



# Arlington Ridge Civic Association

P.O. Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202

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



**ARCA JANUARY 2025 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 23, 6:30 snacks, meet the neighbors,**  
**7pm meeting**  
**Aurora Hills Community Center**

**VIDEO LINK TO ONLINE MEETING**

<https://meet.google.com/bve-imqm-xby>

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## PAY YOUR DUES

Our new online pay portal is nearing completion, but in the meantime, please send your \$25 annual ARCA membership dues to ARCA, PO Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202-0976. The membership year is July 1 – June 30.

## GUESTS:

**Abbey Oklak, Kimco Realty** will give a brief update on the planned retail in Pentagon Center and the approved PDSP

**Q & A with Bethany Sutton, School Board member and liaison to ARCA and Oakridge**

## OPEN QUESTIONS FORUM

After our guests we will open the meeting to anyone who has a comment or question on all subjects, big or small. Now is the time! What is good, bad or just annoying? Share it with the group, suggest a solution or just feel better unloading your new year's angst. We will also have a suggestion box at the meeting, and will accept anything you send to [arcaneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:arcaneighbor@gmail.com).

## MELWOOD

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Plans-Studies/General-Land-Use-Plan/Studies/Melwood>

After two SPRC committee meetings for the redevelopment of Melwood on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Nellie Custis school property, there have been changes, such as the relocation of the building entrance and moving the transformers away from the park, but no major structural changes. The proposal will go to the historical board, as well as the transportation, planning and housing commissions before going to the County Board for approval. The plan has created controversy in the surrounding area with many opposing its 5 story height, the potential congestion on 23<sup>rd</sup> and S. Grant Streets, the effect of the change in its zoning on the future of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, and others supporting the affordable housing and independent living for the disabled. See the website for more information.

**NEED A NEW DELIVERY PERSON****Meade, Nash, Ode & 24<sup>th</sup> sts. 42 houses**

Get a great workout while doing good, we need a newsletter delivery person for this route. Arcaneighbor.org if you can help!

**HUME SCHOOL NEARING AN OPENING****arlhist.org**

The windows have all been refurbished on our iconic Hume School building that houses the Arlington Historical Society. They will hold a grand opening bash sometime in April - Stay tuned! In the meantime, don't miss their Feb. 13 presentation by Kidist Ebenezer on the history of the Ethiopian community in Arlington, covering their challenges when they arrived 50 years ago. Marymount U. main campus; in person or via zoom.

**WINTER STORMS PREPARATIONS ETC.**

We now have an actual storm that we have, hopefully, prepared for, by staying at home from school and work, shoveling our sidewalk (risking a ticket if we don't), and begun on that pile of books we received for xmas and promised to get to as soon as we had some free time. And meanwhile, to liven things up, we have some names for our snow plows, suggested by residents and selected by County staff: CTRL-SALT-DEL (my favorite); Alex Snowvechkin, Taylor Drift and Saline Dion. They have all been given a workout during the first weeks of January, and we have our fingers crossed that it won't continue any further. How well I remember snow in April (lost in the distant past of memory). Some fun facts from our snow team: Arlington is responsible for clearing 1,059 miles of roads, 350 bus shelters and bus stops, 35 miles of sidewalks, 21 bridges and overpasses, 10 miles of trails and 7.4 miles of bike lanes. How you can help? Stay off the roads, they say; park so plows can maneuver round you, toss cleared snow onto yards, not streets, use only minimum of chemical deicers on sidewalks and driveways.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING TRIBUTE**

**Sun. Jan 19, 5 – 6:30, Wakefield High School, 1325 Dinwiddie St.**

**<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/MLK-Tribute/About>**

***Dreams, Faith and Justice in Action:*** featuring dance, musical renditions and captivating oration showcasing the vibrant talent in our community, featuring Patrick Lundy gospel choir, Judge William Newman Jr; R & B singer Carly Harvey, dancer Trinity

Mayes, and Gunston Middle School Step Team.

