan at August AHCA Monthly meeting (Aug 13, 2008 at 7:00PM).

The draft of our Neighborhood Conservation Plan has been passed along to the County Staff, who will be adding the photographs and maps. The draft has been posted on the AHCA website for comment. Hard copies will be available in the library or directly from Steve Wyner as well for those that don't have internet access. AHCA needs to vote to approve the draft before it gets officially submitted to the Neighborhood Conservation Program for review and acceptance. After the vote in August (assuming it is approved by AHCA membership) it can circulate to the County departments for comments, and be ready for a formal presentation to the NC Committee. Then we will push it to the Planning Commission for approval and then to the County Board, so that we get approval in time for the fall round of funding. Bruce Cameron, President of AHCA, is also one of two NC representatives from AHCA. Johanna Soli is the other, but she will be stepping out of that role at the end of the calendar year. Steve Wyner, VP of AHCA, has led the charge to get the AHCA NC Plan done.

The critical issue is to get the plan in and approved, it can always be amended or updated in

near future, but we don't get critical points in NC process until we have an approved plan. Our next four (4) NC projects get significant bonus points once our NC plan is done and accepted by the County. As an example, the 19th Street NC project has a good chance of being funded in fall round if our NC Plan is accepted by then. Also, for PEGs (Park Enhancement Grants) our submittals are contingent on our NC Plan being done.

While the monthly meeting will have a discussion period on the draft NC Plan, this will be simple up or down vote. Steve Wyner will lead discussion of the subject.

Membership Dues, Contributions and Donations:

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME! Dues still stand at \$6 per family and \$3 per individuals and seniors. **We encourage you to take an extra step and contribute above and beyond this to the AHCA reserve fund.** It will give our neighborhood greater ability to host neighborhood events as well the ability to put seed funds into efforts to improve our neighborhood. **People are giving generously, anywhere \$20 up to a high of \$100, - thank you to all that have mailed in the generous renewals so far. The membership contributions are important for two reasons: to show broad commitment from our community and to build additional financial resources. Both are equally important when advocating with our County Leadership.** Please send your checks to:

Membership Chair
Aurora Highlands Civic Association
P.O. Box 25201
Arlington VA 22202
Please included your name, address, phone number and email address.

P.S. As always, we will make sure to publish AHCA account standing on a regular basis.

Vote Affirming Use and Focus of Traffic Calming Funds:

As has been mentioned in previous AHCA newsletter, there was a developer set aside of \$265,000 plus or minus, for traffic calming in ARCA and AHCA. Upon further discussion with county staff, the specific streets named are Ridge Road, 23rd Street and Joyce Street. In order to move the implementation of these funds along, we propose the following. We continue to work with ARCA as far as a proposal to county for additional enhancements to Ridge and 23rd. At the August AHCA meeting, a vote on a motion be taken to indicate to the county that as far as Joyce, the focus be placed on creating a gateway treatment where Joyce narrows down at and just before 16th. Appropriate design concepts to be developed with county staff. Once a concept has been developed, then another vote would be taken by AHCA on the specific concept. For those that would advocate traffic calming along other parts of Joyce, it does not appear we will have much support for much of anything else along the rest of Joyce. Almost every other intersection and issue along Joyce has been raised with staff and rejected. That's why we should go ahead and move forward with what we can get and get it done, rather than let funds slip away again. Also, it is a balancing act, the total funds must be used for the entire package jointly advocated by AHCA and ARCA for Ridge, 23rd and the gateway treatment on Joyce.

Our sincere thanks to SOC for their support of AHCA by printing our newsletter.

SOC Enterprises

750 South 23rd St. Arlington, VA 22202
703-920-9400 Fax: 703-299-3255

"Business and Rehabilitation"

We combine both to provide meaningful training and work for our community's disabled
SOC for Printing, Mailing, and Fulfillment Services