



Arlington Ridge Civic Association

P.O. Box 2443, Arlington, VA
Website: www.arcaonline.org

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Neighbors make their feelings known on the proposed PenPlace



ARCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 7pm

Don't miss this important meeting at which ARCA will vote on a position on PenPlace development. Come and make your voice heard!

A NOTE FROM ARCA BOARD PRESIDENT, KATIE BUCK

Dear Neighbors,

I love our community and as ARCA president I have learned many new things about it. In particular I have become aware of our long and successful history preserving aspects of it while change happens around and within us. Through the PenPlace process, this is the tradition that I and the ARCA board has attempted to preserve. Without opposing development, we have tried to ensure that any change is smart. This means many things as it relates to density, height, use, traffic calming, green space and promotion of a live community. The ARCA board has determined it is necessary to revisit and update the official ARCA position on PenPlace and the upcoming ARCA meeting will be devoted to a discussion of it. The PenPlace development has many implications: density, parking spaces and potentially leaves out long-promised community benefits. Our window of time to influence the outcome of PenPlace is quickly coming to a close, and once closed, the precedent will be set for future development proposals -- for example, the possible transformation of the River House properties. In my mind, our voice should be more strongly considered in the PenPlace process than it has been, as it relates to the attributes I've mentioned, and also as to how resources are pointed towards things that sustain a community, such as medical facilities, schools, police infrastructures and traffic strategies for all modes of transportation.

It is the job of your ARCA Board to represent your views. Please attend our November 15 meeting to register your vote for our official position. We will have plenty of time set aside to hear your comments and answer your questions.

KATHARINE (Kit) MARIE MILLER WHITELY

Our dear friend and neighbor, Katharine "Kit" Whitely, passed away on October 30, 2012, at her home after a courageous six year battle with breast cancer.

After an illustrious career in senior engineering management positions in the defense sectors at McDonnell-Douglas & The Boeing Company, Kit approached ARCA looking for new challenges. Kit was Secretary of ARCA from 2009-2011 but in addition took on a much greater role on key issues confronting ARCA, given her unique energy and analytical skills. Kit shaped our neighborhood survey, seeking useful feedback for our upcoming Neighborhood Conservation Plan. She was the lead for ARCA during the Crystal City Redevelopment Plan approvals and is in large part responsible for the formation of the Citizens Council. County Board Member Chris Zimmerman said Kit's "...participation in the Crystal City Sector Plan process made a positive impact that will benefit Arlingtonians for many years to come."

Kit was a voice of reason on the many issues facing our neighborhood. She was tireless in her efforts to protect and support our neighborhood. Even in the latter stages of her illness, Kit personally developed and steered a proposal through the County's Park Enhancement Grant process to improve the safety of Fort Scott Park for current and future generations. She was an active participant in the Nominating Committee for the 2012-2013 ARCA slate of officers, ensuring continued future quality leadership for our community. She was also active in fundraising for and participating in the Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk.

Our deepest sympathies go to her husband, Jack Whitely, and members of their family. Not only was Kit a community leader, she was a good friend. She will be missed by all of us.

Donations in Kit's memory may be made to: The Inova Heath Foundation - Alexandria Walk to Fight Breast Cancer, Inova Alexandria Hospital, c/o Foundation Office
4320 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

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DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

OLD POST OFFICE SITE

Kettler's apartment project at the Old Post Office site is moving forward. The Transportation Commission is scheduled to hear the matter November 19th, the Planning Commission on either November 26th or 28th and the County Board on December 8. Check arcaonline.org for updates.

PENPLACE

The 7th Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) met at the Aurora Hills Center on October 18th for another nearly three hour marathon session at which Vornado presented descriptions of how PenPlace might look if their proposals were adopted. Unlike other meetings, Vornado's representatives seemed to talk a little less, and County staff a little more. Members of the SPRC engaged in a lengthy discussion of density, height, aesthetics, TDR's, use, etc. While previously the staff had indicated there would be one more SPRC, at this meeting the number of future SPRC meetings seemed to be an open question. Two years ago in September, the PenPlace plan and numbers were submitted to the County, which started the public review process, so this is an anniversary of sorts. We thank all those who have worked on this issue.

