



May, 2015

# Arlington Ridge Civic Association

P.O. Box 2443, Arlington, VA 22202  
Website: [www.arcaonline.org](http://www.arcaonline.org)

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Signature Theatre's  
Cabaret Thru June 28



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ARCA, PO Box 2443, Arlington, VA 22202  
The membership year is July 1 – June 30.

## Membership Meeting, Thursday May 21, 7pm Aurora Hills Community Center

### **"When Hollywood Came to Arlington"**

Please join us for the May Membership meeting, when we will spice up our normal agenda with a very different presentation -- an evening with film historian Rob Farr who teaches at George Mason University when he is not working at his day job as executive produce for Arlington TV, the County's government access cable channel.

Arlington has been the location for Hollywood produced movies for almost a century, and Mr. Farr will share his collection of these scenes, beginning with the disastrous Wright Brothers' flight in Fort Myer in 1908 that resulted in a fatality. Other clips range from D.W.Griffith's "America" (1924) to the "West Wing" assassination scene shot in Rosslyn's Freedom Plaza in 2000. Closer to home is the brief glimpse of the (now gone) house at Arlington Ridge Road and 20th Street in "No Way Out". Hear the story of how a neighbor offered help to a bandaged Kevin Costner, thinking he had been wounded in an accident! And come and meet the neighbors, enjoy some refreshments, and find out the latest neighborhood news.

Also on the agenda is a **brief overview of Arlington's Tree Canopy Program**. Concerned about the declining tree canopy in Arlington? The Tree Canopy Fund, administered by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, provides grants to individuals and community groups to plant and maintain trees on private property. For application information go to <http://arlingtonenvironment.ipage.com/community-action/trees>

## OAKRIDGE ANNUAL SPRING FLING & SILENT AUCTION Sunday, May 17, 2 – 6pm

Bring your family and friends to the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Fling at Oakridge, featuring slides, moon bounces, rides, carnival games, a petting zoo and pony rides. The Silent Auction promises tempting goods and services, and raffle prizes include an American Girl Doll. Come for children's used books, and old fashioned cake walk, hamburgers and hot dogs...and of course, cotton candy! Funds from the carnival help fund classroom technology, playground equipment and enrichment programs for all.

### **OAKRIDGE'S LYNNE WRIGHT NAMED ARLINGTON'S TOP SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

The entire community joins in congratulating the principal of Oakridge Elementary, Lynne Wright, who was named Arlington Public Schools principal of the year -- 11 years ago, Ms. Wright was also honored with the APS Teacher of the Year Award. Superintendent Patrick Murphy said, "Lynne is an energetic and charismatic leader who creates a positively charged school where students thrive and families are welcomed. She recognizes the importance of building relationships with families and community that support the diverse student population". Wright managed to improve Oakridge's Standards of Learning test scores while at the helm of Arlington's most overcrowded elementary school. I am sure Oakridge parents all agree that we are lucky to have her at our school.

### **CERTIFICATES OF MERIT TO NEIGHBORS WHO HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE**

Know someone who you think should be honored by ARCA for his or her volunteer work in the community? Let us know, with a brief description, at [arcaneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:arcaneighbor@gmail.com).

### **MEMBERSHIP ENVELOPES**

We have included an envelope to make it easier for you to renew your ARCA membership, and to let us know if you would like to help on one of our committees (we are always looking for neighbors to help us monitor zoning and development, transportation, neighborhood conservation and meeting planning). Our "dues year" is July – June. You can enclose your check in the attached envelope or pay using Paypal on our website at [www.arcaonline.org](http://www.arcaonline.org).

### **LONG BRIDGE PARK UPDATE**

Arlington will re-examine its plans for the Long Bridge Park aquatics and fitness facility over the next 8 months, said County Manager Barbara Donnellan. She has created a citizens' committee to "revalidate" the need for the facility and determine whether a redesigned project would meet the community's needs. A new recommendation will go to the board in January 2016, after two new county board members are elected in November 2015. Donnellan herself retires at the end of 2015.

"This is something we've invested with many, many years of work and it would be irresponsible not to give it one more shot, given we have money approved by the voters," said Donnellan. Voters in

2012 agreed to a \$44 million bond to pay for most of the park project, and another \$20 million came from the developers of PenPlace.

