

A Guide to the Records of the Arlington View Civic Association, 1957-2005

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Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

RG 181

Language

English

Creator

Arlington View Civic Association

Extent

6 boxes.

Repository

Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Florence Ross, long-time secretary of the Arlington View Civic Association, on July 24, 2010.

Preferred Citation

Records of the Arlington View Civic Association, Collection # RG 181, Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Other collections about the neighborhood and affiliated locations are [RG 373, Hoffman-Boston High School Records](#), [RG 103, Freedman's Village and Reconstruction Collection](#), and [RG 126, Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization Records](#). For larger Arlington racial and neighborhood issues, see [RG 14, Arlington County Civic Federation](#), and [RG 69, Arlington Public Schools: Desegregation Materials](#). The Center for Local History has the published Arlington View Neighborhood Conservation Program on the shelf (VA 711.4 A724nar).

Historical Information

Arlington View is a neighborhood in Arlington, Virginia, bordered by Washington Boulevard to the north, Columbia Pike to the northwest, Interstate 395 to the east and the Army and Navy Country Club to the south. The 0.118 square mile area of Arlington View had a population of 870 as of 2009. Landmarks of note include Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Hoffman-Boston Elementary School, the Carver Community Center, and the Harry Gray House, the first brick townhouse built in Arlington. The Arlington View Civic Association has operated in the neighborhood since at least the 1950s when the community banded together to stop a company from building an oil storage tank in the neighborhood.

Arlington View is an historically African American neighborhood, though demographics have begun to shift in recent years to include more Caucasian and Hispanic residents. In 1863, the federal government began settling freed slaves in Freedman's Village south of the Potomac on land now occupied by the Arlington Cemetery. The settlement was one of a number of temporary camps for freed slaves in the region. It grew over the following decades, serving as a seed for Arlington's African American community in local neighborhoods.

The Arlington View Civic Association grew out of the Johnson Hill Citizens Association. The neighborhood was known as Johnson Hill or Johnson's Hill until well into the 20th century. After the Civil War, former slaves including Harry Gray purchased large portions of Johnson's Hill from the Johnston family. Gray, a descendant of slaves owned by Robert E. Lee, built a brick townhouse on his property in 1881 that still stands in Arlington View today. Gray's land was subdivided over time and now forms the northwest portion of Arlington View.

In 1900, the federal government dissolved Freedman's Village in order to expand the Arlington National Cemetery, and some displaced residents moved to the south to Arlington View and Green Valley and east to Queen City. In 1939, the building of the Pentagon displaced the residents of Queen City, and many of those residents moved to a temporary trailer camp in what is today Arlington View. After World War II, the residents began to come together to rejuvenate a deteriorating community. Community members reestablished the defunct civic association, and in the 1960s the civic association began planning a sweeping conservation project for the neighborhood.

Arlington View, along with the Maywood and High View Park neighborhoods, pioneered the Arlington Neighborhood Conservation Program. The county developed the program to enable communities to create their own plans for improving their neighborhoods. Improvements included traffic management, beautification, and adding or improving curbs, gutters, sidewalks, street lights, parks and recreational facilities. Arlington View committed to a plan in July of 1964 and the county adopted that plan in February of 1965. The county financed half of the project while the citizens of Arlington View financed the other half. The association involved the entire community in developing a plan for improving the neighborhood over the following decades. By 1994, twenty-eight Arlington communities had adopted the Arlington Neighborhood Conservation Program.

Scope and Content

The records in this collection range in date from 1957-2005, and they occupy three linear feet. Minutes and correspondence make up the majority of the collection. The bulk of the collection comes from 1969 and 1973-2004. There are only a few records from years prior to 1969 in the collection, and records from 1970-1972 were missing, according to the donor. The civic association retained meeting minutes, a great deal of correspondence both to and from the civic association, reports from other organizations, news articles, event programs and maps. *Subgroup 1, Minutes and Notes*, contains administrative records for the regular work of

the association. *Subgroup 2, Other Files*, has four series: Administrative Files, Publications, Subject Files and Maps. Administrative files include bylaws, membership lists, minutes and correspondence and stationery. Publications include those of the Arlington View Civic Association, Arlington County publications, Arlington County Civic Federation publications, event programs, miscellaneous publications, and newspaper clippings.

