



Over the Fence

News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association Spring 2008 Edition

Visit our website: www.ahca.info
Join our yahoo group: ahca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elections were held at our Annual Meeting in January, resulting in some changes to the composition of the Executive Committee. I wish to thank the membership for their willingness to place confidence in a new group of officers, as well as those of us who continue. Thank you also to long serving Executive Committee members Carole Lieber and Kimberly Sumner. For those of you who do not know, Kimberly Sumner took over the care of the plantings at our neighborhood signs years ago, and she has pledged to continue. Carole Lieber, a past president, also continues to serve as a Civic Federation delegate. Thank you, Kimberly and Carole. Special thanks should also go to Jim Gill for his outstanding and long term service to the neighborhood, encompassing decades.

As your new civic association president, I have three major goals this year. My first goal is to continue to sponsor and organize neighborhood social events. We held our first event on March 12, Community Night at the Drafthouse. Thank you to Santya Lanman of the Patrick Henry PTA and the Drafthouse, which offered the moviehouse for free and provided entertainment free of charge. This year we are also planning a Spring Fling block party, scheduled for May 10, which is Neighborhood Day, in addition to the Halloween Parade which was such a hit last year. My second goal is to continue to move forward improvement projects, consistent with the needs and desires of the neighborhood. My third goal is to ensure that the neighborhood's voice is heard regarding any proposed major capital improvement projects.

Many projects in the neighborhood are either under way or likely to begin over the course of the next year. On February 26, Arlington Heights had a big night at the County Board. The Board took three positive actions impacting our neighborhood by: (1) funding our Garfield St. Neighborhood Conservation Project (Curb, gutter, sidewalk, streetlights between Arlington Blvd. and 2nd St. S.); (2) funding our \$9,000 Small Parks Grant Application for the new green space at Irving and 2nd St., to install two benches, an urban style kiosk and a new water meter and spigot (AHCA is contributing another \$2,000 raised last summer); and (3) adopting our updated Neighborhood Conservation Plan. This came on the heels of the County Board contract award on January 29, 2008 for the pedestrian bridge rehabilitation project (Jackson St. bridge). Additionally, I understand the Fenwick Center mosaic is slated for installation in May. I want to thank everyone who helped get these projects moving.

I look forward to a great year, and hope to see you around the neighborhood.

All the best,

Juliet Hiznay

SPRING AHCA MEETING

Please join the civic association at its spring meeting on **Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 7 pm at Patrick Henry Elementary School Library**. Expected agenda items are: Election of First Vice-President; Discussion of 2008 Arlington County Fair; Vote on Neighborhood Policy for Missing Links Sidewalk Projects; Vote on County Accessory Dwelling Unit proposal; Update on Career Center BLPC; Update on Pedestrian Bridge Project

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Arlington Home Show & Expo, Sat., April 12, 2008, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For the second year, CPRO is partnering with Arlington County's Housing Division to bring more than 50 exhibitors to the Walter Reed Community Center at 2909 S. 16th St. The show is an opportunity for homeowners to gather ideas, see products, and talk to professionals about a wide variety of home improvements. Admission is **FREE** to the public.

E-Care Recycling, Sat., April 19, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thomas Jefferson Middle School (west parking lot), 125 S. Old Glebe Rd. Recycle your household hazardous waste, including computer and electronics equipment, and durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches. Bring your id to prove county residency. Further details about accepted items are available at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/EnvironmentalServicesEnvex.aspx>.

Spring Fling Party, Sat. May 10, 2008 (Neighborhood Day), 4-7 pm, location tdb – Join the civic association for Spring Party. A moonbounce will be rented. Further details will be announced on the yahoo group. Please contact RJ Thacher to volunteer, at rj.thacher@verizon.net. Also in recognition of Neighborhood Day, again this year, Arlington Heights is participating in the **Tree Giveaway** program. Yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), a large canopy tree and Allegheny serviceberry (*Amenlanchier laevis*), a small flowering tree are this year's two selections. The trees will be approximately three to five feet in height and potted in one or two-gallon plastic containers. Please contact Mike Sobola for additional information at sobolas@verizon.net.

