

Woodmont Civic Association

Quarterly Newsletter April 2005

A Message from WCA President

We are in the process of upgrading our organization at Woodmont Civic Association, including information flows. Sharon Rogers is championing our improved information initiative, and we are indebted to her. At present we depend on the newsletter as the sole source of communication with you. We recognize this is inadequate since important matters come up after the newsletter is issued and action is required sometimes before the next newsletter is out. So we are going electronic, and shall use our Website as the most ready source of information for our community.

For updated information, I urge you to check out our site frequently at:
www.geocities.com/woodmontca .We look forward to your feedback about the Website. Just remember, we like to connect better with you.

For special events that require your immediate attention, we shall both post them on the Website and send direct alerts using our email list. Please make sure that we have your latest email by contacting Sharon at sjdr@verizon.net .An example came up recently with important implications for our community and it illustrates my point: the Arlington-wide meeting on I-66 on April 7th.

Starting this April, we shall post our Newsletter on the Website. Previous issues since January '03 have been posted as a reference.

This is also to alert you that our WCA quarterly meeting will be held on April 21, 2005 at 7:30 PM at the Woodmont Center. Please mark your calendar to attend.

Election of WCA officers (Board, Delegates, and Alternates) will be held that night. Only paid members can vote. Just in case you have not paid your dues, please make sure to bring your checkbooks, so you can vote. See you then.

WCA Election Meeting

April 21 @ 7:30 PM, Woodmont Center

The elections will be for the board officers, delegates, and alternates. So far we have received nominations for several positions, and have confirmed most candidates willingness to serve. Still open are the positions of one delegate, and one alternate. Nominations from the floor can still be made at election night.

Woodmont Center

The facility has been an integral part of our neighborhood for two generations, first as an elementary school, and now as a center for specialized activities: gymnastics for kids and rehab programs for adults, among others. Our community could realize greater benefits by improving the facility's use, adding more activities, responding to the needs of the neighborhood, and expanding the number of beneficiaries. Yet, judging from the declining condition of the facility, Arlington County seems to have benignly neglected it, hoping it would wither away and eventually die. Woodmont Center is a community asset that should not slip through our fingers.

Our tax contribution to Arlington County is rising due to two factors: the new additional homes built in the community and rising real estate taxes. Are we not entitled to a

community center of our own? It is one thing to establish a facility from scratch; it is another to improve an already existing facility.

WCA would like to form a task force of volunteers to look into the potential and constraints of making Woodmont center a hub of our community activities. That should provide a factual base of information to assess our options, and eventually take the case to the County. Please contact WCA president Naiem Sherbiny at nasher@erols.com to join the task force.

Group Homes

Following the County's conditional approval last October, a neighborhood committee was established to monitor the two group homes in the community: Ivanwold for young men, and Potomac Point for young women. The committee is comprised of: Bart Tarman (coordinator), Sue Bentley, Beth Belton, Robert Olshaker, Bill Nolden, and Paul Rusinko, and a representative from each group home. The committee met three times so far. Marcia Smith of the County attended the second meeting, and placed the experience of group homes in a broad County perspective. Experience showed that the process of group home monitoring has resulted in positive outcomes for the communities concerned.

The key issues of concern covered in the committee discussions were: traffic and speeding; operating in the past without a permit; non-profit status- and thus not paying taxes; crime potential, strangers in the neighborhood; lack of knowledge; and what do the Cedars and the two group homes do for the neighborhood.

We are asking the coordinator of the monitoring committee, Bart Tarman, to

address each one of those issues in the forthcoming meeting of April 21. His presentation would hopefully cover the recommendations of the committee.

I-66 Study

The prospect to widen I-66 is likely to have significant impact on our neighborhood. An important public forum sponsored by the Civic Federation took place on April 7th. Due to technical reasons we were unable to get a summary of that public forum in time for publication of this newsletter.

Steve Bauer and Amy Millen attended this forum, and we are asking them to make a presentation to WCA in the forthcoming meeting of April 21.

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

Officers

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