### **TAKING A LEFT AT 23<sup>RD</sup> STREET?**

You **know** you have trouble taking a legal left turn from S. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street onto Jeff Davis Highway in the short time allotted by the light. With the promise of a red light camera at this intersection, many civic association members were concerned that given the fact that there is not enough time to turn they will now get a ticket as well. (P.S. the red light camera will detect violations only on Route 1, not 23<sup>rd</sup> Street). The County, however, says that "based on their left turn analysis, a left turn signal is not warranted at this time." They will, however, add additional time on the light for those turning left, and will also continue to monitor conditions at the intersection and make any necessary adjustments. There! Happy now? Their traffic analysis of the intersection is on our website at <http://www.arcaonline.org/2015/05/traffic-analysis-of-s-23rd-street-jeff-davis-hwy/>

### **PAPER BALLOTS ARE BACK!**

The last time Arlington used paper ballots was 1950! But the State of Virginia now requires all localities, when buying new voting equipment, to buy ones for paper balloting as they found vulnerabilities with the touch screen boxes. They also say it will speed up voting. The paper ballots will be digitally scanned and provide a hard copy in case of technical malfunctions.

### **FARMERS' MARKETS EXPAND**

Spring means Farmers' Markets, and Arlington now has a new one at Fairlington, in the community center at 3308 S. Stafford Street. Don't forget our neighboring market, Four Mile Run Farmers and Artisans Market, held Sunday 9am – 1pm at 4109 Mt. Vernon Avenue. In addition to wonderful fruit and vegetables, they have crafts, entertainment, composting, and are hoping to have wine tastings later in the season. Check it out!

### **NILO SANTIAGO "TRAVELOGUE" EXHIBITION AT AURORA HILLS LIBRARY**

Check out the paintings by Filipino artist Nilo Santiago, that will hang in Aurora Hills Library foyer through June: the series is a journal of his travel experiences, an expression of what he found fascinating, beautiful, meaningful and colorful in the world around him.

## ARLINGTON COUNTY RETAIL PLAN

**Vision Statement:** "Arlington will be a community where retail is convenient, appealing, activating & sustainable; that provides interest and authenticity, entertainment and experiences, and goods and services to residents, employees and visitors; and where local, independent regional and national businesses thrive." The Retail Plan will effectively prescribe what sort of retail establishments will be required/allowed where in the County, particularly Crystal City and Pentagon City. It could affect all of us in the years to come, and the County urges all residents to study the maps and share your views and opinions with County staff. Two public forums have already been held, but it is not too late to weigh in.

<http://www.arcaonline.org/2015/05/arlington-retail-plan/>

## PENTAGON CENTER UPDATE

Kimco Realty has released the renderings of its plan for Phase 1 of the redevelopment of Pentagon Center. The initial plans for the 16.8 acre site that includes Costco, Best Buy and Nordstrom Rack were approved in 2008, but due to the stagnant office market, Kimco now wants to build a 25 story apartment tower at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and S. Hayes Street first. At the same time, two buildings along 15<sup>th</sup> St., a 10 story residential building and a 7 story parking garage will be built.

Phases II and III (in 20 – 40 years) will see the demolition of the main mall building and Costco, replacing it with three office buildings and hotel and park. So we still have a little time before we need to worry about the loss of Costco.

## ARLINGTON 6<sup>TH</sup> HEALTHIEST CITY IN THE US

Livability.com, who compiles the list, takes lifestyle, access to healthcare and environment into account in its list of healthy cities across America. However, we have become a bit less healthy, as last year we were 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country. The group also takes into consideration access to exercise, recreation, healthy food and low obesity rate. On its website, liveability.com says, "Arlington is filled with parks that offer great hikes, athletic fields, leisurely strolls and private fitness centers. " Arlington was also named the healthiest county in Virginia, noting that our obesity rate is less than 20%, we have roads with bike lanes and Metro accessible development that allows us to stay in

shape while commuting to work. Lastly, access to healthy food, recycling programs, not smoking and "drinking in moderation" were listed as factors. Now we just have to make sure we live up to the hype.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

Ensuring a range of housing options that are affordable is important to Arlington – it improves our neighborhoods and strengthens the economy. The County has seen a dramatic decrease in its affordable housing stock, losing 13,500 units between 2000 and 2013. County staff, along with an appointed 18 member community working group, has drafted an Affordable Master Plan and will seek Board approval in July. Next steps will be an extensive civic engagement effort to encourage community discussion around the proposed policies and tools. Through a series of meetings, events and online engagement, staff will hear from commissions, civic associations and residents. More information at <http://housing.arlingtonva.us/affordable-housing-study>.

