



September 2014

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

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

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Synetic Theater's "Island of Dr. Moreau" at its Crystal City Theater Oct 1 – Nov 2



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**PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR NEXT ARCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 7pm
Aurora Hills Community Center**

AGENDA

**Welcome to New ARCA Executive Board
Dominion Power Presentation
Updates on Neighborhood Issues**

THANKS FROM ALL OF US TO OUR RETIRING ARCA OFFICERS

Five of our Executive Board members are retiring after multi-year terms and we thank them for giving so much of themselves to protect and enhance the quality of our Arlington Ridge Neighborhood. Outgoing president **Katie Buck** has been our stalwart and tireless leader during her 3-year tenure. **Paula Garner**, our secretary for the last two years, kept the Board focused and humming with her truly exceptional organizational skills. **Nancy Swain**, our seasoned zoning expert with long-standing relationships with so many County officials has provided invaluable guidance and assistance on every one of the many building projects in 22202, big and small, over recent years. VP **Molly Watson**, our valiant PenPlace advocate, spent endless hours researching background information and attending oh-so-many SPRC meetings over multiple years seeking to persuade the County and Vornado to adhere to "smart growth" rather than over-the-top commercial office development in Pentagon City. And **David Litman**, our traffic and transportation analyst and spokesperson, has worked quietly, mostly behind the scenes, to keep both us and County staff informed of critical information needed to limit the impact of increased traffic on our streets.

All five deserve our gratitude for the hundreds of hours they devoted and for their many accomplishments. Thanks to them, ARCA's incoming Executive Board – which includes five hold-overs – is well positioned to carry on with the task of keeping the County informed of the needs and concerns of our neighborhood and securing from it various improvements.

REFURBISHING AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

The Capital Improvement Plan the County Board approved in July includes \$1.5 million for the refurbishment of the Aurora Hills Community Center. These funds will come from the November 2014 bond referenda. The work was initially slated for FY2019, so having the funds in this year's bond accelerates the schedule by several years. Design is slated to begin in the spring and summer of 2015, and ARCA and Aurora Highlands Civic Association and other stakeholders will discuss priorities for the updates. We will know more in a couple of months.

SCHOOLS UPDATE

A New Elementary School at Thomas Jefferson?

The County Board appointed a working group to study the feasibility of building a new elementary school on the Thomas Jefferson Middle School/Community Center site, an option because the land is under County control. The group, made up of representatives from area civic associations, advisory boards and schools, will complete their work in 5 months with a "YES" or "NO" to the siting. If they decide against it, the plan is to construct additions to two as yet unspecified south Arlington elementary schools.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

REDEVELOPMENT OF PENTAGON CENTER

Kimco, the real estate company that owns the entire block in which Costco is located (known as Pentagon Center), has plans to build a multi-story, 390-space parking garage on a portion of the surface parking lot bordering 15th Street. It hopes to begin construction in early 2015 and complete it in the autumn, before the holiday shopping crunch. This parking garage will not only replace the parking spaces it will displace, but also the additional spaces that will subsequently be displaced when it begins construction in 2016 of a new residential building on the corner of Hayes and 15th Streets. A Kimco representative will be attending ARCA's November membership meeting to acquaint us with its long-range plan to redevelop the entire block.

PROPOSED FAA POLICY TO RESTRICT BUILDING HEIGHTS NEAR AIRPORTS: Crystal City Redevelopment Could Be Affected

The Federal Aviation Administration is considering new regulations that would lower the maximum allowable building heights near airports, regulations that could hamper future development in Crystal City and Rosslyn. The safety regulations being considered are designed as a precaution in the event of an engine failure during takeoff. Congressman Jim Moran, the County and developers have submitted comments opposing the proposed regulations without informing the Civic Federation which is actively considering a resolution to support the proposal. While buildings that are currently built would not be affected, new development close to National Airport could be impacted causing affected property values to plummet.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Arlington County Board approved \$2 million for improvements at Virginia Highlands Park which will be used to replace six tennis courts, two tennis practice courts and two basketball courts. A new basketball junior half-court will also be built. Other improvements include installing new fencing, replacing court lighting and adding shade structures. Construction is expected to begin at the end of this summer and run until the fall of 2015. You can view the plans at

