



March, 2015

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

P.O. Box 2443, Arlington, VA 22202
Website: www.arcaonline.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- ◆ *Featured Speaker*
- ◆ *Red Light Cameras*

Page 2

- ◆ *Development Updates*
- ◆ *Facilities Committee*
- ◆ *Neighborhood News*

Page 3

- ◆ *Neighborhood Conservation*
- ◆ *Neighborhood News*

Page 4

- ◆ *ARCA Meetings*
- ◆ *ARCA Points of Contact*
- ◆ *Calendar of Events*

Opera: Blue Viola
Artisphere, Mar 20 – 29



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www.arcaonline.org, by check
or cash. Send to
ARCA, PO Box 2443, Arlington,
VA 22202

The membership year is
July 1 – June 30.

Membership Meeting, Thursday March 19, 7pm Aurora Hills Community Center

DENNIS LEACH, COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR Featured Speaker

The study of, and provision for, the movement of people, into, within, through, and out of Arlington County, by public transit, private automobiles, bicycles and on foot, presently and in the years to come, all fall within the domain of the County's Transportation Division headed by Dennis Leach. In the coming years, our County's population of both residents and commuters is destined to grow markedly. How the County plans to deal with the inevitable transportation challenges posed by growth, particularly within our neck of the woods, will be the general topic of his presentation that will also touch upon such mundane topics as vehicular traffic volume and congestion, street and intersection design reconfigurations, Metro crowding and potential saturation, and even potholes. This presentation and discussion promises to be highly informative on a topic of critical importance to all of us.

RED LIGHT CAMERAS COMING AT ROUTE 1 & 23RD STREET

The Arlington Police Department announced that it will be installing 7 new red light cameras in the near future at various locations in the County. One of the locations is the intersection of 23rd Street and Rt. 1. Intersections were chosen based on accident rate and pedestrian safety; if you are caught on the camera, there will be a 30 day grace period after installation, then fines of \$50 will be levied. Now, how about turning arrows so we don't need the cameras at all! More information at <http://police.arlingtonva.us/photored/>

ARCA NEEDS NEWSLETTER DELIVERERS: CARDIO WORKOUT GUARANTEED!

It takes a lot of legwork to get your ARCA newsletter to you, and we have several vacancies in our network of stalwart neighbors who deliver. Deliveries are made every 2 months before Membership meetings, and take an hour or two. **Routes that need covering are: (1).** Meade, Nash & Ode Sts.; **(2).** Ridge Rd. from 19th Rd. to 23rd St.; **(3).** Ridge Rd from 19th St. to the 1-395 ramp; **(4).** 18th Street from Lynn to Joyce; **(5).** Ridge Rd. 2500 – 2700 blocks; **(6).** 26th Pl. to Hayes St. Most routes deliver to approx. 35 houses.

Please email arcaneighbor@gmail.com if you can help us keep the neighborhood informed.

REDEVELOPMENT OF PENTAGON CENTRE (The Costo Block)

At our December membership meeting, Kimco VP Geoffrey Glazer informed us of his company's plan to begin construction of a 7-level parking garage on a portion of the surface parking lot along 15th Street to be followed by construction of a 25-story apartment tower on the corner of 12th and Hayes Streets and a second, 10-story apartment building on the corner of 15th and Hayes Streets. At the time, Glazer said they hoped to begin construction of the parking garage in February. While Kimco continues to be anxious to move forward, its schedule has been held up by the need to obtain County approval of its request to amend the overall Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP) for redevelopment of the entire block which was approved by the County in 2008. Consideration of Kimco's proposed modifications and refinements is ongoing. Exactly when that process will conclude, and construction may begin, is uncertain at this time.

COUNTY LAUNCHES COMMUNITY FACILITIES STUDY

In the wake of the controversy over the School Board's now-rejected proposal to build an elementary school on the grounds of the Jefferson Middle School and Community Center, the School Board and County Board established a study committee to address the current and future need for school and other facilities.

The County Board and Civic Associations selected members of the Study Committee, with ARCA's representative Beth Hicks and Elizabeth Wirick as alternate. In addition to the study committee, any resident can monitor and participate in the committee's work by joining the resident forum using the following link:

[www.http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/join-community-facilities-study-resident-forum/](http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/join-community-facilities-study-resident-forum/).

