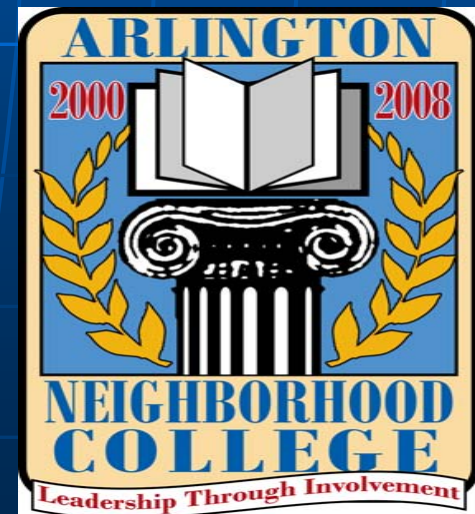


# *Arlington Neighborhood College*



*Building Arlington's Civic CAPITAL  
One Resident at a Time*



# Neighborhood College Beginnings in 1999

- The **goal** of the Neighborhood College is to promote an active, informed and engaged community. **The main objective** is for residents to better understand and participate in the dynamic process of maintaining healthy neighborhoods.
- The Neighborhood College seeks to:
  - Strengthen organizational and leadership skills in order to work more effectively with local government to improve neighborhood conditions;
  - Initiate the process of increasing citizen participation in community problem solving;
  - Give participants insight into governmental processes; and
  - Remove the barriers that may prevent or intimidate some residents from participating in community activities.

# Neighborhood College Facts

- Since 2000, the Neighborhood College has graduated seven classes.
- 145 residents have completed the program.
- The program focuses on skill building.
- Participation was offered to people who lived and worked in one of Arlington's Neighborhood Strategy Areas.
- Participants have gone on to serve in various capacities in their neighborhoods: civic association officers, community action group leaders, senior programs advocate and developer, and point persons for major housing projects.

# Year One - 2000

## First Year Facts:

30 Graduates

## Curriculum Highlights:

Government structure overview;

Participating in decision making processes;

Formulating questions;

Leadership styles;

Listening skills;

Conflict resolution; and

Building unity across groups.

After Neighborhood College

Participants became civic association officers, a housing commissioner and an Employment Center Director.



# Year Two – 2001 Program Facts



Eighteen (18) Graduates

Curriculum Highlights

- Asking the Right Questions;
- Government Structure/Decision Making;
- Cyber Center Tour;
- Influencing Government;
- Facilitation and Community Leadership;
- Conflict Resolution; and
- Building Unity/Action Planning.

After Neighborhood College, participants took positions as Outreach Specialist, Senior Programs Advocate and Programmer, Civic Association Secretary and Community Action Group Leader.

# Year Three – 2002

## Eighteen (18) Graduates



Sessions covered the following:

- Asking the Right Questions;
- Navigating the County and Decision Making;
- Influencing Government;
- Cyber Center Tour;
- Community Leadership and Facilitation;
- Community Conflict Resolution; and
- Action Planning.

DURING and FOLLOWING Neighborhood College,  
some participants WERE very ENGAGED.



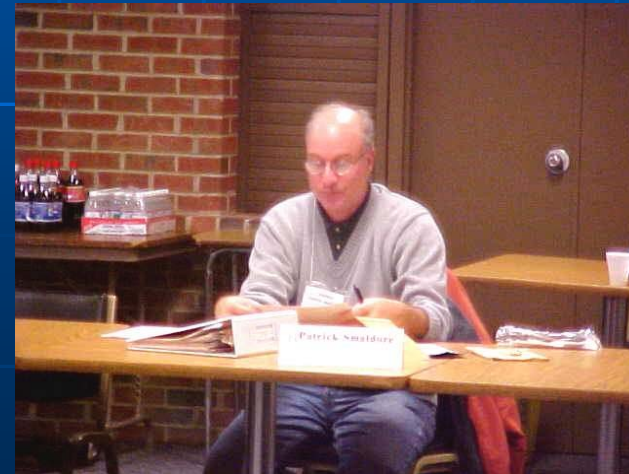
Civic Association President



Senior Rights and Program Advocate



Civic Association Officer



Civic Federation President

# Year Four – 2003

## Nineteen (19) Graduates

### Curriculum Highlights

- Asking the Right Question
- Navigating the County and Decision Making
- Influencing Government
- Cyber Center Tour
- Community Leadership and Facilitation
- Community Conflict Resolution
- Action Planning



# Year Five – 2004

## Nineteen (19) Graduates



### Curriculum Highlights

- Arlington County Government Structure
- Civic Engagement: Navigating the County System and Influencing Government
- Asking the Right Questions
- Decision Making
- Cyber Center Tour
- Community Leadership
- Resolving Community Conflict
- Civic Action Planning

# Year Six - 2005



- Twenty one (21) graduates representing six Neighborhood Strategy Areas
- Curriculum Highlights: Inside Your Local Government, Civic Engagement, Decision Making, Community Organizing and Advocacy, Resolving Community Conflict, Neighborhood Mapping and Action Planning

# Year Seven – 2007

## Scenes from the Sessions



# Class of 2007

## Nineteen (19) Graduates

### Curriculum Highlights

- Inside Your Local Government
- Leadership and Organizing in Your Community
- Group Dynamics
- Consensus Building
- Getting Organized



# Looking Ahead

## ■ Program Changes

- In the past, participants had to live or work in Arlington's Neighborhood Strategy Areas. Now the program is offered to residents throughout Arlington.
- Five Sessions Instead of Eight
- Three Key Concepts:
  - Asking the Right Question;
  - Conflict Resolution/Negotiation; and
  - Consensus Building/Group Dynamics

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Visit Arlington County's website at  
[www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/  
CPHD/ons/CPHDOnsCollege/How.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/ons/CPHDOnsCollege/How.aspx)