**STORMWATER UTILITY CREDIT APPLICATION OPEN Thru Feb 28**

**<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Office-of-Sustainability-and-Environment/Stormwater/Stormwater-Utility-Fee/Stormwater-Utility-FAQs>**

Apply for credit for eligible activities taken in 2024 to reduce your stormwater fees by planting trees, installing impermeable surfaces on driveways, and more. An FAQ on the many ways you can do this is at their website.

**“ADAPTIVE REUSE” IN ACTION**

**<https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2024/Arlington-Adopts-Adaptive-Reuse-Policy-to-Transform-Office-Vacancy>**

JBG Smith announced it has filed an application under a new Arlington County “adaptive reuse” policy that would repurpose 550,000 sq.ft. of empty office space at 2100 and 2200 Crystal Drive to hotel rooms and rental apartments.

**WIN A WEDDING AT THE LIBRARY**

**<https://library.arlingtonva.us/2024/11/01/enter-to-win-a-wedding-at-the-library/>**

**Submit your application by Jan. 24**

Romance is the theme for the 2025 series of Arlington Reads. To share the love, the library is going to pick one very special couple to win a free wedding hosted by the Friends of Arlington Public library. Use the application on the website, you can also add a video if you wish. And please note, you must be unmarried (!!)

**FOUR MILE RUN CONSERVATORY KAYAK LAUNCH Fourmilerun.org**

It's not Arlington, but it is very close to us, and most of us go by it many times a week as we drive down Glebe Rd, Arlington Ridge Rd. and Mt. Vernon Avenue. The canoe launch in Four Mile Run Park will make Four Mile Run and the Potomac River accessible to paddlers of all abilities, and it has just awarded a construction contract to the Conservatory Foundation to build it, between March – June, 2025. The Conservatory Foundation's mission is to promote nature, culture and community at lower Four Mile Run through restoration, advocacy, recreation and education. Check them out, they are “almost Arlington”.

**MOVING WORDS Call for Poems****Deadline Jan. 15****<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Arts/Programs/Humanities/Moving-Words>**

Moving Words makes poetry a part of daily life for commuters riding Arlington Transit (ART) by replacing advertising placards inside the buses with poetry by local poets that will be displayed between March and September 2025. Poems must be 10 lines or fewer: see the website for more information. Seven poems will be selected, enlivening the ride for thousands of commuters. Winners receive \$250. Poets must live in the DC metro area and are over 18. **See past winners** at <https://www.arlingtontransit.com/about/programs/moving-words/2017-poems/>

**ARLINGTON THE SAFEST CITY IN AMERICA?****<https://crystalcitycivic.org/arlingtoncrime.mp4>**

Bloomberg opinion says that after sifting through years of CDC (Centers for Disease Control) data from thousands of US counties on mortality from homicides and transportation accidents (the 2 main causes of death) from 2018 -23, they found that we just may be the safest city in America! They speculate that several reasons may include the fact that over half its resident live in apartments, traffic volumes have fallen, homicide rates are very low, and its citizens are young, healthy, educated and able to work remotely and thus are able to be less car dependent. Check out the video...

**SCHOOL SPEED CAMERAS ON 2500 BLOCK OF RIDGE ROAD****<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Police-Department/Automated-Enforcement>**

Speeders will be fined \$100 beginning February 5, 2025 if they are caught on camera speeding on the 2500 block of Ridge Road; the cameras are operational when school zone lights are flashing during arrivals and departures, says the County.

**CC2DCA DESIGN PRIORITIES PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE****Wed. Jan 29, 4 – 7:00pm****Aurora Hills Community Center**

Please join the CC2DCA (Crystal City to DCAirport) project team at an in-person open house to begin the conversation about the design and user experience for the forthcoming multimodal connection between Crystal City and the airport. It will be great to have a walkable connection that we can all find; right now using (and finding) the walkway to the airport is a real challenge – it has

been described by those lost as “down dark alleys and over empty jam tins” and only the most intrepid make it in one go.

**HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES****<https://www.arlcf.org/scholarships/>**

Arlington high school seniors can compete for \$700,000 in student aid for the coming school year. With one application, students can be considered for over 100 scholarships. Apply by February 10, 2025.

**SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY****<https://arlingtonlibraryfriends.org/>**

The Friends of the Arlington Public Library, (FOAL) make many of our special reading programs possible with the help of library patrons...Summer and Winter Reading, The Shop (makerspace), kids programming, Arlington Reads author talks, not to mention the current offer to host a wedding! They (and all the rest of us) would like to support additional funding for the OverDrive ecollection, that we take advantage of on our ereaders. The collection's popularity is evident as it circulated over a million in FY23, which increased to 1.5 million in FY24. FOAL is a nonprofit, and you can help by becoming a member, volunteering, shopping at book sales (with impossibly low prices for sometimes even brand new books), or even joining their board. It's mission, to build a strong, vibrant and engaged community through our local libraries, is up to us all: love your library!

**ARLINGTON CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF PUBLIC ART****<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Public-Art/Public-Art-Collection>**

Arlington's public art program began in 1984 with Nancy Holt's *Dark Star Park* in Rosslyn, and since then has featured works throughout the County. The latest addition is our own neighborhood's *inVISIBLE*, the Dominion Crystal City substation designed by artist Elena Manferdini, at S. Hayes and Fern streets. The artist says it “invites viewers to consider their relationship to the invisible and fundamental force of electricity and the tools used in its creation and distribution.” If this is difficult for you to consider, you can just admire it, and hope the electricity stays on through our current snow storm.

## CALENDAR

**Thru Jan 4. Little Comedies:** For audiences of all ages, the performances include enchanting, wordless vignettes set to music. Synetic Theater. Theatre on the Run. [Synetictheater.org](http://Synetictheater.org)

**Jan 23 – Mar 9 Arlington Artists Alliance 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary juried show.** Alliance Gallery, 2700 Clarendon Blvd.Suite 330. Opening reception Jan 23, 5 – 7pm.

**Jan 28 – Mar 16. Job:** A psychological thriller with a disturbing twist that leaves you breathless. Signature Theatre. [Sigtheatre.org](http://Sigtheatre.org)

**Jan 30 Frozen Critters, Where do they go?** Ages 6 – 10. Turtles, butterflies, worms and beetles; take a walk with a naturalist in search of signs. Long Branch Nature Center. 11am.

**Jan 31 – Feb 15. The City of Conversation:** The play spans 30 years and 6 presidential administrations, with Hester Ferris throwing dinner parties that can change the course of politics. Dominion Stage. [Dominionstage.org](http://Dominionstage.org) Theatre on the Run.

**Feb 1 – 16 The Play that Goes Wrong:** On the opening night everything goes from bad to disastrous for this onstage whodunit. Arlington players. Thomas Jefferson Theater. [Thearlingtonplayers.org](http://Thearlingtonplayers.org).

**Feb 9, 13 Tea with Mrs. B; meet and greet with author Julia Quinn from 5 – 6pm on Feb. 13.** The Friends of the Arlington Library invites you to a fundraising Bridgerton-themed tea, and a meet and greet with Bridgerton author Julia Quinn. Space is limited so get your ticket early.

**Feb 13 The History of the Ethiopian Community in Arlington.** Celebrate Black History with speaker Kidist Ebenezer, who will shed light on the factors driving migration to the US and their journey to establishing a vibrant community.. Marymount Univ. 7 – 8:30pm, Zoom or in person. [Arlhist.org](http://Arlhist.org)

**Feb 15 Love at the Cinema:** National Chamber Ensemble celebrates Valentines Day with dance

selections with choreographer Lucy Bowen McCauley. 7:30. Gunston Theater 1. [Nationchamberensemble.org](http://Nationchamberensemble.org)

**Feb 22. Garage Racing National Championships:** Head underground in National Landing for the area's unconventional bike race: participants traverse the racecourse dodging garage poles, looping round tight curves and battling for a spot on the winning podium. 11am – 7pm. <https://nationallanding.org/do/garage-racing-national-championships>.

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