AHCA Annual Garden Tour, June 7, 2008, 8:30 a.m. – The Mashaws once again will graciously host this wonderful annual event. The Garden Tour is an excellent opportunity to collect gardening ideas and enjoy lovely neighborhood gardens. The Tour will begin at their home at 2908 Fifth St. South (access from Walter Reed or from Fenwick St. or the two paths from Sixth St. via Garfield). If you would like to have your garden on the tour, or if you have any questions, you can reach Rebecca Mashaw at 703-892-0162 or at rmashaw@comcast.net.

AHCA Summer Meeting, Tuesday, July 15, 2008, 7 p.m., Thomas Jefferson Middle School (room tba).

Arlington County Fair, August 6-10, 2008, TJ Community Center and Grounds

AHCA Fall Meeting, Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 7 p.m., Patrick Henry Elementary School Library

AHCA Annual Meeting, Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 7 p.m. -- Patrick Henry Elementary School Library

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION – JOIN FOR 2008

SEND TO: AHCA, c/o Jason Torchinsky, Treasurer, 3109 S. 7th St., Arlington, VA 22204

Name(s): _____

Address: _____, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Enclosed is \$20.00 for a 2008 Family Membership Enclosed is \$25.00 for a 2008 Business Membership

Optional: I would like to be involved with / help out with:

Becoming an officer or serving on a committee Distributing the newsletter or other announcements

Contributing articles for the newsletter Volunteer for Events (social events, kids programs, etc.)

THERE IS A VACANCY FOR FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT JAY JACOB WIND AT (703) 920-5193 OR jay.wind@att.net

What's With Those Piles of Dirt?

If you are wondering what the piles of dirt on the permitted field at TJ is about, it is a project to install a pedestrian ramp onto the field that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The project has been ordered by the Department of Justice. So, why a ramp to a field in disrepair? The plan is to upgrade the permitted field with buffalo sod grass and irrigation. The permit field upgrade is scheduled to begin this spring. I also just learned that irrigation will be installed for the blue stone field to allow for more frequent wetting of the surface. A big thank you to our area Park Manager, Kurt Louis of the Arlington County Parks Dept. and Patrick Wegeng of the Landscaping Team for all their work to improve the TJ grounds in the past year.

FREE Special Reports From Realtors Mike and Claudia Webb:



Mike & Claudia are now offering their special reports that are a vital reading for anyone selling or buying a home now or in the near future.

In this special reports Mike and Claudia share many of the tips that professionals utilize to help maximize a home's potential and actual worth—and most importantly help you drive up the selling price. You'll learn many important things you need to do, but more important may be the things it tells you not to do, things that could cost you dearly at the negotiating table.

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- 2. Squeezing Every Last Dollar From Your Home Sale.**
- 3. Home Buyers: How To Avoid Paying Too Much.**

Mike and Claudia Webb
Re/Max Allegiance

To get your FREE copy of any of these reports,
Call **703-979-3016**

Resident Jay Jacob Wind To Be Inducted into Arlington Sports Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Arlington Heights neighbor Jay Jacob Wind, who will be inducted into Arlington Sports Hall of Fame at their 52nd annual awards banquet on Wednesday evening, May 28, at Knights of Columbus Hall, 5115 Little Falls Road.

Since its establishment in 1958, only 28 people have been inducted. They include Olympic swimmers Shelley Mann and Tom Dolan, Olympic rowing coach Charlie Butt Jr., and tennis star Donna Floyd Fales.

Wind's credentials for the Arlington Sports Hall of Fame include many overall and age-group awards at marathons and distance races around the country, including Army Ten Miler and Marine Corps Marathon; 20 years of coaching youth track and directing track meets at Thomas Jefferson Community Center; chairmanship of bond issues for parks and recreation every two years since 1992; and a weekly column in Arlington Sun Gazette (www.sungazette.net). Wind served as AHCA president for four years.

Arlington Sports Hall of Fame's web site is <http://mysite.verizon.net/arlshof1958> and tickets for the awards banquet will be available soon.

Career Center BLPC

The Executive Committee voted unanimously in early March to send the following letter to the School Board regarding concerns about the Career Center Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC). Betty Siegel, our representative on the Career Center BLPC also recognized the need to send the letter, and supported it.

March 3, 2008

Chairman Ed Fendley
Arlington County School Board
1426 N. Quincy St.
Arlington, VA 22207

Dear Chairman Fendley and School Board Members:

I write on behalf of the Arlington Heights Civic Association (AHCA). The AHCA Executive Committee is very concerned about APS staff proposals that were presented last week to the Career Center Building Level Planning Committee. Although the School Board has decided that Wakefield High School is its next capital funding priority, it seems that staff is giving serious consideration to building a large new building on S. Highland St. that would accomodate both High School Continuation (now at Arlington Mill) and administrative offices (now at Clarendon), and possibly STEM as well. We have grave concerns about the content and the timing of this plan.

