

# Woodmont Civic Association

## **Quarterly Newsletter** **July 2005**

### ***A Message from WCA President***

Every now and then we need good news to uplift our spirits, especially if the subject matter happens to be contentious, such as group homes or traffic speed. Again? This time: good news and encouraging progress.

The young folks of the group homes are willing to distribute the newsletter to the nearly 300 households of our neighborhood. Newsletter distribution has been an issue for WCA Board, and the weakest link in the chain of our activities. On behalf of the entire neighborhood I thank the group home volunteers. By their willingness to take on this tedious task, they collectively demonstrate usefulness and responsibility to our community. Households will now get the newsletter in a timely fashion.

In the past few months, the community's committee to monitor group homes has met several times under the stewardship of Bart Tarman. They have introduced several measures to tighten management of group homes to satisfy the larger community and County officers.

The Arlington Department of Environmental Services released a report in March 2005 showing the positive impact on traffic calming and volume of traffic.

An increasing number of neighbors are now volunteering to carry out WCA activities.

For a change, things are looking up.

### **Sharon Rogers Resigns Vice-President's Post**

At the end of last April's meeting, Sharon Rogers resigned the post of Vice President. This creates a vacancy, to be filled by election during the July WCA meeting. Our community is indebted to Sharon's energetic efforts and civic contributions. Sharon has kindly agreed to be in charge of the Website and its updates. She has been, and continues to be, a major asset to our community.

### ***WCA Meeting July 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM*** **Woodmont Center**

Among Agenda Items are:

- Election of Vice President
- Traffic Calming Report
- Labor Day Picnic

### ***Labor Day Picnic***

Woodmont Civic Association invites your family to a Labor Day picnic to welcome our new neighbors! The picnic will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Labor Day, September 5, 2005. The Cedars has generously offered the use of their grounds, including the tennis court and swimming pool. A moon-bounce and other activities are also planned for children. The Association will provide hamburgers and hotdogs and requests all families to bring drinks and a covered dish or dessert. If you have suggestions or are interested in assisting with children's activities, set-up grilling or clean up, please call Vicki Foster at 703-524-6249.

**Date:** Labor Day, September 5, 2005

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Bring:** Drinks for your family, covered dish or dessert to share, swimsuits, tennis gear

**Location:** The Cedars, 2145 North 24th St.

**RSVP:** By September 1, 2005; 703-524-6249

### ***Traffic Calming on 24<sup>th</sup> Street***

The Arlington Department of Environmental Services released a report in March 2005 measuring the impact of traffic calming efforts on traffic volume and speed on 24th St. The Street provides sole access to Fort C. F. Smith Park and "The Cedars", a private retreat.

Due to speeding motorists, the residents made traffic calming a top priority, which became a neighborhood conservation initiative, funded by the County in February 2002. Prior to the project, traffic east of N. Edgewood Street averaged 1190 vehicles per day and speed on various segments of the road at the 85th percentile measured 28 to 32 mph. Measures selected and implemented to calm traffic included five speed humps, appropriate signage and pavement markings. In 2003 the traffic volume was reduced to 951 vehicles, a reduction of 20%, and speed at 85th percentile measured 23 to 25 mph, a reduction of 18%. Not bad.

### ***Monitoring Group Homes***

The neighborhood advisory committee has met on a monthly basis since Jan. 2005 to monitor activity in the two group homes, as required by the Arlington County. The Committee includes a representative from each of the use permit homes, a member of the Fellowship Foundation management, one (1) adjacent neighbor unaffiliated with the Cedars, two (2) community-wide representatives designated by the County Manager or his designee and two (2) Woodmont Civic Association members unaffiliated with the Cedars. The coordinator for this committee is Mr. Bart Tarman, a resident of Woodmont.

The two dwellings were found to meet the requirements of the Community Code Enforcement Office, the Environmental Health Bureau, and the Fire Department, including securing the required assembly permit as specified by the Fire Marshal's Office. Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, the women's group home will remove the kitchen located in the basement of the property. As a pre-condition for acceptance into the group homes, prospective candidates (male and female) will have criminal background checks conducted on them prior to moving into residence. Records on those checks will be kept for two years after occupant's departure.

Future work of the Monitoring Committee includes the following:

1. Obtaining necessary permits for property improvements
2. Abiding of group homes residents of all state and local laws
3. Limiting residential occupancy to 12 persons (including staff) per home
4. Limiting vehicles on site to three (3) at any given time; none of the other nine (9) remaining occupants shall bring vehicles and park them on-site or off-site. All vehicles shall be registered in Arlington County within 30 days of the owner or operator first residing in either group home.

County review is scheduled for November 2005. If you have concerns regarding compliance with these conditions, please send your email to [woodmontnac@yahoo.com](mailto:woodmontnac@yahoo.com) and we will address your issue.

### ***Assisting seniors in our Community***

Bobby Cascio is managing the Arlington Red Cross program that offers a friendly

shopper service to seniors in Arlington County. This service is now available to Woodmont residents!

Volunteer visitors are available to provide companionship to homebound citizens. Personal shopper volunteers offer grocery shop for an assigned senior, using the money and list provided by the client. Other transportation and support services are available for qualified seniors. For more information contact the Arlington Red Cross at 703-527-3010 x752 or email at [arlingtoneldercareservices@arlingtonredcross.org](mailto:arlingtoneldercareservices@arlingtonredcross.org)

### ***Arlington Homeowner Grant Program***

If you are an Arlington County homeowner with household income of \$72,000 or less, and assets of \$240,000 or less (excluding your home), you might qualify for a Homeowner Grant. If this does not apply to you, but you know of someone else who might qualify, please pick up copy of a pamphlet we received from the Department of Human Services during the forthcoming WCA meeting on July 28th. After your reading, if you have questions or would like to receive applications, please call Hyonami Choe at 703-228-1350.

### ***Arlington County Fair***

Thomas Jefferson Community Center  
August 18th through August 21st, 2005  
3501 South Second Street • Arlington, VA  
22204

The 29th Annual Arlington County Fair will again be held at the air-conditioned Thomas Jefferson Community Center and is open to the public. Admission is Free! The Fair features: Carnival Rides and Amusements • Competitive Exhibits  
\* Arts and Crafts • Food from Many Countries! Live Entertainment • Pony Rides

Pig Races • Goat Races • Petting Zoo  
Free Parking and Shuttle Bus. Shuttle bus service is also provided from Ballston Metro Station. Reasonable ADA accommodations are available upon request.

### ***National Night Out***

Tuesday, August 2, 2005 is National Night Out. The Police Department hopes you will turn on your porches lights and look out for your neighbors and neighborhood.

National Night Out is designed to:

- \* Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- \* Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- \* Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- \* Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

National Night Out has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation.

### **Woodmont Civic Association**

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

### **Officers**

**Naïem Sherbiny**, President; 703-524-3470; [nasher@erols.com](mailto:nasher@erols.com)

TBD, Vice President

**Ron & Sue Bentley**, Treasurer; 703-524-1652; [bentleys@saic.com](mailto:bentleys@saic.com)

**David Thacker**, Secretary; 703 351-5557; [david\\_thacker@aigvalic.com](mailto:david_thacker@aigvalic.com)