## FOUR MILE RUN RESTORATION PROJECT

The Four Mile Run Restoration project, a joint Arlington/Alexandria project, begins a new stage as crews begin to work in earnest on the long awaited pilot project. Park users will have noticed the staging and prep that's taken place recently on the Alexandria side, with crews clearing parts of the wildlife preserve, removing the tree canopy that has grown on the highly degraded artificial fill and non-native forest floor. Once cleared, the area will be replanted using only the appropriate, native low and high marsh wetland plants, and the area will be restored as a functioning wetland.

<http://www.crystalcity.org/area/transformation/four-mile-run-restoration-pr>

## 23<sup>rd</sup> STREET (WEST OF RIDGE ROAD)

It appears that the County's poll of affected residents has resulted in approval of the construction of curbs, gutters and a sidewalk along the north side of the street from Nash Street to Army Navy Drive, a project enabled by ARCA's comprehensive Neighborhood Conservation Plan, approved by the County Board in September, 2013.

## CALENDAR

**ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**Aurora Hills Community Center, 7pm**  
**Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sept/Nov**

**Thru Jun 28 Cabaret:** Kander and Ebb's Tony Award winning masterpiece at Signature Theatre.

[www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org)

**May 13 – Jun 21 A Tale of Two Cities:** An irreverent comedy that tells the story of a drag queen who finds a crying baby at his door and soothes him as he enacts the Dickens classic. Synetic Theater.

[www.synetictheater.org](http://www.synetictheater.org)

**May 18 Fashion in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century:** The manager of Arlington's Costume Lab discusses ballgowns and bobby sox, and invites the community to bring their own memories to the discussion. 2pm. Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Dr. 703-228-1850

**May 23 Celebration of the Moon:** Ever look up at the moon and wonder? From ceremonies to stories we'll celebrate our moon at Long Branch Nature Center. 7 - 8pm 703-228-6535

**May 25 Open House Monday:** Meet with a member of the County Board in an informal setting at Aurora Hills Library, from 7 – 9pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month.

**May 28 C.J. Chenier & the Red Hot Louisiana Band:** Hear the crown prince of zydeco, with zydeco dance lessons before the concert. 7:30pm. Artisphere. [www.artisphere.com](http://www.artisphere.com)

**May 30 Flight of the Bumblebee:** Russian, Ukrainian and Gypsy music by the Washington Balalaika Orchestra, W-L High School, 7:30pm. [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org)

**Jun 4 – 28 The Madwoman of Chaillot:** Four eccentric women and their street friends conspire to save the world from rapacious capitalists. WSC AvantBard. Theatre 2 at Gunston.

[www.wscavantbard.org](http://www.wscavantbard.org)

**Jun 5 – 14 Alice in Wonderland:** When Alice falls down the rabbit hole, she discovers the magical world of wonderland. Encore Stage. Thomas Jefferson Theatre. [www.encorestageva.org](http://www.encorestageva.org)

**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.com](mailto:ARCAneighbor@gmail.com)

Neighborhood Conservation comments/questions to [arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com](mailto:arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com)

**LUBBER RUN AMPHITHEATRE**  
**ALL SUMMER LONG AND ABSOLUTELY FREE!**



**June 12 – September 19**  
**N. Columbus & N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Just off Rt. 50**

Arlington's answer to Wolf Trap is just 10 minutes from our neighborhood, and each summer weekend presents music, dance, theatre and film, absolutely free! Bring a picnic and a cushion and enjoy Mary Ann Redmond, (pictured) a winner of 24 WAMMIE Awards, opening the series on June 12. [www.arlingtonarts.org](http://www.arlingtonarts.org)