



March 2014

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

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

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PLEASE JOIN US AT A CANDIDATE FORUM!

Thursday, March 20, 7pm

Aurora Hills Community Center

Social Gathering with Neighbors begins at 6:30pm with light refreshments

Jointly Sponsored by

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

Crystal City Civic Association

The sponsoring Civic Associations have invited to this forum **Alan Howze (D)** and **John Vihstadt (I)**, the two leading candidates seeking to fill the vacancy on the Arlington County Board created by Chris Zimmerman's resignation. The election is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, April 8th at normal polling locations throughout the County.

This will be your opportunity to meet the candidates, become acquainted with their respective platforms and form an opinion for whom you wish to vote. Unlike some elections, these two prominent candidates, each with many endorsements, do have significantly different, yet highly principled visions for the future of the County. Residents will have the opportunity to choose between those different visions when casting their ballots, but only if they come to this Candidate Forum to learn more about the candidates and their respective platforms. **We urge you to come. The more who attend, and the more who cast ballots in 22202, the more political sway we will have on County decision-making in the future.**

During the week of March 10th-14th, 22202 residents were invited by email to submit proposed questions they would like to have the candidates asked during the debate. Representatives from the three sponsoring associations will meet prior to the debate to synthesize and consolidate all of the questions submitted into a single group of questions the candidates will each be asked, in alternating order, by the moderator. (Given time constraints and the likely number of attendees, it would be impracticable to open the floor for questions.) The candidates will also be given an opportunity to make opening and closing remarks at the beginning and end of what is anticipated to be an interesting and enlightening, one-hour debate.

Although there are four candidates running for the one seat on the County Board, the other two candidates have not been endorsed by political parties or by nearly so many prominent Arlington citizens. Therefore, after much discussion, the decision was made by the sponsoring associations to limit the debate to the two front-runners in order to ensure that they would have adequate time to fully discuss their respective platforms in the limited time available. However, ARCA will invite all four candidates to submit written statements, not to exceed 150 words, and will circulate prior to the election all of those platform statements to the entire ARCA Neighbor list-serve for evaluation by our membership

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AURORA HILLS LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER?

Our well-used community center and library was built in 1977, and it is now, many years later, looking a bit threadbare and badly in need of some serious interior refurbishment. We won't even mention the bathrooms!

Our Aurora Highlands neighbors have alerted us that improvements to the Aurora Hills facility could be part of 2015 funding if we can get it on the County Board's radar screen. Once the 2015 budget is adopted in April, the County Board will focus, from May to July, on the Capital Improvement Plan or CIP. The CIP identifies the capital needs of the community over a specified period of time. It is updated biennially and subject to change as the needs of the community become more defined and individual projects move along in their planning and budgeting processes. Earmarked in the current CIP is some \$1.46 million in 2015 for undefined "interior renovations" to the Aurora Hills facility. This amount wouldn't fix everything that needs attention, but could provide such things as painting, better lighting, new carpet, new windows and interior reconfiguration. ARCA plans to send a letter to the County supporting this CIP expenditure.

CRYSTAL CITY-POTOMAC YARD TRANSITWAY CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

County Board Chair Jay Fissette announced the approval of a construction contract for the 4.5 mile Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway, a joint effort with Alexandria that will connect the Crystal City and Braddock Road Metro stations and provide faster, more reliable transit travel. It is scheduled to open early 2015. The stations and roadway built for the transitway will also be used for the planned streetcar line extending 7.4 miles from Skyline to Crystal City and Pentagon City.

