



January 2018

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

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

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Kafka's The Trial
Jan 17 – Feb 18



JANUARY 18 MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 18th Street
Refreshments 6:30pm, Meeting 7pm

JANUARY AGENDA: County Board member John Vihstadt will join us to talk about County plans for 2018, and to discuss issues of concern to us in 22202. Come with your questions!

Plus, the I-395 Soundwall spokesperson will be on hand to answer questions about the proposed wall, and the outstanding ballot process that will determine if a wall finally gets built.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADU) BACK IN THE LIME LIGHT

Although few residents were aware of the County's "sleeper initiative" to enhance the construction of "ADUs" in Arlington's residential neighborhoods, at its November 27th meeting the County Board approved liberalization of existing rules allowing the conversion of space in existing homes into apartments with a bath and basic kitchen appliances needed to house family members desiring a degree of independence and privacy, care givers, or just about anyone to whom the property owner wishes to rent his or her ADU. The initiative was intended to help seniors "age in place," as well as to help provide more affordable housing in the County. However, a critical component of the County staff proposal was permission for the first time to convert garages into ADUs, as well as to build totally "remote" or free-standing ADUs in property owners' back yards within as little as a foot of the property line they share with their neighbors. It was to this proposal that ARCA drew a line and voiced its strong opposition. Copies of its written statement to the Board, and its president's verbal presentation can be viewed at <http://www.arcaonline.org/2018/01/arca-and-the-accessory-dwelling-units-rules>

During its formal consideration of the staff ADU initiative, Board members Garvey, Dorsey and Vihstadt all voiced concerns about these "remote" units on a variety of grounds, particularly their proximity to neighbors' property lines. After much discussion, the Board resolved to approve liberalization of the regulations applicable to in-home ADUs, but to put on hold for further study and analysis by staff of their proposal applicable to remote ADUs. Stay tuned. This topic is sure to resurface before long.

PayPal™

You can pay your \$20 annual ARCA membership dues online using PayPal! 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.

SCHOOLS BOUNDARIES UPDATE

So far we have nothing to report on elementary school boundary changes, but the minute we get even a whisper of what is in store, and when, we will let you know.

Middle School Boundary Changes

On Dec. 14 the School Board approved its Option A.v2 middle school boundary change to be put into effect in the school year 2019-2020. Families impacted by the change will be notified by mail by Feb. 2018.

All 6th-8th graders will attend their newly assigned schools in Sept. 2019.

Details of the boundary change is at <https://www.apsva.us/engage/middle-school-boundary-change/staff-recommendation/>

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS SOFTBALL FIELDS UPDATE

At the request of our sister organization, the Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA), the County has agreed to take down some of the fencing on the Virginia Highlands Park softball field so that the previously locked space can be used by the general public when no games are scheduled. AHCA has been lobbying the County (unsuccessfully so far) to move the softball program to an underused field nearby, and to convert the Virginia Highlands space to unprogrammed open space in our park-starved community. They are also scheduling community events in the now open space -- so far they have had a castle building project using leftover holiday boxes, plan a "Lawn Game Lollapalooza" on Jan 14 from 2 – 4:30, and a Martin Luther King event. See www.aurorahighlands.org

A DOG PARK FOR US?

Arlington County has acknowledged that our community (22202) is in the most need of an off-leash dog park, and we are working with the County to find a place for one. Two sites have been reviewed: an area behind the tennis courts at Fort Scott Park and an area on South 31st Street west of the new ART parking lot. The Office of Parks and Natural Resources has indicated problems with the Fort Scott site and has asked us to submit a formal application for the second site. A petition will likely be necessary as a part of this application

and we hope to file jointly with the Aurora Highlands Civic Association. Both areas under consideration are currently unused but will need considerable work to establish the area to meet Arlington standards. Whether either of these sites is selected, or another site not yet found, it is required that there be minimum adverse impact on the surrounding houses, such as parking, health, noise, safety, and traffic. If you would like to assist in the process or have ideas, suggestions or concerns, please contact Bob Hyde at 703-519-7130 or robghyde@gmail.com.

A "POCKET PARK" ON S. 20TH ST.

The County Board approved the \$1.235 million needed to purchase two properties at S. Ives and 20th St. S. to create a new "pocket park". (The 2017 assessed value is \$1.068 million). One parcel is an empty lot; there is a bungalow on the adjacent lot that will be demolished. Plans are to keep the park undeveloped, with green space, plantings, seating and pathways. The opportunity to purchase the property was brought to the attention of the county by the Aurora Highlands Civic Association, which has been asking for more open park space for our neighborhood.

ELECTION OF NEW NC REP

We will vote on Lauren Bailey as our new Neighborhood Conservation representative. Ms. Bailey, who was nominated at the November membership meeting, has worked professionally as a conservation scientist/urban ecologist for more than a decade, and we look forward to working with her on new neighborhood projects. She had some good news for those interested in the long saga of new curbs and gutters on S. 23rd Street from Ridge Rd to Army Navy Drive: **a public meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan 17th at 7pm at the Aurora Hills Community Center.**

A note of concern: the NC program's budget has not kept up with demand with no increase in 6 years; rather it is rumored the County is considering a decrease. ARCA is urging the County Board to increase its budget to keep up with continuing NC demand.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION DISCUSS AT AURORA HILLS LIBRARY

Wed. Jan 24, 1:30 – 2:30pm

What is destroying the environment? Come hear Senior Center Director Michelle Atkin discuss facts about landfills, electronic waste, the overuse of plastics and how it all began with the surge of disposable products.