We oppose diverting any design, planning, or construction funds away from Wakefield High School or Thomas Jefferson Middle School to the Career Center. The available funds are precious. Given the funding environment that APS now faces, and prior direction from the School Board, it was shocking to learn from our BLPC representative that funds continue to be spent on architectural plans for new construction at the Career Center. We understand that the Career Center may have some immediate maintenance needs that cannot be deferred. However, in our view, it would be irresponsible to spend on capital improvement plans that have no hope of bond funding for a decade or more.

Further, ad hoc or phased construction of the type under consideration would be highly disadvantageous to the neighborhood and to Patrick Henry Elementary School. It is the wrong approach to take at this site. When the time comes, the community looks forward to an opportunity to transform the Career Center property into a community friendly site through a comprehensive plan.

We urge you to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that no additional funds are diverted from Wakefield High School or Thomas Jefferson Middle School to support planning, design or construction for new construction at the Career Center.

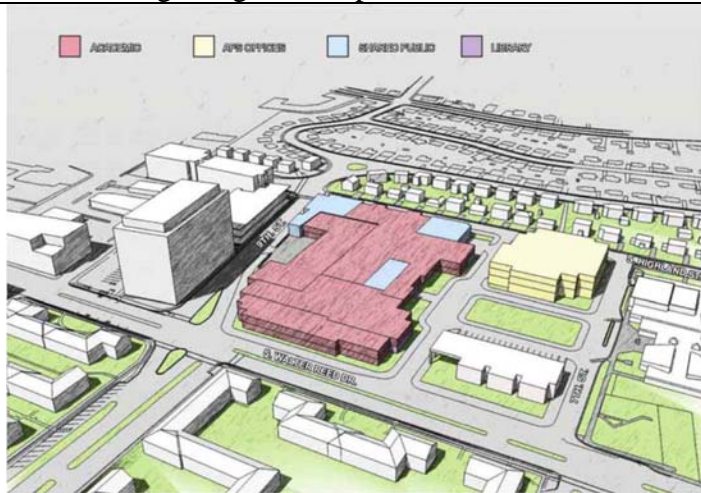
Sincerely yours,

Juliet Hiznay
President
Arlington Heights Civic Association
101 S. Hudson St.
Arlington, VA 22204
(703) 685-2596

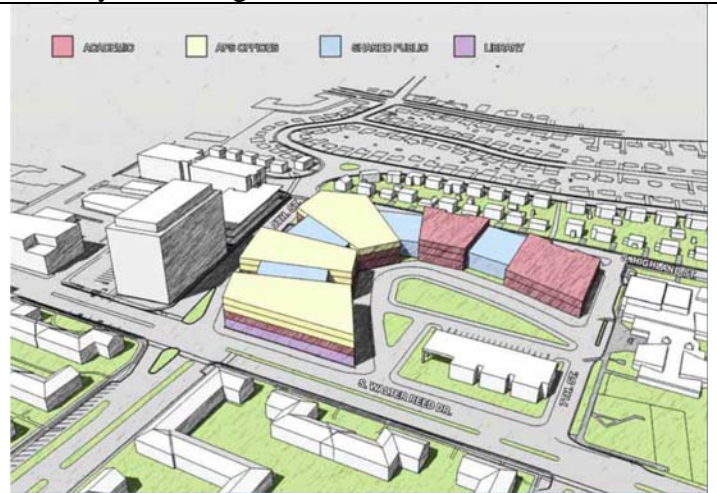
cc: Robert Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Career Center BLPC (Continued)