HOW NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCACY HAS SHAPED OUR COMMUNITY OVER THE YEARS

The full text of this article can be found on our website at <http://www.arcaonline.org>

For many years neighbors have joined together to advocate for our neighborhood. Sometimes we hear neighbors today say, "What difference can I make? What I do won't matter." Our community is what it is today because of the activism of its members in the past. We thank them. Now it's our turn to get involved, and to weigh in on what will be needed to protect and preserve the quality of our neighborhood along with our home values. We want growth and careful planning: preserving, protecting, maintaining, enhancing and stabilizing our neighborhood has always been our goal. What follows is a list of some of the efforts over the last thirty-five years that have had a positive impact on our community.

1. In the 70's residents worked hard to change the **planned interstate I-595 highway**. The proposed elevated highway would have run from the 14th Street bridge to the Airport Connector, continuous traffic from Crystal City and Route 1 being fed onto 23rd Street. Neighbors filed a lawsuit, resulting in a permanent injunction against the elevated highway.

2. Fort Scott Drive used to intersect with Route 1. Neighbors successfully advocated for Fort Scott Drive to end at Eads, and successfully removed the plan for a "27th Street Connector" that would route all cars from Crystal City up Fort Scott Drive to 23rd Street.

3. In the 60s our **Sludge Incinerator's** smokestacks burned sludge. In the 70's the incinerator was replaced with a lower stack which was claimed to be more environmental friendly, but air pollution experts organized and demonstrated otherwise. Eventually, the incinerator was removed and our air became a little cleaner.

4. In the 70's parts of **23rd Street were a de facto 3 lane road**. In the 80's as a result of neighborhood advocacy, it became a 2 lane road with curb extensions, gutters, and sidewalks. A wide green strip was added between Fort Scott and Arlington Ridge Road and the island at Fort Scott and 23rd was created to narrow the wide intersection.

5. Arlington Ridge Road used to be 4 lanes. Citizens working with the County staff obtained some significant changes -- in the 80's the four lanes were reduced to two and new sidewalks were installed. In the 2000's citizen involvement resulted in additional Ridge Road improvement.

6. In the 80's **Glebe Road was on the Master Thoroughfare Plan to be 6 lanes**. Today Glebe Road remains 4 and there are no plans to make it wider.

7. Army Navy Drive was to be 4 lanes. In the 90's neighbors worked hard to have concrete sidewalks replace the temporary asphalt walks. Green strips, plantings, and lighting were also installed.

8. The green strip around the "Shirley Park" shopping center was installed so that there would be a green transition place between the shopping center, the residential neighborhood and Gunston School grounds.

9. The green strip and park around the Linden Resources was advocated by neighbors to protect the neighborhood and provide green space. We were concerned the commercial zoning would creep to the back of the property.

(continued on Page 3)

ADVOCACY (Continued)

10. **Finally, the Pentagon City tract:** As a community we advocated for changes to the proposed plans, which resulted in significant community benefits, including curving roads to keep traffic out of the community, an additional 11 acres to the Virginia Highlands Park, an apartment for the elderly, a nursing home, and construction of family townhouses. During the County Board hearings, the office space was reduced from 2,000,000 square feet requested to 1,250,000 square feet because of the increased traffic congestion, air pollution and noise associated with office use. Recognizing possible future air pollution conditions.

Our neighborhood's reasonable and rational advocating has helped make it more liveable. People power really can make a difference!

NEW SPRAYGROUND AT VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS

Funding through the Neighborhood Conservation Program has been approved for the Virginia Highlands sprayground and will feature a water recirculation system, an accessible entrance and picnic area and sidewalk improvements.

FORT SCOTT WATER LEAK

Driving past Fort Scott Park on Fort Scott Drive, there is a continuing sheet of water seeping out of the westbound lane. Arlington County Water/Sewer/Streets Bureau Chief Harry Wang has says that extensive tests indicate that the source is groundwater seepage. Crews are searching for its exact location, and in the meantime will design and build a "subsurface groundwater catching structure" to divert the water once they find its source. They are concerned about an overnight freeze and the potential for an icy patch on the steep hill, and will salt and sand it whenever the road temperature drops to freezing. So please use caution when driving on this patch.

FALL VOLUNTEER DAY AT HUME SCHOOL

As always, a group of stalwart neighbors worked to clear and mulch at the Hume School, the I-395 and Ridge Road intersection, and the triangle at 23rd & Fort Scott Drive. And as always, volunteers lunched on Rich Kelly's famous chili dogs. A particular vote of thanks goes to the hard working group from the LDS Church who have been a great addition at our regular volunteer roster.