FREE PAPER SHREDDING & INERT MATERIALS DROPOFF

Earth Products Yard, 4300 29th St. S. 22206

8am – 4:30pm, 703-228-6570

PAPER SHREDDING is for residents only, limit 2 boxes (18" x 11" x 10") or 2 paper bags per customer; including staples & paper clips; checks, checkbooks

Not acceptable: magazines, catalogs, credit cards, 3 ring binders. **INERT MATERIALS:** Asphalt, ceramic tile, concrete, earth, masonry block, rock & sand. Only a small pickup truck load or 3 cubic yards can be accepted. No brush material.

WINTER FARMERS MARKET IN ARLANDRIA

Miss the summer bounty at our farmers markets? The Four Mile Run market in Arlandria has moved indoors for the winter, and is open as usual on Sundays from 9am – 1pm just the other side of the bridge at 4109 Mt. Vernon Avenue. It offers produce and specialty food vendors with prize winning bagels, cheese, empanadas, tropical ice cream & crafts.

CHILD CARE INITIATIVE COMMUNITY MEETING

Thu Jan 25, 5.30 – 8:30pm

Central Library Auditorium

Arlington's Dept. of Human Services is sponsoring an effort to develop solutions to address accessibility, availability and quality of child care in Arlington, and are seeking input on a draft action plan to guide the effort.

Share your own experiences and feedback to shape the final plan. Register:

<https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/events/ccil/>

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ELEVATED S. CLARK STREET DEMOLITION

The County Board voted unanimously to approve a \$6.6 million contract to remove the elevated S. Clark Street roadway in Crystal City between 12th and 20th Streets S. Removing the structure will improve the street network and create more development space in Crystal City, in accordance with the Crystal City Sector Plan. After the roadway and its overhead bridges, abutments and retaining walls are removed, new retaining walls, grass pavers and stormwater facilities, landscaping, traffic signals at 20th Street S. and Route 1 will be added. Access roads north of 15th St. and 18th St. will be closed in March. The demolition also will create more space for pedestrian and bicycle access improvements to the Crystal City Metro Station, which is part of a future project.

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/south-clark-bell-street-demolition/>

2018 ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD COLLEGE

Now in its 18th year, the Neighborhood College offers an opportunity for county residents to sharpen their interpersonal communication skills, meet and discuss current issues with elected officials and key professional staff members, learn how the county government functions and how to become more active and effective in community affairs. Those who are committed to improving their neighborhoods, interested in neighborhood issues, and willing to bring energy to neighborhood activities are encouraged to apply. Participants in past years have gone on to become active in their neighborhood associations, in volunteer organizations, and even membership on the County Board. Classes meet from 6 – 9:30pm at the County building, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Deadline March 16, 2018. Information:

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/neighborhood-conservation/college/neighborhood-college-2018/>

ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
Aurora Highlands Community Center, 7pm
3rd Thursday Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sept/Nov

CALENDAR

Jan 16 – Feb 18 4,380 Nights: For the past 4,380 days, Malik Essaid has been held without charge at Guantanamo Bay. As he languishes, his interactions with the outside are juxtaposed with historical events in a riveting exposé of the most dangerous prison of all, fear. Signature Theatre. Sigtheatre.org

Jan 17 – Feb 18 The Trial: In Franz Kafka's work, Synetic Theater explores the struggles of "K" and his encounters with the invisible Law and the untouchable Court after his arrest for an unspecified crime. Synetictheater.org

Jan 20 "You, if No One Else", ten contemporary artists and artist collaborations look at the way artists record, reflect, rail against and engage with politics and civic life. Arlington Arts Center. Arlingtonartscenter.org

Jan 20 Arlington Historical Society Winter Social: Join friends and history buffs for light refreshments at this annual celebration of Arlington's history, and check out the museum's exhibits. 4 – 6pm. 1805 Arlington Ridge Rd.

Jan 27 Winter Survival: Can You Do It? Families 6 +. Can you survive living in the forest in the dead of winter like the Native Americans did for thousands of years? Scout campsites, animal stalking, spear throwing and start a fire. Long Branch Nature Center. 703-228-4747

Feb 10 Romantic Violin for Two, a Valentine's Concert. National Chamber Ensemble presents the music of Mozart, Moszkowsky, Paganini and more. Unitarian Universalist Church, 4444 Arlington Blvd. nationalchamberensemble.org

Feb 12 "Hamilton" Sing-along with Signature Theatre. Young performers from Signature's programs for young people will join professionals and lead the audience through Hamilton favorites. \$12. Sigtheatre.org



Join readers from Arlington Public Libraries and around the country in a national Winter Reading Challenge, in which you are invited to read and log 3 or more books between January 1 – 31, with a collective Arlington goal of at least 9,000 books. If readers reach 50,000 books nationwide, Shark Tank investor Mark Cuban will donate \$25,000 to *First Book*, an organization that provides new books and learning materials to children in need. Register online at <https://arlingtonva.beanstack.org/reader365>
 Celebrate with other bookworms on Feb. 3 for a hot chocolate party at Central Library. Information at <https://library.arlingtonva.us/winter-reading/>

ARCA OFFICERS & CONTACTS

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Neighborhood Conservation comments/questions
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