The transitway will speed up bus service along the Route 1 corridor between Arlington and Alexandria by creating transit-only lanes. Buses will come every 6 minutes and will operate earlier in the morning and later at night. Stations will have real-time arrival screens and ticket kiosks to allow people to pay before boarding the bus. A new bus route, 9X, will travel the entire busway between Braddock Road and Crystal City, and continue to Pentagon City. The transitway is a joint effort between Arlington, Alexandria, WMATA and the federal government. It

will serve Crystal City and Potomac Yard, both of which are growing rapidly. Alexandria is planning a new Metro station at Potomac Yard as well. More information: <http://www.ccpytransit.com/index.htm>

ART BUS TEMPORARY LOT ON 31ST STREET

ART Arlington Transit will be using a lot on S. 31st Street across from the Water Treatment plant and adjacent to residences on S. 29th Street to park 20 ART buses while their permanent facility on S. Eads Street is being built. ART avers that this is the only place they are able to find for this facility. Neighbors are not happy with having a bus parking lot so close to their homes, and have asked for assurances that the use is only temporary and that it will be restored to its previous condition after the new facility is completed. At an Aurora Highlands Civic Association meeting on February 12, ART staff said the lot would be used from 5:30am till possibly midnight, with buses entering and exiting it during the day. It will be in operation from Fall 2014 until Winter 2015. They will enclose the lot it with a high security fence, adding lighting and plantings.

PENTAGON CITY IMPROVEMENTS ON S. HAYES STREET WRAPPING UP

Construction at the Pentagon City Multimodal Project along S. Hayes Street is nearing completion. The County says the project will "improve safety and access for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and vehicles with its new traffic signals, ADA ramps and pedestrian crossing equipment, sidewalks streetlights and street furniture".

TWO DESIGNARlington AWARDS TO 22202

The biennial awards are given by Arlington to recognize and inspire excellent design in Arlington by showcasing distinctive architecture of new and renovated buildings and well designed public art and landscape projects. Receiving the awards in our neighborhood this year are the repositioning of Crystal Drive and the updated Pentagon Row plaza.

22202-NU CONTINUES TO ASSIST NEIGHBORS

Our local "aging in place" service, 22202 Neighbors United, continues to provide a variety of volunteer services to our neighbors at no cost: lifts to medical appointments and the grocery store, help cleaning out a storage unit, walking the dog, playing bridge, and much more. They hope in the near future to have a better communication system. If you would like to help, or if you or someone you know needs help, please call Diane Litman at litmandc@gmail.com or 703-920-7638.

TRASH & TREASURES SALE AT AURORA HILLS SENIOR CENTER

The senior center needs your gently used donations for the annual Trash and Treasure Sale on Sat. Apr 12 from 9am – 1pm. All household items are greatly appreciated – no clothing or shoes please. Drop your donations at the center. 703-228-5722

KIDS ACTIVITIES – GET READY FOR SUMMER!

ART CLASSES

Arlington Arts Center offers art classes for all ages year round at its beautiful space at 3550 Wilson Boulevard. Its "Spring Break Escape" offers students a chance to travel the world through art.
<http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org>

ARLINGTON TEEN SUMMER EXPO

Know a teen who is looking for summer jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities? Check out the Teen Expo on April 12 at Washington Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford Street. Info:
www.arlingtonteens.com/jobs/job_search_help

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

The 2014 summer camp catalog is now available online and in community centers. Make the most of summer with camps specializing in sports, exploring nature, adventure and history, arts and crafts, and many others.
<http://arlingtonparks.us/camps/summer2014/>

SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS OPEN

Teen volunteers assist the camp staff in fun and exciting activities with campers, including field trips, arts and crafts, swimming, games and more. Call 703-228-4730.

KIDS CLUB AT AURORA HILLS LIBRARY

Fri. Apr 4, May 2, 4 – 5pm

A variety of fun art and exploration activities for grades K – 4.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION

The County's 2012 Neighborhood Conservation Bond has funded \$713,003 for Arlington Ridge Road street improvements, including curbing and installation of a sidewalk on the east side of S. Lang Street, which will be aligned with the existing one.

SPRING VOLUNTEER DAY MAY 3

Mark your calendars for our Spring Volunteer Day, May 3, when neighborhood volunteers clean up the grounds of Hume School and the gardens at the intersection of Fort Scott Drive and 23rd Street, and the I-395 ramp. 9am – noon. To keep up your energy, bagels and lunch are provided! Meet at the Hume school parking lot, bring your gardening clothes and stout shoes. A reminder notice will be sent out late April.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sat Apr. 26, 1 – 5pm
Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd
Want to make your yard more bird and butterfly friendly? Then it's time to grow native! There will be a great selection of plants that are accustomed to the local climate and wildlife, for both sun and shade. Save time and pre-order your plants online by April 4 at <http://www.arlingtonva.us>, search for "native plants."

