

Woodmont Civic Association

Quarterly Newsletter October 2004

A Message from WCA President

Am gratified that not everything is mired in controversy in our neighborhood. The positive messages and signals I now get are more than the negative ones I used to get. Regardless of the content, I still like to hear from you – to know how the executive board and myself are doing. Only those who care enough about the neighborhood take the time to write. Thank you and please continue to write.

Mariah Burton Nelson wrote me recently “What if the Woodmont neighbors got together and discussed ONLY what we have in common? How might that change our attitudes towards each other, and help open doors for the future?” In response to this positive thought, I include the matter on the agenda for our next meeting.

Thanks to Lynda Adams’ dedication, we now have an updated Directory. Bobbie Cascio was generous to underwrite the Directory project at no cost to WCA. We are all indebted to those two ladies. Thanks also to Ellen Killalea who put together this newsletter.

I get many environmental initiatives that need to be studied for WCA feedback to the County. This has proven an especially heavy burden on Amy Millen, our environment coordinator. We need an additional volunteer as Amy’s back up and alternate.

Distributing this newsletter has proven to be a challenge for all of us. We need volunteers on a regular basis to help out. Many thanks.

WCA Meeting, October 28 7:30 p.m. Hendry House

Some of the topics to be discussed include:

- Replacing and installing curbs on the west end cul-de-sac of 24th Street.
- Humps or bumps? Should the traffic humps on 24th St. be raised to slow down the cars that still speed through our neighborhood?
- Ways to build common community in WCA

Arlington County Use Permit for Group Homes

We received a message from Marcia Smith of the Arlington County Planning staff. She is the Planner assigned to the two group homes, the Wilberforce Foundation’s Men’s Dormitory and the Fellowship Foundation’s Women’s Dormitories located on 24th Street North. The “R-20” Zoning District of the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance requires special exception County Board approval for dormitory uses.

The uses are scheduled to be considered by the County’s Planning Commission at its Monday, **November 8, 2004 meeting, starting at 7:00 p.m.** There will be a number of other items on the Commission’s agenda, which are yet to be set. As the meeting date draws near, the order of the agenda items will be set and at that point feel free to access the Commission’s webpage and/or to contact Marcia by email at msmith4@arlingtonva.us or by telephone at 703-228-3532. The **County Board will consider the use permit requests for the dormitories at its Tuesday, November 16, 2004 meeting.** That meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. The agenda has yet to be set. Please contact Marcia for the scheduled order of items once agenda is set.

Neighborhood Conservation in Woodmont Forest

There is much to be done in Neighborhood Conservation in Woodmont Forest. Trees need to be conserved and replanted in line with the Arlington Master Forest Plan, the Conservation Plan needs updating, streets need to be inspected to ensure that they all have gutters and sewers on each side of the street, and many other issues arise over time. We have a position open for an alternate delegate to the Neighborhood Conservation Committee and would like to have the help of any interested residents. Please call Amy Millen, 703-276-2544 or send an email to amillen@erols.com.

I-66 Public Workshops

WCA residents are urged to attend a workshop and an open house on the I-66 feasibility study.

This may be the last chance for residents to express their views on I-66 noise and widening.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration are conducting the workshops for public input into how best to ease congestion and keep traffic moving during emergencies on I-66 westbound for the 6.5 miles from the Roslyn tunnel to the Dulles Airport Access Road. As requested by Governor Mark Warner, a community-based planning process will be used in considering a realistic, affordable, and effective transportation solution that stays within the existing right-of-way of I-66 westbound. The study will begin with four initial concepts:

- A "No Build" option.
- Transit options.
- HOV/HOT Lane options.
- Roadway widening options.

The public input at these workshops will help refine and prioritize the design concepts that could help reduce congestion on I-66 westbound. Residents are invited to help determine how the proposed concepts should be evaluated and what measures should be used to select a concept.

