



May, 2016

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

P.O. Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202
www.arcaonline.org

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Nicole Saphos, June 19 at
Lubber Run Amphitheatre



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

Mark Schwartz, New County Manager, Featured Speaker

ARCA is honored to have Mark Schwartz speak at our May meeting. While he ultimately reports to the elected County Board, he shoulders more responsibility than any other person in County government, all of whom report to him. He will be on hand to tell us about some of the new initiatives he has launched, how the County is trying to keep commercial tax revenue flowing, the County's response to ARCA's resolution to examine future development in 22202 holistically, and the possibility of a facility study to find a site for a new elementary school in 22202.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Membership Year July 1 – June 30

It's that time of year again, when your \$20 helps keep our neighborhood vibrant. We hope all ARCA residents will feel this is a small amount to pay to support our Civic Association, whose officers work tirelessly to advocate on their behalf and to preserve the health, safety and overall welfare of our neighborhood. Our "membership year" is July – June. We have included an envelope with the print newsletter for your convenience, or you can pay your \$20 online with PayPal at arcaonline.org.

OAKRIDGE OVERCROWDING The position of Arlington Public Schools continues to be that no immediate action needs to be taken to provide relief for the overcrowding at Oakridge. ARCA has expressed its disagreement with this position and continue to press for a facilities study for a new school in 22202. While the School Board has indicated that funding for a feasibility study could come from APS' regular operating budget, it wants coordinated funding with the County through its CIP program. As this approach will only further delay a facility study, ARCA will continue to press for immediate action. In the meantime, we anticipate that APS will instead, beginning in the 2019-20 school year, bus some portion of the elementary students residing in 22202 to one or more schools west of I-395.

IMPORTANT COUNTY BOARD PRIMARY June 14 Open to All Voters

Regular polling places in Arlington will be open from 6 am to 7 pm, Tuesday, June 14 when voters choose between Libby Garvey (current County Board Chair) and Erik Gutshall in the Democratic County Board Primary. The winner of this Primary will likely be victorious in the November general election since the County is heavily Democratic. Turnout is expected to be light so just a few votes, one way or the other, could determine the outcome. Hence, this "Open" Primary is very important and given that everyone is eligible to vote, regardless of party affiliation, all citizens are urged to exercise their right to vote on June 14th, or by in-person absentee ballot at 2100 Clarendon Blvd by June 11th, or by mail-in absentee ballot. For more information, go to:

<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/elections/>

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ARCA membership dues
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www.arcaonline.org,
by check or cash. Send to
ARCA, PO Box 2976, Arlington,
VA 22202-0976
The membership year is
July 1 – June 30.

I-395 SOUND WALL?

VDOT will be measuring I-395 noise levels this summer along Army-Navy Drive to determine if it is eligible for construction of a sound wall by Transurban, the private contractor responsible for adding a third HOT Toll Lane to current HOV lanes north of Edsall Road up to the 14th Street Bridge. If VDOT determines that this neighborhood qualifies for a protective sound wall, it will then conduct a referendum among the affected property owners to determine if they would favor its construction before proceeding. ARCA is supporting VDOT's analytical project and will keep everyone informed of its outcome.

The BERKELEY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

AHC, owner of the two Berkeley affordable apartment buildings adjacent to Four Mile Run across from the Giant on S. Glebe Road, is seeking to replace those buildings, housing 137 apartments, with two significantly larger buildings that will contain 257 units. While existing zoning would allow AHC to increase the density on its property to 167 units, it is asking the County to grant it 54% of additional "bonus density" based on the County's policy of incentivizing construction of Green (LEED compliant) buildings and Affordable Housing. While supporting affordable housing, ARCA has questioned the County's mathematical calculation of so much bonus density applicable to this project. More information: www.arcaonline.org

MET PARK Phase #6 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Vornado is asking the County for permission to construct another new 300-foot tall apartment building, containing 568 units, in the 1300 block of Eads Street, adjacent to the nearly completed building at the corner of 12th and Eads Streets in Pentagon City which is scheduled to open later this year. That building will contain a Whole Foods grocery store on the ground level and 699 apartments on the upper floors. While the MetPark mega-block bordered by Eads, Fern, 12th and 15th Streets was originally authorized to contain only 2,282 apartment units, Vornado was able to persuade the County to allow it, without public review or comment, to add 930 additional units to the eastern half of the block which it owns. While ARCA challenged this maneuver back in 2013, County staff simply ignored our challenge. As a consequence, Vornado now intends to build these very tall buildings along Eads Street to accommodate this additional density.