These records tell the story of Arlington View's efforts to conserve and preserve its neighborhood starting in the 1960s. The civic association addressed such issues as neighborhood conservation, schools, parks and recreation, zoning, traffic calming, crime, blight and adequate housing. The planning and implementation of the Neighborhood Conservation Program occupied much of the association's time and effort. It also paid special attention to providing stewardship for the Hoffman-Boston School and Carver Community Center that lie within the neighborhood's boundaries, especially during the period when the neighborhood's children were bused to other communities after desegregation.

The civic association published a newsletter periodically entitled "The AVCA News" or "AVCA Bulletin" or "The AVCA Quarterly." Other publications in this collection include those of Arlington County, Arlington County Civic Federation, miscellaneous publications, event programs and newspaper clippings. The collection includes subject files for the Neighborhood Conservation Program, the Mid-Atlantic Community Education Consortium, Columbia Pike Revitalization, the Residential Program Center near the community, dumpsters at the Hoffman-Boston School and political advertisements and correspondence.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Neighborhoods.

Arlington View (Arlington, Va.)

Arlington County (Va.)

Arlington (Va.)

Arrangement

The collection came to the Center for Local History in several binders organized loosely in chronological order (*Subgroup 1, "Minutes and Notes"*). Each binder held records in loose reverse chronological order except for one, "Minutes and Notes 2002-2004," which had records arranged in loose chronological order. The processing archivist retained the original order for records from the binders. The civic association labeled each binder "Minutes and Notes" with a date range, and the processing archivist retained that naming convention for the records from the binders. Series and files based on the civic association's naming conventions appear in quotes.

Some records were stuffed into the pockets of each binder without any clear arrangement (*Subgroup 2, Other Files*). The processing archivist arranged records within each file in *Subgroup 2* in chronological order. Note that most of the administrative files as well as some publications and maps are located in *Subgroup 1*. Only those administrative files that were not organized by the civic association in binders were included in *Subgroup 2*. Records related to the subject files are also found throughout *Subgroup 1*.

Folders with oversized materials have a double asterisk [**] to denote where material was removed and separation sheets added.

Contents List

Subgroup 1: "Minutes and Notes"

Series 1: "Minutes and Notes 1969"

File 1: "Minutes and Notes 1969" July 8, 1968 - October 29, 1969

Box 1

Series 2: "Minutes and Notes 1973-1983"

File 1: "Minutes and Notes 1973-1983" May 20, 1980 - April 30, 1983

Box 1

File 2: "Minutes and Notes 1973-1983" May 31, 1978-April 30-1980

Box 1

File 3: "Minutes and Notes 1973-1983" May 28, 1975 - April 26, 1978

Box 1

File 4: "Minutes and Notes 1973-1983" March 28, 1973 - April 30, 1975

Box 1

File 5: "Minutes and Notes 1973-1983" December 1981 - November 28, 1984

Box 1

File 6: "Minutes and Notes 1973-1983" January 30, 1985 - November 20, 1985

Box 1

Series 3: "Minutes and Notes, Miscellaneous Files 1975-1986"

File 1: "Minutes and Notes, Miscellaneous Files 1975-1986" May 28, 1975 - February 6, 1986

Box 1

Series 4: "Minutes and Notes January 1986 - April 1991"

File 1: "Minutes and Notes January 1986 - April 1991" January 22, 1991 - June 4, 1991

Box 1

File 2: "Minutes and Notes January 1986 - April 1991" January 1, 1990 - December 20, 1990

Box 2

File 3: "Minutes and Notes January 1986 - April 1991" October 5, 1988 - November 29, 1989

Box 2

File 4: "Minutes and Notes January 1986 - April 1991" March 26, 1987 - September 29, 1988

Box 2

File 5: "Minutes and Notes January 1986 - April 1991" 1982, February 22, 1986 - February 25, 1987

Box 2

Series 5: "Minutes and Notes November 1991 - December 1994"

File 1: "Minutes and Notes November 1991 - December 1994" November 20, 1992 - December 7, 1994

Box 2

File 2: "Minutes and Notes November 1991 - December 1994" 1984, September 27, 1989 - October 28, 1992 **