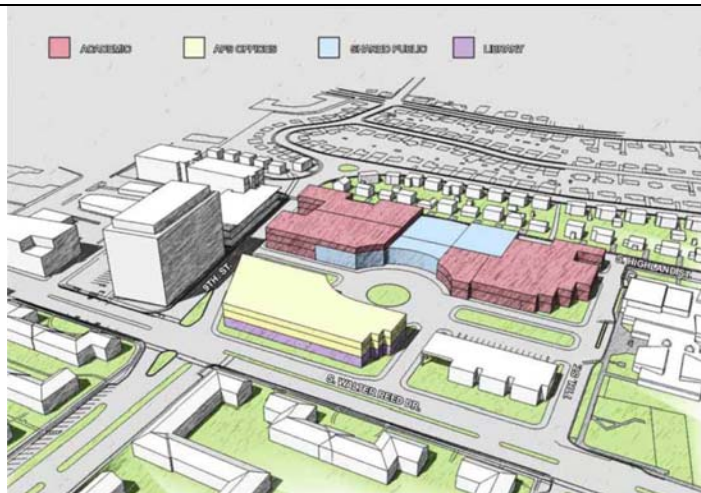
The following designs were presented to the BLPC at its February 4 meeting:



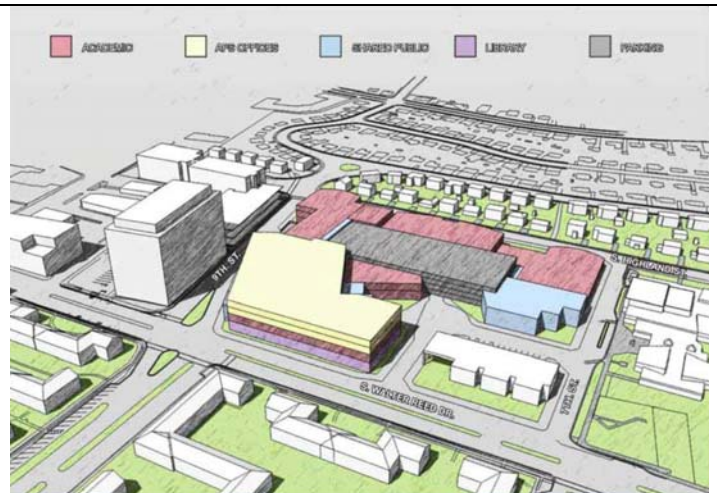
CONCEPT 1 - RENOVATE + EXPAND



CONCEPT 2 - ACADEMIC PAVILIONS



CONCEPT 3 - URBAN CAMPUS



CONCEPT 4 - EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Designs by MTF Architecture and Arlington County Public Schools

Lalibela II Ethiopian Restaurant, Bar & Club
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FHA Loan Improvements

Congress recently approved legislation that would make it easier for homeowners facing potentially higher mortgage payments to get help from the government. The bill cuts in half the down-payment requirement for loans obtained from the Federal Housing Administration, which is currently 3% of total loan value. The bill also raises the maximum loan size in high cost areas to \$417,000 from \$362,790 in an effort to aid homeowners. The legislation would allow the FHA to back refinanced loans for borrowers behind on payments because their mortgages are resetting to sharply higher rates from low initial "teaser" levels.

Also approved was legislation eliminating taxes on mortgage debt, to aid struggling home owners to avoid foreclosure. H.R. 3648, the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, removes this tax burden on mortgage indebtedness, encourages market-based restructuring between lenders and home owners and discourages foreclosures. The legislation also includes a provision extending the deductibility of mortgage insurance for three more years.

Big Changes for VA Loans

VA recently announced that they will provide financing for eligible military personnel with loan amounts up to \$1,000,000.

This is a bold and impressive step for VA and of course requires a deeper understanding of these changes. VA loans are still limited to \$417,000 for 100% financing. However, with a calculated down payment VA will now fund loans for up to \$1,000,000 and they will allow you to add the VA funding fee on top of the maximum loan amount calculation (this is brand new for the VA).

If a veteran buys a \$500,000 home, the first \$417,000 would require no down payment. For the remaining \$83,000, the veteran would need to make a down payment of \$20,750. All together the veteran would be making a 4.15% down payment on a \$500,000 home.

The VA funding fees paid at closing range from 1.5% to 3.3% of the loan amount. Contact me for further details, and I can refer you to some competent mortgage professionals who can answer specifics on this program.



Casey O'Neal

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Arlington Heights Civic Association – 2008 Officers

President: Juliet Hiznay, 703-685-2596, strangefruitblues@yahoo.com

First Vice-President: *vacant**

Second Vice-President: Richard Bullington-McGuire, (703-979-4380), rbulling@obscure.org

Secretary: Mike Sobola, sobolas@verizon.net

Treasurer: Jason Torchinsky, 703-351-9069, jbtorc@aol.com

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Tony Halloin, 202-486-0617, ahalloin@yahoo.com

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