The results of the October public workshops will be reviewed at the November 3 open house held at the Washington-Lee High School. The public meetings are held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at several locations, of which the following is the most convenient for WCA residents:

Wednesday, October 27, 2004
Washington-Lee High School
1300 N. Quincy Street

Visit the study Web site: www.idea66.com or call the Toll Free INFO line (866-816-4466) for more information.

Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Federation is an association of Arlington County neighborhood associations and organizations. The Federation has 16 standing committees that address various issues affecting Arlington County. Following is a list of those committees and the WCA delegate monitoring that committee. Questions or concerns addressed by these committees can be directed to the appropriate delegate.

Sharon Rogers Ad Hoc Airports Comm.
 Transportation Comm.

Roy Cook Community Relations Comm.
 Governess Comm.

Michael Chellman Cultural Affairs Comm.
 School Comm.

Art Lindsley Legislative Comm.
 Scholarship Comm.

Norm Mosher Membership Comm.
 Special Events Comm.

Lee Rooker Parks and Rec. Comm.
 Planning & Zoning Comm.

David Thacker By-Laws Comm.
 Housing Comm.

Woodmont Civic Association

<http://www.geocities.com/woodmontca/>

Officers

Naiem Sherbiny, President; 703-524-3470; nasher@erols.com

Sharon Rogers, Vice President; 703-524-0413; sroger7@attglobal.net

Ron & Sue Bently, Treasurer; 703-524-1652; bentleys@saic.com

David Thacker, Secretary; 703 351-5557; david_thacker@aigvalic.com

According to WCA bylaws, new officers will be elected each April.

Arlington Parks

This November, Arlington voters have the opportunity to approve a referendum to develop and enhance Arlington's park and recreation facilities.

Of the \$75 million contained in park bond request, \$50 million is for the design and construction of the first of two planned phases for the North Tract. The remaining \$25 million provides funds to redevelop and improve existing parks and recreational facilities in Arlington.

The North Tract consists of 28 acres of abandoned lands, located between Crystal City and the 14th Street Bridge. The land came to the County in October 2002 at no monetary cost in exchange for development rights to the South Tract, land located between Crystal City and Four Mile Run.

Planned for the new North Tract Park are:

- A state-of-the-art aquatics center for athletic and recreational activity
- A fitness space with cardiovascular and weight training equipment
- A multi-activity center for indoor sports and running track
- Four adult-size synthetic grass athletic fields
- A mile of walking trails with playgrounds, open lawn areas, and gathering places
- A bicycle route connecting to the Mount Vernon Trail
- A pedestrian bridge across the railroad tracks

A citizen-led task force developed the North Tract master plan, conceived to address major shortfalls in Arlington's existing

recreational and park system. Approved by the Arlington County Board in February 2004, the plan reflects significant community inputs, including 50 public meetings and four community forums. It took over two years to complete.

This is a rare opportunity to develop major open space in Arlington. Open space generally runs over \$1 million per acre if purchased by the County. Space for a park and recreational facility of this size is not likely to come to the county again. Nor will it get cheaper to develop if we delay. According to Tobin Smith, Chair of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission, the park bond is a sound investment for Arlington residents. For more information, go to: <http://www.pvtc.org/voteyes.html>.

Upcoming County Events

Arlington Artists Alliance sponsors an Artful weekend with 2 events. All events are open and free to the public.

Hendry House at Fort C.F. Smith.

Friday, Dec. 3- 6-8 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 4 – 10a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 5 – 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Student Art Exhibit and Sale will be held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 4000

Lorcom Ln.

Sat., Dec. 4 – 4p.m.- 7p.m.

Arlington Prepares Fair on Sat. , Oct. 30

Information fair: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Emergency Preparedness "Tabletop" Exercise: 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Be sure to sign up for Arlington Alert, a free service to send emergency text messages to your email or mobile devices. Visit www.arlingtonalert.com

Colin and Ryan Harding (ages 15 & 13) are available for babysitting, dog walking, lawn mowing, car detailing, yard work and many other chores. We are honor students and Red Cross certified. Please call us at 703-527-3147. Thank you!