CUL DE SACS – PARALLEL OR ANGLE PARKING?

Some residents have asked that this question be clarified as they have had some issues with available parking in their limited spaces. Arlington follows the Virginia State Code, which states that if a public street does not have painted lines or indications that allow angle parking, then they must parallel park. This allows vehicles to complete a turn while vehicles are parked in the cul-de-sac. Full details at <http://www.arcaonline.org/traffic-issues>.

ARLINGTON VILLAGES UPDATE

Arlington Village is one step closer to having a pilot program in our neighborhood -- ARCA representative Andrea Walker held a meeting Oct. 21 for those interested in being part of a pilot team. The team will develop infrastructure functions and guidelines, identify potential members and their needs, and conduct outreach to churches, condo associations and other community groups. If you would like to help, please get in touch with Andrea at 703-838-6244, or email her at tasteless@verizon.net. <http://arlingtonvillages.org>

PENTAGON ROW ICE RINK IS NOW OPEN!

Every day including holidays at 1201 S. Joyce Street. Info: <http://pentagonrowskating.com>

SECRET SANTA

Every year Arlington County's Department of Human Services organizes a Secret Santa Program for the county's most vulnerable citizens -- children in foster care, people with disabilities, low income seniors and families. You can help by sending gift cards from area stores -- grocery, drug, Target, shopping mall or credit card type gift cards -- each one not to exceed \$25, but you can send as many as you like. It is a great giving opportunity for individuals, church or school groups, offices, sports teams or families. Mail or deliver cards to Secret Santa Program, c/o Kurt Larrick, Department of Human Services, 2100 Washington Blvd., 4th Floor, Arlington, VA. 22204

See arcaonline.org for more information on all articles contained in the Newsletter.

ARCA MEETINGS

All meetings are held at Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 S. 18th Street and begin at 7pm.

November 15, ARCA bi-monthly meeting, 7pm**Agenda:**

Overview of PenPlace Status
Member Discussion & Questions
Vote on ARCA Position on PenPlace

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**Nov 14 Aurora Highlands Civic Association Meeting:**

Featured will be a representative from Arlington County to discuss neighborhood transportation issues: the ART bus building design (important for keeping 31st Street from being a cut through to Eads); 23rd Street bus shelter location and a possible ART Circulator route for the neighborhood. 7pm. Aurora Hills Community Center

Nov 15 – Dec 9 Six Characters in Search of an Author, by Luigi Pirandello. Pull back the curtain and explore the worlds and characters created by the master of the tragic farce. WSC AvantBard. Artisphere Black Box. <http://www.wscavantbard.org>

Nov 17 Rain Garden Workshop: Learn how to locate, design and construct a small scale rain garden. 9:30am – 12:30pm Fairlington Community Center. 703-228-3610

Dec 1 Annual Holiday Boutique: Aurora Hills Women's Club. Ready to go meals, baked goods, holiday gift items, raffle baskets, freshly decorated wreaths and more. 10am – 4pm. Our Lady of Lourdes, 800 S. 23rd St. To benefit Arlington Food Assistance Center and the Arlington Historic Museum at Hume School.

Dec 1 HOG Pull: Remove invasive species at Haley Park, 9 – 11am. Wear appropriate clothing, bring weeding and clipping tools. 2400 S. Meade St.

Dec 10 Open Door Mondays at Gunston: Bring your concerns and comments to members of the County Board in an informal setting. 7pm.

Dec 13 Water Pollution Control Bureau Community Meeting: Updates on construction, landscaping and more. 7 – 9pm. 2nd floor conference rm. 703-228-6874

SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

Email: arcaneighbor@gmail.com

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We would love to hear from you!

Please send comments and questions on the contents of this newsletter to ARCAnighbor@gmail.com

**ENGLISH IVY CAN CHOKER AND KILL**

English ivy looks beautiful wrapped around your trees or climbing on your home, but this invasive species can kill trees and harm the brick or siding of your home. To rid yourself of this tough adversary, cut the ivy off at the bottom around the entire area you are trying to eradicate, leaving a 2 foot bare ring at its base. Do not pull off, as this can harm the tree or house. More information: <http://www.armn.org>