<http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/virginia-highlands-park-replacement-athletic-courts-site-improvements/>

ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Good news for those who have spent hours poring over the arcane verbiage in our zoning ordinance. The County is currently updating the Zoning Ordinance to make it easier to use, understand and administer. The preliminary draft Zoning Ordinance amendment has been posted on the County website at <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/zoning-ordinance-update/>

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

ARLINGTON "STRONGLY SUPPORTS" DC OLYMPICS

The County Board chair Jay Fissette has announced Arlington's support for Washington's Olympics bid based on the County's plan to build an Olympic-quality aquatics facility at Long Bridge Park, which could serve as a candidate for the swimming and diving events if DC were to be chosen as the host city. "Back in June, we noted that we expected the park to be part of a plan for bringing the Olympics to the Washington region," said Fissette, "This is still our hope. We believe that Long Bridge could be a great venue for Olympic swimming events."

NEW BOOK CLUB AT AURORA HILLS LIBRARY Second Thursday of the month at 7pm.

Join the new monthly discussion group for readers in Aurora Hills. October will feature "Canada" by Richard Ford, November's choice is "One Thousand White Women: Journal of Mary Dodd" by Jim Fergus, and in December "The Master, a Novel", by Colm Toibin.

“FREE”/“MASERATI”/“COMMUNITY”

These three words appeared in our in-box, and we became really excited! The fine print, however, says “free community Saturday lunches”, and looking at their fabulous vehicles is free. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a variety of free offerings from local food trucks parked in the Maserati parking lot at 2710 S. Glebe Road from noon – 3 over the next several weeks. While you munch on your free lunch, you can fantasize about owning one of these sleek beauties and whizzing around Arlington with the top down and an Isadora Duncan scarf artistically arranged around your neck.

RECOVERING STOLEN BIKES

Many stolen bikes are recovered by the Arlington police. Your chances are better if the bike is a less expensive one stolen for a single ride and abandoned. Stolen bike expert Lt. Heather Hurlock at 703-228-4057 or hhurlock@arlingtonva.us is always the first one to contact on stolen bike cases. She may have your bike, and will come and pick up abandoned bikes.

ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB ACCESS ROAD MOVES FORWARD

The planned access road on the grounds of the Army Navy Country Club was approved by the County Board in its 2015-24 CIP. It will include a sidewalk and provide cyclists, pedestrians and emergency vehicles access from the Columbia Pike area to Pentagon City. “It was originally envisaged as a trail, but ultimately it has more value as an emergency access drive between the two sides of I-395, that also allows pedestrian and bicycle activity,” says County official David Goodman. The timeline for its construction is not till 2022 and 2023.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION REACHES 50

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VILGRq6ZeE&feature=youtu.be>

When the NC program was created in 1964, the goal was to empower residents by having them come together to discuss and share ideas for improving their neighborhoods. Today, the program provides funding for a variety of improvements including: installation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, signs, park improvements, neighborhood art and beautification. Communities participating in the NC program benefit from being involved in the process for improving their own

neighborhoods and help get funds for important projects. When a neighborhood participates in the Neighborhood Conservation program, it becomes part of a larger community known as the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC). The County Board relies on the NCAC to report on the issues of greatest concern to our community members. Neighborhood Conservation representatives serve on the NCAC and help to develop recommendations for improving the neighborhood conservation process and participate in implementing County bond funds. ARCA’s neighborhood has benefited from the NC program with improvements to Fort Scott Park, Fraser Park, Aurora Hills Community Center and more.

FREE TREES!

