



# Over the Fence

## News for Neighbors from the Arlington Heights Civic Association Winter 2009 Edition

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Join our yahoo group: [ahca-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:ahca-subscribe@yahogroups.com)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Arlington Heights Neighbors!

As we start 2009, much of this newsletter is devoted to reviewing the work of the civic association over the course of 2008. It was a very busy year, and required a lot of work on the part of our officers. Those efforts have made a positive difference for the neighborhood. It is wonderful to see tangible progress being made in the neighborhood in various areas. I want to thank our officers, volunteers, and our members for their support. Thanks should also go to the many county and school staffers who have helped us address our neighborhood concerns over the past year.

I want to thank our residents for their participation in our social events over the past year. New in 2008, we held a Neighborhood BBQ and Potluck, which was well attended and a lot of fun. My Hudson Street neighbors tell me they would like to host it again this year. We also continued with the Garden Tour, the Lemonade Stand (Fair Fundraiser) and the Halloween Party & Parade. It has been a pleasure to get to know you through these events.

I have found that volunteer work with the civic association is its own reward. Together we can accomplish a lot. I hope you will consider working with the civic association, whether in small or big ways. Please consider attending our meetings, or if that is not possible, contact us in other ways. With only four regular meetings a year, we rely heavily on our yahoo group to communicate with members, so I strongly encourage you to join it. We need your participation in order to effectively represent you. We want to know what matters to you.

Please join us for our Annual Meeting & Election on January 27 (all 2009 dues paying members are eligible to vote). I look forward to seeing you there.

Juliet Hiznay

### AHCA ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

**Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 7 p.m. -- AHCA Annual Meeting \*elections\*** (Patrick Henry Elementary School Library)

AGENDA: Treasurer's Report (Jason Torchinsky); Elections; Appointments; *Meet the Neighbors Series*: Thomas Jefferson Middle School & Community Center Facilities Director Arnold Appanah; Public Safety – Third District Police Commander Captain Michelle Nuneville; New Business.

\*All 2009 dues paying residents and business owners are eligible to vote in elections. You can pay at the meeting if you have not paid previously.\*

### WANTED: OFFICER CANDIDATES

AHCA elects its president, two vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer at its annual meeting on January 27. If you want a volunteer job that really makes a difference in your community, please step forward and nominate yourself. Write Jay Jacob Wind at [jay.wind@att.net](mailto:jay.wind@att.net) if you want to run for an AHCA officer position. Position descriptions are in the ByLaws, available online at <http://www.ahca.info/about/bylaws>.



*Kids at the Neighborhood Halloween Parade & Party held at TJ Park on October, 26 2008. Photo by James Wood*

### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 7 p.m. -- AHCA Annual Meeting \*elections\*** (Patrick Henry Elementary School Library)  
Agenda on prior page.

**March 2009 (date and time tba) – Community Night at the Drafthouse** – Patrick Henry community and AHCA members are invited to watch a movie for free (G or PG rated) with friends and neighbors at the Cinema-N-Drafthouse. This event is jointly sponsored by the Drafthouse, Patrick Henry PTA, and the Arlington Heights Civic Assn. Details are forthcoming, but we anticipate an evening event on a weekday. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

**Saturday, March 21, 2009 – Arts Festival** – Patrick Henry Elementary School will be holding its annual Arts Festival on this day, times will be announced. All members of the community are welcome for this kid friendly hands- on arts and crafts event held inside the school. (Hours tba)

**Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 7-9 p.m. – AHCA Spring Meeting** -- Join the civic association for neighborhood news and discussion of neighborhood issues. AHCA expects the Arlington County Fair to be on the agenda at this meeting. (Location tba)

**Friday, April 24, 2009 – Silent Auction** – Patrick Henry Elementary School is accepting donations for this important school fundraiser. Contact Santya Lanman at [s.lanman@yahoo.com](mailto:s.lanman@yahoo.com). New items and services can be donated. All community members are also invited. Please support your neighborhood school. (Hours tba)

**Saturday, May 9, 2009 (date tentative), 4-7 p.m. – Neighborhood BBQ & Potluck** – Save the Date! We had a whale of a good time last year!

**June, 2009 (date tba) – Neighborhood Garden Tour**

**Tuesday, July 21, 2009, 7-9 p.m. – AHCA Summer Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 7-9 p.m. – AHCA Fall Meeting**

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION – JOIN FOR 2009**

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

**Full Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_, Arlington, VA 22204

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$20.00 for a 2009 Family Membership     Enclosed is \$25.00 for a 2009 Business Membership  
 Enclosed is an added donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to help the civic association by (check all that apply):**

Serving as an officer     Helping with community social events     Volunteering for park beautification  
 Distributing the quarterly newsletter     Contributing articles of interest

