



Columbia Heights Civic Association Neighborhood Newsletter

ISSUE 2

www.on-the-pike.com/chca/

SUMMER 2010

President's Message

During the summer months I want to launch a new challenge: to unify our civic association by bridging the geographic divide of our South Arlington neighborhood.

The east-west divide runs through the locally beloved Bob and Edith's diner. The west side is composed of single-family homes and four condominium associations. There are no through streets that connect it to the east side, primarily large apartment complexes.

Active participation from both sides will ensure that the diverse interests are addressed, and that improvement projects will benefit all segments of the neighborhood, east and west, renters and home owners, families and single households, newcomers and long-time residents.

--Ron Haddox, President



Sign up for CHCA List Serve--

Go to the Web site below, then follow the instructions: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ColumbiaHeightsCA/join>

CHCA Board:

Ron Haddox (President); Sarah McKinley (Vice President); Allen Muchnick (Secretary); Ed Miltenberger (Treasurer); Linh Ong; Jennifer Bagnell Stuart and Tutu Phimviengkham.

CHCA Social July 13 at LA Bar & Grill

Columbia Heights next meeting will be a social gathering, co-sponsored by LA Bar & Grill. We encourage neighbors to come early for free appetizers on July 13, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at LA Bar & Grill, located at 2530 Columbia Pike. Please help us join the east and west sides of CHCA in an evening of conversation and good company.

Civic Associations Declare Victory in Saving our Local Library!

Columbia Heights, joining forces with neighboring civic associations, demonstrated this June that community groups can make a difference, even at the last minute. The local groups were successful in convincing County officials not to relocate our local library, depriving us of a library within walking distance.

Arlington County staff had developed a proposal to move the existing public library, located in the Career Center across from Patrick Henry Elementary School, to the Arlington Mill Community Center (at Dinwiddie and Columbia Pike).

The County Board asked staff to consider such a plan when space became available in the Arlington Mill project as a result of developers withdrawing from a public-private partnership for redevelopment of the space. Instead of mixed use development, including residential units, the new plan would have called for a five-floor structure, with one floor used for a library.

CHCA members attended a town hall meeting at the Career Center on June 16 to protest. CHCA had planned to meet with library officials, and a signature petition was already in circulation, when the County announced that it would no longer pursue the plan, a change made solely because of strong community sentiment to keep the library at its current location.

Neighborhood Signs Approved!

The Arlington Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) has approved funding for the CHCA neighborhood sign. The selection of the final design took place during the Home Show in May.



Army-Navy Country Club to Build New Club House, with Bike Trail for Neighborhood

Representatives of the Army-Navy Country Club (ANCC) came to CHCA's last monthly meeting to present drawings of its proposed Club House, which will be 55 feet tall, with a roof that will be visible to residents of Fairway Village and Arlington Village.

This new building, constructed over the next two years, would be taller than the maximum allowed for a residential district. The variance they are requesting from the County, however, includes two concessions.

First, the Club will address drainage issues behind the Arlington Village Courtyard Condo, where the ANCC installed a large mound of earth years ago, producing runoff and lakes that form after heavy rain.

Second, the project will include a public pedestrian and bike trail easement parallel to I-395, from the Country Club access road near Hoffman-Boston Elementary School to Columbia Pike near Scott Street.

Penrose Square on Track New Giant Coming!

Construction of the Penrose Square Development is on track and a new Giant should be opening in 12-18 months, according to developers who presented their latest plans at CHCA's last monthly meeting. Members discussed parking issues for the residential units and shoppers.

The developers are going to the County Board with plans for entry signs and are actively negotiating with potential retail companies for storefront space.

Join Your Local Civic Association!

Membership:

___ Individual (\$15)

___ Business (\$25)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to Columbia Heights Civic Association, PO Box 41556, Arlington, VA 22204

CHCA Street Light Project Sets Precedent for County

The street light project for CHCA, now incorporating the County's new policy of using LED street lights, will be the first large-scale demonstration of the new system. The approved project will replace street lights on Barton Street from Columbia Pike to 16th Street, along with a small section of 16th and Edgewood.

The County is now moving forward with engineering plans for the underground conduiting of the lights. The new street lights will be in the "Carlisle" style, like those now found on the Pike, but because they will use directional LED lighting, there will probably be fewer, but more strategically-located, lights.

The new system will also become part of a "smart grid" that will allow the County to operate all the lights from a central location. The new system will be more efficient and more environmentally friendly, while providing better lighting.



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Serving Arlington Since 1984



Friday nights feature live music from a broad range of music-- rock, blues, reggae, folk and country. If you perform, stop by on Thursdays for the Open Jam!

On June 25 hear Duffy Kane play Texas blues guitar.

LA Bar and Grill
2530 Columbia Pike