Box 2

Series 6: "Minutes and Notes November 1993 - November 1996"

File: "Minutes and Notes November 1993 - November 1996" January 6, 1996 - November 24, 1996

Box 2

File: "Minutes and Notes November 1993 - November 1996" July 27, 1995 - November 29, 1995

Box 2

File: "Minutes and Notes November 1993 - November 1996" October 19, 1993 - April 26, 1995

Box 3

Series 7: "Minutes and Notes 1997"

File 1: "Minutes and Notes 1997" January 29, 1997 - December 7, 1997

Box 3

File 2: "Minutes and Notes 1997" January 15, 1997 - November 28, 1997

Box 3

File 3: "Minutes and Notes 1997" December 3, 1996 - April 19, 1997

Box 3

File 4: "Minutes and Notes 1997" 1993, December 1996 - March 1997

Box 3

Series 8: "Minutes and Notes 1998 - 1999"

File 1: "Minutes and Notes 1998 - 1999" May 12, 1999 - November 24, 1999

Box 3

File 2: "Minutes and Notes 1998 - 1999" January 15, 1997 - November 28, 1997

Box 3

File 3: "Minutes and Notes 1998 - 1999" December 3, 1996 - April 19, 1997

Box 3

Series 9: "Minutes and Notes 2000 - 2002"

File 1: "Minutes and Notes 2000 - 2002" April 2002 - December 10, 2002

Box 3

File 2: "Minutes and Notes 2000 - 2002" March 28, 2001 - May 23, 2002

Box 4

File 3: "Minutes and Notes 2000 - 2002" October 6, 2000 - March 28, 2001

Box 4

File 4: "Minutes and Notes 2000 - 2002" March 28, 2000 - October 25, 2000

Box 4

File 5: "Minutes and Notes 2000 - 2002" February 1999 - March 30, 2000

Box 4

Series 10: "Minutes and Notes 2003 2004"

File 1: "Minutes and Notes 2003 - 2004" July 13, 2002 - April 15, 2003
Box 4

File 2: "Minutes and Notes 2003 - 2004" April 30, 2003 - March 3, 2005
Box 4

File 3: "Minutes and Notes 2003 - 2004" March 22, 2004 - December 2004
Box 4

Subgroup 2: Other Files

Series 1: Administrative Files

File 1: Bylaws, 1957, 1969
Box 4

File 2: Membership, 1975-1992
Box 4

File 3: Minutes and Correspondence, 1969-1987
Box 4

File 4: Minutes and Correspondence, 1990-1996
Box 5

File 5: Minutes and Correspondence, 1998-2003 , n.d.
Box 5

File 6: Stationary
Box 5

Series 2: Publications

File 1: Arlington View Civic Association Publications, 1969
Box 5

File 2: Arlington County Publications, 1974-1986
Box 5

File 3: Arlington County Publications, 1990-1995
Box 5

File 4: Arlington County Publications, 1996-2004 , n.d.
Box 5

File 5: Arlington County Civic Federation Publications, 1991-2004
Box 5

File 6: Event Programs, 1980-1997
Box 5

File 7: Miscellaneous Publications, 1992-2002 , n.d.
Box 5

File 8: Newspaper Clippings, 1970-2004 , n.d.

Box 5

Series 3: Subject Files

File 1: Neighborhood Conservation Program, 1968-1969

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File 2: Neighborhood Conservation Program, 1973-1994 , n.d.

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File 3: Mid-Atlantic Community Education Consortium, 1974-1978

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File 4: Mid-Atlantic Community Education Consortium, 1979 , n.d.

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File 5: Columbia Pike Revitalization, 1987-1988

Box 6

File 6: Columbia Pike Revitalization, 1988-2002 , n.d.**

Box 6

File 7: Residential Program Center, 1990-1992 1990-1992

Box 6

File 8: Dumpsters, 1998-2001

Box 6

File 9: Political Advertisements and Correspondence, 1980-1995 , n.d.**

Box 6

File 10: "Supplemental Neighborhood Conservation Plan for Project #3, Undetermined Area," 1969

Box 6

Series 4: Maps

File 1: Maps, 1969, 1994 , n.d.**

Box 6