**2008 Civic Association Officers**

**President:** Juliet Hiznay, 703-685-2596, [strangefruitblues@yahoo.com](mailto:strangefruitblues@yahoo.com)

**First Vice-President:** Martin Chadzynski, 703-979-2768, [mchadzynski@yahoo.com](mailto:mchadzynski@yahoo.com)

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

**Secretary:** Mike Sobola, [sobolas@verizon.net](mailto:sobolas@verizon.net)

**Treasurer:** Jason Torchinsky, 703-351-9069, [jbtorc@aol.com](mailto:jbtorc@aol.com)

**Neighborhood Conservation Representatives:** Juliet Hiznay, 703-685-2596, [strangefruitblues@yahoo.com](mailto:strangefruitblues@yahoo.com),

Tony Halloin, 202-486-0617, [ahalloin@yahoo.com](mailto:ahalloin@yahoo.com), Richard Bullington-McGuire, [rbulling@obscure.org](mailto:rbulling@obscure.org)

**Social Committee Chair:** RJ Thacher, 703-553-0655, [rj.thacher@verizon.net](mailto:rj.thacher@verizon.net)

**Newsletter Editor:** Megan Booth, 703-553-9712, [jjmegan@verizon.net](mailto:jjmegan@verizon.net)

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**Yahoo Group Moderator:** Jay Jacob Wind, (703) 920-5193, [jay.wind@att.net](mailto:jay.wind@att.net)

**Advertising Manager (Newsletter & Web):** Jay Jacob Wind, (703) 920-5193, [jay.wind@att.net](mailto:jay.wind@att.net)

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Seeking History Buffs**

Did you know that Arlington Heights is one of the few neighborhoods in Arlington County that has not done a neighborhood history project with the Arlington Historical Society? If you are interested in organizing such a project, contact Juliet Hiznay at 703-685-2596 or [strangefruitblues@yahoo.com](mailto:strangefruitblues@yahoo.com).

**Writers for Newsletter Needed**

Are you interested in working on the newsletter? We need your help. Contact Juliet Hiznay at 703-685-2596 or [strangefruitblues@yahoo.com](mailto:strangefruitblues@yahoo.com) for additional information.

**Gardening**

We can always use more volunteers for gardening projects. Are you interested in helping by donating plants, planting, weeding or watering? Contact Juliet Hiznay at 703-685-2596 or [strangefruitblues@yahoo.com](mailto:strangefruitblues@yahoo.com).

**RENT-A-KID -- HIRE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS!**

- Son available for babysitting, dog walking, cat sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling: Contact Amy and Jay Vennett at 703-920-1832.
- Son available for babysitting (Red Cross Certified): Contact Lisa Turcios at 703-892-0859
- Son and daughter available for pet sitting, grass and plant watering: Contact Kathy Jackson at 703-920-9534

## 2008 IN REVIEW - NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

This year we saw the fruits of much civic association work that was done in 2007 with county government, as well the benefit of some initiatives begun in 2008 in coordination with the Thomas Jefferson Middle School PTA, and other civic associations.



*Ribbon cutting at pedestrian bridge over (From left: Sharon Monde, Juliet Hiznay, Ravinder Singh, student) Photo Credit: Arlington County*

### **Pedestrian Bridge Rehabilitation**

The most significant project carried out in 2008 was the Jackson Street Pedestrian Bridge Rehabilitation, completed in October 2008. This bridge connects the neighborhood to points north without crossing Arlington Boulevard on foot. It is also an important crossing area for Thomas Jefferson Middle School students who live in the Ashton Heights and Lyon Park neighborhoods.

The project improved access and safety as well as a new look, with a new roof and railings, lighting, new walking surface, resurfacing of the steel structure, and a paint job. The project also completed some important structural maintenance and strengthened structural supports to the bridge.

### **TJ Running Path Completed**

Park personnel completed the running path around TJ with a new asphalt surface, improving access for all.

### **TJ Upper Field Resodded with Bermuda Grass**

Last spring the TJ Upper Field was resodded with Bermuda Grass and equipped with new sprinklers, and reopened for use during the fall 2008 soccer season.

### **TJ Lower Field To Be Replaced**

For many years, the civic association has commented to county Parks personnel and government leaders that the dust field (lower field) at TJ created dust storms and was unpleasant and unhealthy for park users, athletes, and neighbors alike. At our fall AHCA meeting, the civic association voted unanimously to replace the field with either grass or a synthetic surface. Working with the TJ PTA and other civic associations, we worked to bring a strong message to county government that the efforts to ameliorate the problem with watering have not been successful. Thanks to a unified message, the County Manager has now pledged to replace the field surface. A process to select the new surface is expected in January 2009.

### **Neighborhood Conservation Projects**

Many of the sidewalk, curb, gutter and streetlight projects that were proposed and petitioned with the help of many neighborhood volunteers over the past decade are now finally starting to get approved. Thanks to Jim Gill, Betty Siegel, and others for their hard work from years ago! Thanks also to our block captains for all their liaison work with residents.