The Committee's February meetings focused on the sources of county funds, the role of the commercial real estate sector, and the budget challenges that lie ahead. In summary, most sectors of the Arlington economy are growing less rapidly than elsewhere in the area and U.S., and much of Arlington's existing office space is outdated, with the office vacancy rate much higher than average. The March meetings will cover county demographics and forecasts, and the April meetings will inventory county facilities and needs. The Committee plans to submit a final report to the County Board, with recommendations for sites for needed facilities such as schools, in November.

The committee meets every other Wednesday from 7 to 10 pm. The next two meetings are March 25 and April 8; check the website for meeting locations closer to the dates.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CONSTRUCTION?

ARCA occasionally receives questions from neighbors who are planning new homes, additions, "accessory buildings" (larger and smaller), fences, etc., and also queries about possible commercial uses in our residential area. What occupations are OK to have in my home, or my neighbor's home? What does the zoning code say about it? All this and more at <http://building.arlingtonva.us>.

SUSTAINABLE HOME RENOVATIONS

April 21st, 7:00 pm

Walter Reed Community Center

Reduce your energy bills and increase comfort while making your home beautiful. Join the Arlington County Green Home Choice Program Manager to learn about how even a small renovation projects like a bathroom, kitchen, or basement can reduce energy and water consumption and make your home more comfortable and sustainable.

ARCA BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2015 – 6

Can you spare a few hours a week to help keep Arlington Ridge a great place to live? Give us the benefit of your expertise, and join a dedicated group of neighbors who keep the civic association running smoothly, keep you informed, keep a watchful eye on our parks and infrastructure, and on development in both Pentagon and Crystal Cities. If you can help, please email arcaneighbor@gmail.com.

COFFEE WITH A COP (2nd District)

Thursday, March 19, 4 – 6pm

Java Shack, 2507 N. Franklin Street

www.javashack.com

This great idea originated in the Midwest, and Arlington has decided to copy it! After a successful "coffee" with the 1st District, 2nd District Captain Kamran Afzal is inviting members of our community to join his police officers on March 19. It is a chance to meet over a cup of coffee without any set agenda and to talk about anything that interests or concerns you. The Police Dept. will pick up the tab for coffee up to the first \$100. Java Shack will also be offering some discounts on their other beverages and pastries. Join us if you can. Questions: 703-228-4327.

NELLY CUSTIS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

As part of the County's Neighborhood Conservation Program, plans for renovations to improve Nelly Custis Park at S. Grant & 24th Street are in the works. A "scoping" meeting with the neighborhood was held March 2, and those present discussed the green area and park that was created as a barrier between the commercial and residential areas when the County closed the Nelly Custis School and gave the property to Linden Resources (then the Sheltered Occupational Workshop) in 1979. They discussed storm water drainage; maintaining the green area; and adding some natural play equipment for older children. The park is used by several pre-school groups, and unfortunately unleashed dogs. The discussion will continue and we will update you as we find out more.

FREE TAX PREPARATION THROUGH APRIL 14

2014 tax help is offered on a first come, first serve basis by AARP's Tax Assistance volunteers at the Columbia Pike and Central Library. Come prepared with necessary documents. Information at publicassistance.arlingtonva.us/tax.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION**PLASTIC PARADISE: Film Screening**

Wed. April 15, 7:30pm, \$10

**Arlington Cinema & Draffhouse
2303 Columbia Pike**

Join Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, the Sierra Club and Tap in Arlington for a screening and discussion of the award winning film, "Plastic Paradise", during which filmmaker Angela Sun explores a remote tropical paradise that has become a plastic landfill. Information at arlingtonenvironment.org

PLOT AGAINST HUNGER

Sat March 21, 10am – 1pm

Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) at Central Library

Hosted by AFAC, the spring garden kick-off will include an overview of urban agriculture in Arlington, with presentations of schoolyard and community gardens, permaculture, rooftop and container gardening, and rainwater recovery and irrigation. Free seeds and refreshments. Info. 703-845-8486

BORROW SOME GARDEN TOOLS**Beginning March 4**

If you are ready to get started on your garden, the Central Library is ready to save you some money and lend you some tools – for planting, digging, weeding, hauling, cutting, watering and raking. More Information at <http://library.arlingtonva.us/programs/health-and-fitness/garden-tool-lending-program/>

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 25, 1-4 pm

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

Want to beautify your yard while also making a home for birds and butterflies? Then it's time to go Native! We are offering a great selection of plants that are accustomed to local climate and wildlife. Pre-order your plants today at either nature center or you can order online at:

<https://registration.arlingtonva.us> .