ECARE

Sat Apr 19, 8:30am – 3pm Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Rd.
Dispose of hazardous household materials, computer monitors, tvs, and recycle small metal items, clothes, shoes and linens. Serviceable bikes will be collected by Bikes of the World to be sent to other countries. A small charge is made for some items. Info: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/recycle>

GREEN LIVING EXPO

Sat Apr 26, 10am – 4pm, George Mason Founders Hall, 3351 Fairfax Drive
Learn how to "green" your home, apartment, community and lifestyle.
<http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org>

WEDNESDAYS IN THE GARDEN

Mar 12 – Oct 15, 7 – 8:30pm, Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St.
You know it's spring when Wednesdays in the Garden begins again at Central Library: learn how to garden in an urban setting with Master Gardener volunteers: crop rotation and soils, basic vegetable gardening, composting, seed starting, container gardening, pollinators and more. Free.

ARCA MEETINGS

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

MAR 20, ARCA bi-monthly meeting & Candidate Forum, 7pm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Through Apr 6 Hamlet: Synetic Theater revisits its first wordless Shakespeare play: the iconic tale of a grief stricken prince torn between duty, love and conscience. Crystal City Theatre.

<http://www.synetictheater.org>

Mar 21 – April 12 Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama’s Hung You in the Closet and I’m Feeling So Sad: An antic, absurdist black comedy about the most dysfunctional family imaginable. American Century Theater. Gunston Theatre 2. <http://www.americancentury.org>

Mar 24 Face to Face meeting with a member of the County Board. Bring your concerns to the County Board in an informal setting. Aurora Hills Library, 7pm

Apr 1 – 26 Bodies of Work: Art in Series. Art Underground exhibits the work of its 43 members. 2100 Crystal Drive in the Underground. <http://www.galleryunderground.org>

Apr 3 Leveling “Queen City” for the Building of the Pentagon: Dr. Nancy Perry discusses the destruction of Arlington’s African American neighborhood Queen City, home to 900 residents, to build the Pentagon. It will include interviews with original residents, oral histories, land records, photos and news articles. Presented by the Arlington Historical Society. Arlington Central Library, 7pm

Apr 22 – June 1 The Threepenny Opera: Signature Theatre transform into London’s gritty underworld in this 1926 parody of The Beggar’s Opera. <http://www.signature-theatre.org>

Apr 24 – Aug 10 Fermata: Artisphere’s first exhibition dedicated entirely to sound, featuring 30 artists whose work ranges from music composition and field recording to biology and astrophysics. <http://www.artisphere.com>

ARCA OFFICERS & CONTACTS

President	Katie Buck	703-271-0208
Vice-President	Arthur Fox	703-271-4119
Vice President	Molly Watson	703-549-6457
Vice President	Mike Hill	703-501-8805
Vice President	Meredith Dodge	719-534-3074
Secretary	Paula Garner	703-685-0609
Communications	Maggie Gaffen	703-684-7359
Development	Nancy Swain	703-684-7830
Transportation	David Litman	703-920-7638
Treasurer	Paul Hammer	703-981-1294
NCAC Rep	Natasha Pinol	703-920-9423
Pen Place	Molly Watson	703-549-6457
Pen Place	Nancy Swain	703-684-7830
ARCA History	Dick Herbst	703-892-5290
Beautification	Chick Walter	703-519-9487
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

ARCAnighbor@gmail.com

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

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF JOBS IN THE ARCA NEIGHBORHOOD

ARCA NEEDS YOU!



Have a little time to help us with any of the following? Guaranteed feeling of moral superiority! And you will work with a great bunch of people. Some jobs even provide cardio workout...

Membership meeting setups
Neighborhood cleanups
Newsletter delivery
Schools activity reporter
arcaneighbor@gmail.com