RIVER HOUSE

Late last year, Vornado withdrew its request for an amendment of the County's General Land Use Plan (GLUP) to allow it to construct an additional 1,084 apartments on its River House property. While we anticipate that Vornado will file a new River House proposal in the near future, all is still quiet on the River House front.

SURVEY MONKEY OUT SOON!**Neighborhood Conservation Project Survey at:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9V69CLK>

The Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Program (NC) empowers citizens to identify, plan and enhance projects in our neighborhood. The program funds a variety of improvement projects that fall within NC funding criteria, one of which is installing streetlights on the stretch of Army Navy Drive from the Army Navy Country Club access road to S. Lynn Street. We are sending a survey to our listserv to gauge support for this project, and will also put it on the website at arcaonline.org. Not on the listserv?, Email us at arcaneighbor@gmail.org.

NEW OPTIONS FOR AQUATIC CENTER

The County Manager proposes moving forward with a reduced aquatics, health and fitness facility, plus the development of an additional 10.5 acres of open space at Long Bridge Park. The County Manager said that "after extensive engagement with the community, they have developed a proposal... within the existing budget (\$64 million) and without additional taxpayer funds". The project is being funded by the \$64m. earmarked for the project through voter-approved bonds and transfer of Development Rights funding (from PenPlace). The revised plan reduces the size of the facility by 37%, reducing the number of pools to two, installing a less expensive HVAC system, combining the family and teaching pool, and eliminating the therapy pool and diving towers. The recommendations resulted from surveys and public participation events where people shared what was most important to them. <http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/new-options-for-long-bridge-park-lubber-run/>

COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE June 8**Kabob Palace vs. Margaret's Soul Food**

BikeArlington's spring community bike ride will visit these two neighborhood favorites in Crystal City and Shirlington, and sample the comfort food at each location. The ride will go from the urban center of Crystal City to the walkable gems of

Shirlington via protected bike lanes. The ride begins at the Crystal City Metro at 6pm, and end at 8pm at Margaret's Soul Food, 2534 Shirlington Rd., and is approx. 6.7 miles. Ages 14 and up, reservation fee \$10. More info at bikearlington.com.

OAKRIDGE'S JENNIFER BURGIN TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

Arlington Public Schools recognized Oakridge 2nd grade teacher Jennifer Burgin as its teacher of the year. Oakridge Principal Dr. Lynne Wright describes her as a "model teacher...her love of education and learning permeates her being, she defines what means to be a lifelong learner." A former student said "Being taught by someone who genuinely cares for you is the best thing you could ever ask for. She wasn't just a teacher for me, she was a friend". Ms Burden will be honored at a celebration May 18.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS PARK RECONFIGURATION

At the ARCA March membership meeting Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA) president Natasha Atkins asked for ARCA support for an AHCA request to the County to reconfigure the western portion of Virginia Highlands Park. She reported that funding is already in place for re-design of the west side of the park, with construction anticipated in 2017–2018. An AHCA subcommittee drafted a proposal to restore balance to the park by transforming the west side into a vibrant public park with creatively designed open green space for unprogrammed recreation, gardens and seating areas, water and artistic features. The vision is a park that would accommodate the broad constituency represented in our diverse and rapidly growing population, and would benefit the neighborhood and the County in a multitude of ways.

<http://aurorahighlands.org/news/vhp-proposal/>

The space in question is 3.5 acres, serves a highly select group with the area fenced and locked, accessible only to paying leagues, and in use approx. 14% of the time.

This is not a proposal for a specific park design, but to replace the exclusive softball fields on the west side with a different sort of community park. The ARCA Executive Board agreed to send a letter to the County in support of the AHCA proposal.

Information: www.arcaonline.org

BIKESHARE STATION FOR S. HAYES & 23RD ST.? **Survey at <http://bit.ly/Hayesbikesharesurvey>**

Arlington County would like feedback on the proposed Bikeshare station at S. Hayes and S. 23rd Street. The County says it is being proposed because 23rd Street's sidewalks are too narrow and traffic volume too high. The station is across the street from the Catholic Church. Images of the location are included with the survey.

SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM CAMERAS RESUME

After the Virginia Attorney General suspended Arlington Public Schools use of exterior school bus cameras, the General Assembly amended the Virginia Code to allow jurisdictions to issue citations for motorists who are caught on video passing a stopped school bus. Arlington is resuming the program, and tickets are \$250. According to a survey in Virginia, on a single typical day nearly 330,000 vehicles illegally pass school buses!

ARLINGTON IS 10TH SICKEST CITY IN THE US, SAYS TWITTER

If Twitter data are to be believed, Arlington twitter users (twits?) reported 265 sickness-related tweets per 100,000 residents, putting Arlington #10 on a list of "sickest cities". The tweets were highest on Tuesdays (not Monday, as you would assume) in December and January and decreased as the weather warmed up. New Orleans was Number 1!

PLUG INTO THE FIRST ENERGY LENDING LIBRARY IN THE COUNTRY!

<http://library.arlingtonva.us/2016/04/21/celebrate-earth-day-with-our-new-energy-lending-library/>

Check out Arlington's energy lending library, launched on Earth Day (April 22), the latest step forward toward enhancing our economic competitiveness, ensuring reliable and affordable energy supplies and demonstrating the County's long-term commitment to environmental responsibility. You can check out a **thermal imaging camera** to see what your eyes can't -- hot and cold spots in the home indicating where air leaks occur; **an energy meter**, showing exactly how much electricity appliances and electronics consume; and a **booklist of publications** that include energy saving tips and projects to save energy and money for residents. You can borrow them for a week, placing a hold through the Arlington library catalog, and pick them up at any branch. They are available free to anyone with a library card.

ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Aurora Hills Community Center, 7pm
3rd Thursday/Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sept/Nov

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thru Jun 19 Man in the Iron Mask: A follow-up to the Three Musketeers, a swashbuckling adventure. Synetic Theater. www.synetictheater.org

May 17, 24, 31 Adult Workout Sessions at Oakridge:

A series with a mix of intensity levels: stretch/Pilates, GRIT, rumba dance, Eat Yoga Drink. 6:30- 7:30pm
oakridgehealth@gmail.com.

May 20 – 22 La Bayadere: BalletNova presents the classical ballet of the temple dancer who falls in love with a prince. Balletnova.org

May 21 Cupcake Wars: Learn fun new ways to decorate your cupcakes. Family event at Arlington Mill Community Center, 3 – 5pm

May 21 Bus & Truck Day at Central Library: In the parking lot there will be construction trucks, fire trucks, recycling trucks, an ART bus and more. 9 – 11am. Central Library

May 25 HandyMOM 101: DIY for Women – Patch It!

The first in a series that will cover the ins and outs of repairing drywall holes and dings. Central Library. Register at <http://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2550899>

May 25 Rebuilding Together: Do you need help maintaining your house? Rebuilding Together is a non-profit group that provides repairs to homes of qualified seniors at no cost. Aurora Hills Community Center. 2 – 3pm

May 31 – July 10 La Cage Aux Folles: The gender-bending musical and winner of 6 Tony Awards at Signature Theatre. Sigtheatre.org

June 3 – 12 Cul de Sac: Encore Stage presents a world premiere adaptation of the nationally syndicated comic strip by Richard Thompson. Alice and her brother learn the importance of being yourself. Thomas Jefferson theatre. Encorestageva.org.

ARCA OFFICERS & CONTACTS

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	Rich Kelly	703-622-4260

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 STAGE OPENS JUNE 17!

N. 2nd & N. Columbus Sts.,
2 blocks from Route 50



Arlington has its very own Wolf Trap (but free), a bucolic outdoor amphitheater nestled in the woods of Lubber Run Park. Performances range from family-friendly magicians, to rock, old time country, dance, Afro-pop, Ethiopian, Gypsy and Brazilian jazz, folk, latin, Congolese fusion, classical, a Malaian Kora Master... and much more, thru Sept. 18 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Check schedule for times. Schedule: arlingtonarts.org/venues/lubber-