GO GAGA FOR GREEN

Saturday, April 25, from 5 – 8pm

Join us for a family-friendly sustainability celebration with food, fun, the rain barrel silent auction and live entertainment-including student performers from both Arlington Public Schools and George Mason University. Proceeds will benefit three worthy organizations that support educational programs and energy efficiency for low income families. Mason's Founders Hall, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington. 703-993-9817.

COUNTY APPROVES GUNSTON CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

A \$600,000 contract for improvements around Gunston Center has been approved, and will go towards renovating the parking lot, outdoor basketball court and lighting. Courts will be closed starting in March and will reopen in time for the summer.

INTERESTED IN HELPING TO SHAPE ARLINGTON POLICY? JOIN A COMMISSION

Citizen commissions cover the arts, historical affairs, recreation, urban forestry, transportation, the aging, economic development, and more – over 50 commissions advise the County Board. Citizens are appointed by the Board, and do not require any special qualifications except an interest in the subject. If you would like to have your say on a pet program, call 703-228-3130, or <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us>

ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS**Aurora Hills Community Center, 7pm**

Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**Mar 19 – 22 American Century's Broadway Hit****Parade:** Musical comedy standouts from Broadway musicals Hellzapoppin, The Cradle Will Rock, Lady in the Dark, and more. Theatre Two at Gunston.www.americancentury.org**Mar 20 – 29 Blue Viola:**

A world premiere opera that tells the story of a junk dealer who steals a priceless viola only to find out it is a fake.

UrbanArias. Artisphere. www.artisphere.com**Mar 21 Prelude:**

The American Youth Orchestra will join the Arlington Philharmonic, with music by Strauss and other popular selections. Free. 4pm Gunston Theatre One. 703-298-3235

Mar 26 Estate Planning for Age 40+:

Elder Care attorney Bill Fralin will discuss estate planning: trusts, powers of attorney, entitlement benefits, asset protection and more. Free, but registration requested. Central Library. 7pm. 703-228-5999

Mar 27, Apr 27 Open Door Mondays with the County Board. Concerned about something? Meet with a member of the County Board in an informal setting at Aurora Hills Library, from 7 – 9pm on the 4th Monday of each month.**Apr 2 – Jun 14 Shawn Smith: Pixels, Predators &****Prey:** An exhibition that examines the evolutionary collision between nature and the digital world through the pixelated natural world by artist Shawn Smith. Artisphere. www.artisphere.com**Apr 17 Crystal City Walkabout:** Join WalkArlington and the Crystal City BID for a lunchtime guided walking tour that highlights artwork, cafes, boutiques and gathering places. 12 – 1 rain or shine. Free. Meet at Crystal City Metro, 18th & Bell Streets.**Apr 18 E-CARE: Environmental Collection and Recycling.** Safely dispose of hazardous materials, and recycle bikes, small metal items, shoes and clothing. 8:30am – 3pm. Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Information: arlingtonva.us, search "E-care".**ARCA OFFICERS & CONTACTS**

President	Arthur Fox	202-371-6626
Vice-President	Elizabeth Wirick	703-521-3191
Vice President	Lisa Gammon	571-876-1503
Vice President	Meredith Dodge	719-534-3074
Secretary	Mike Hill	703-501-8805
Communications	Maggie Gaffen	703-684-7359
Treasurer	Brenda Pommerenke	703-684-9383
NCAC Rep	Natasha Pinol	703-920-9423
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.comNeighborhood Conservation comments/questions to arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com**SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Summer was designed to give kids a break from school and help them try new experiences. Whether your child wants to refine a sports skill, learn magic, go fishing, play mind-adventure games, be in a play, or just plain hang, Arlington has something to offer.

**Parks.arlingtonva.us/program/camps,
703-228-4747**