The **S. Garfield St.** sidewalk, curb, gutter and streetlight project between Arlington Boulevard and Second St. South was funded by the County Board in February of 2008, and is now at 100% design. The county is completing temporary easements with the neighbors, and construction is anticipated in the Spring of 2009. Block Captain: Phil Hipley

The **S. Fenwick St.** sidewalk, curb, gutter and streetlight project between Arlington Boulevard and Second St. South was recommended for funding by NCAC this December, and staff is beginning design work. Block Captain: Brian Foley

Our first priority proposed project, the **S. Irving St.** sidewalk, curb, gutter and streetlight project between Arlington Boulevard and Second St. South is eligible to be funded in the Spring of 2009. At this time, it appears that the spring funding round will proceed in spite of county budget woes, but it is unclear if this project will be funded in the Spring. County voters approved the 2008 bond funding for the Neighborhood Conversation Program in November. It is likely that funding for the Irving St. project would be sought in two funding rounds due to the anticipated expense of addressing the intersection at Arlington Boulevard. Block Captain: Britta Farahati

### **Beautification at TJ Park**

Thanks to our gardening volunteers, who continue to improve and maintain the flower beds at TJ Park. Two new benches were also installed this summer, which were funded through the 2008 Small Parks Grant. Thank you to Catherine Camp for her work on the Small Parks Grant.

## 2008 CIVIC ASSOCIATION ACTION RELATING TO SCHOOLS PROPOSALS

A number of important decisions were made regarding our neighborhood public schools 2008. Some of these were voted on during regularly scheduled meetings of the civic association. Others required action by Executive Committee due to our two week notice restrictions for calling civic association meetings, and such action was duly voted upon by the committee consistent with AHCA Bylaws.

### **Career Center Related Proposals**

On March 3, 2008, by Executive Committee action, AHCA sent a letter to the School Board opposing any diversion of funds from Thomas Jefferson Middle School or Wakefield High School projects. The letter was in response to the fact that precious design funds were continuing to be spent for plans for the Career Center when the Board had already indicated its next capital priority would be Wakefield High School, and it was known that immediate needs at Thomas Jefferson Middle School had not been met.

In April of 2008, the Superintendent presented a proposal to the School Board prepared by an architectural firm, and had been presented to the Building Level Planning Committee for the Career Center (members were appointed in January 2007). On April 16, 2008, AHCA sent a letter to the School Board opposing the proposed phased building that had been proposed due to the lack of comprehensive site planning and the impact on the existing uses, and particularly the elementary school. The proposal would have placed a large new building along South Highland St. on the existing parking lot, with replacement of the existing Career Center to come at a later date. It was understood that a partnership arrangement with a higher education institution, such as NOVA, was envisioned for the site.

On June 17, 2008, by Executive Committee action, AHCA sent a letter to the County Board and the School Board to oppose the use of relocatables (trailers) on the parking lot at the Career Center to house the day High School Continuation Program previously housed at Arlington Mill. The parking lot is full during the day and parking restrictions are being enforced. Many residents on nearby streets had already sought civic association help in getting relief from parking problems during the day and night, and it was clear that all lot spaced were already needed for staff and visitors on location.

### **Proposal to Disband Patrick Henry Elementary School**

As part of its discussion of elementary school district boundaries, the Superintendent and staff publicly noted an option to move Arlington Traditional School to the site of Patrick Henry Elementary School, disbanding the school and sending the existing student body to other schools. While the Superintendent and staff did not recommend this course of action parents and school staff alike were concerned that it had been considered and could be considered in the future. On November 11, 2008, after Executive Committee approval, AHCA sent a letter to the School Board in strong opposition to any proposal that would disband our very successful neighborhood elementary school. The School Board has indicated no interest in pursuing any plan to disband Patrick Henry, but the strong responses from the PTA and the neighborhood have sent a very positive message about our neighborhood elementary school.

## 2008 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY/PARKING INITIATIVES

Thanks to the Arlington Fair Board, and in particular to Lt. Don Grinder, for support in obtaining tow-away signs on the west side of S. Irving St. between Arlington Boulevard and Second St. South. Parking on the west side of the street has long been prohibited but it was not a tow zone. Illegal parking was a chronic problem, particularly during the Fair.

Thanks to County Board Member Chris Zimmerman and county staffers for their work on temporary pedestrian safety upgrades at Arlington Blvd. and S. Irving St. The flexible curb installed at that location has improved safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, which became more critical while the pedestrian bridge was unavailable during construction.

Our thanks to county staffer Tim McIntosh, who helped us with three small Missing Links projects completed last summer on private and county property: completion of sidewalk around the Fenwick Center, completion of sidewalk on 5<sup>th</sup> St. at Walter Reed Dr., and replacement of the old driveway apron in front of TJ Park on Second St. with sidewalk, curb and gutter.

At the request of the AHCA, county staff is assessing the need for a 4-Way stop at Irving and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. A child on a bicycle was hit by a car this past summer (the bicyclist did not stop/did not see the car heading eastbound on 2<sup>nd</sup> St.), which spurred this inquiry.

Some of our neighbors are petitioning some blocks of the neighborhood near Columbia Pike where parking has become problematic for residents. If supported by residents of each affected block, some additional permit parking restrictions could be put in place for those blocks only. Under county policy, street residents seek such parking restrictions directly.



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