Arlington County’s Parks and Natural Resources Division is providing a variety of native tree species for Arlington residents. The trees being distributed are generally termed “whips” in the nursery trade and are in two-gallon containers. Tree height varies with species but generally ranges two to four feet in height.

When: Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014.

Where: The nursery is located in South Arlington on South Four Mile Run, behind George Washington University Baseball Complex. Register and choose the tree of your liking. Park in the parking lot in front of the ball field. Walk to the nursery to pick up your tree. Because we want as many people as possible to get a tree, we can only allow one tree per household. **Information: 703-228-6521**

Register at:

<http://environment.arlingtonva.us/trees/plant-trees/tree-distribution-program/>

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sat Sept 20, 1 – 4pm

Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd.

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help wildlife by growing native, and supporting our nature centers. The plants are propagated in the center’s own garden and feature sun-loving, butterfly-attracting plants as well as a nice selection of wildflowers, shade lovers, ferns and shrubs.

Sat Sept 27, 9am – 2pm

1701 Quaker Lane, Alexandria

Native perennials, shrubs and trees for sun and shade from over 15 vendors.

www.northernalexandrianativeplantsale.org

ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

NOTE: The November meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov 19, not on Thursday

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept 17 Kid's Club: Bananas Dancing: Ms. Susannah from "Go Bananas Dancing" will teach a variety of dance and movement games, ages 3 – 10. 4 – 5pm Aurora Hills Library

Sept 19 – Nov 30 Think With Your Hands: A collaboration between artists and software developers takes an unusual twist where animation, video brings to life illustrations of Spanish graphic designers. Terrace Gallery, Artisphere.

Sept 21 The Seven Year Itch: A bored husband in a mid-life crisis sees his dreams within his grasp as an attractive neighbor stirs his passion. American Century Theater. www.americancentury.org

Sept 22 Car Free Day: Join Arlington and be part of a world wide movement to celebrate sustainable forms of transportation – walking, biking, metro. www.carfreemetrodc.org

Sept 27 – Oct 4 Three Decembers: The opera chronicles the life of Broadway diva Madeline Mitchell and her two adult children. UrbanArias. Artisphere. www.artisphere.com

Sept 27 Spring in Autumn: National Chamber Ensemble benefit concert features music for violin and piano, including Beethoven's "Spring Sonata". Rosslyn Spectrum. www.nationalchamberensemble.org

Oct 1 – Nov 2 The Island of Dr. Moreau: Synetic Theatre presents the story of the mad scientist who experiments in a secret laboratory set in a horrifying world. 1800 S. Bell St. www.synetictheater.org

Oct 7 – Nov 8 Elmer Gantry: Salesman Elmer Gantry falls for pious evangelist Sharon Falconer and joins her new religion as a preacher and transforms the revival into the hottest ticket in town. Signature Theatre. www.signature-theatre.org

ARCA OFFICERS & CONTACTS

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Vice President	Lisa Gammon	703-528-4890
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ARCA History	Dick Herbst	703-892-5290
22202 NU	Diane Litman	703-920-7638
Beautification	Chick Walter	703-519-9487
Schools	Vacant	
Website	Maggie Gaffen	703-684-7359
CCCRC Reps	Susan English	703-549-6554
	Rich Kelly	703-622-4260
Membership	Vacant	

We would love to hear from you!

Please send comments and questions to ARCAneighbor@gmail.com

Neighborhood Conservation comments/questions to arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com

LUBBER RUN AMPHITHEARE**Extends its Summer Performance Series**

Lubber Run Amphitheare has extended its free summer performance series with two family shows:
Sun. Sept 21 at 1pm: Groovy Nate, who blends music, puppetry, movement and comedy.
Sat. Sept 27 at 4pm: Two of a Kind: The award winning duo creates magic onstage at their family concert. Both performances are FREE.

N. 2nd & N. Columbus Streets (2 blocks from Rt. 50 & N. Columbus St.)