



March 2025

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

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



ARCA MARCH 2025 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, March 20, 6:30 snacks, meet the neighbors,
7pm meeting
Aurora Hills Community Center

VIDEO LINK TO ONLINE MEETING

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1

♦ *Topics & Speakers*

Page 2

♦ *Neighborhood News*

Page 3

♦ *Neighborhood
Conservation*

♦ *Neighborhood News*

Page 4

♦ *ARCA Meetings*

♦ *ARCA Points of Contact*

♦ *Calendar of Events*

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:

JBG Smith Representatives, will present the updated plans for the redevelopment of River House

ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Federal-Employee-Assistance>

Arlington County is home to many federal employees and contractors. If you or your neighbors have been impacted by recent terminations, you can find information about filing for unemployment, starting a business, and upcoming job fairs on the Arlington County website.

MELWOOD PROJECT APPROVED BY COUNTY BOARD

On February 22 the County Board approved a 5 story, 60' apartment building, with 105 affordable apartments on the site of the old Nellie Custis School on 23rd Street. At the hearing, there was a lot of support for the building from many affordable housing supporters from outside the neighborhood; our neighbor civic association Aurora Highlands was almost 100% opposed to the large building and the implications for future development on 23rd Street, claiming it is out of scale in the residential neighborhood and its lack of adequate parking, quoting Arlington's Comprehensive Plan that protects low residential neighborhoods. **Arlingtonians for Our Sustainable Future**, who were opposed to the "high density mixed use apartment building in a low-density area", released comments on the decision, and its implication for the future of the Arlington Comprehensive Plan, a guide to growth and development in the County. Check it out on their website at asf-virginia.org

ARCA NEEDS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ARCA is losing some of its long time Executive Board members and needs some new blood! We need a treasurer and a communications person, and could also use some free range members as well. If you would like to spend a few hours a month helping keep our neighborhood the wonderful place it is, please let us know at arcaneighbor@gmail.com

ARLINGTON PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET HEARINGS

Tue. March 26, 7pm (Budget Hearing); March 27, 7pm: Tax Rate hearing

Bozman Govt. Center, 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/County-Board/Events/County-Board-Budget-Public-Hearing>

There will be two opportunities for public comment on the 2026 Proposed operating budget and tax rate, and you can also share your views online by emailing dmf@arlingtonva.us. See the website above for information and to register to speak at the hearings.

HISTORICAL MARKER FOR QUEEN CITY

Construction of the Pentagon in the 1940 was responsible for the mass displacement of an African American neighborhood, Queen City, and now a historical marker will be erected with the history of the community. The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington joined with Arlington's historic preservation staff to decide the wording of the marker, saying "People need to know what happened". Queen City in the late 1930s had 900 residents on the eastern end of Columbia Pike, and when the nation was preparing for war in the early 1940s, Roosevelt selected the site for the Pentagon. Residents were removed using eminent-domain and offered limited compensation. Most moved to other segregated neighborhoods in the County, DC and elsewhere. After the war, Arlington officials thought about building replacement housing, but were persuaded that the idea was "revolutionary, communistic or socialistic", and so did nothing. Now at least we will have a marker.

CALCULATION OF PERMEABLE SURFACES

<https://www.arlnow.com/2025/03/04/zoning-changes-could-leave-more-arlington-homes-non-conforming/>

Possible changes in Arlington rules on lot coverage could affect how large areas of the county could be developed and make existing homes out of step with zoning regulations. On Feb. 25 the County Board directed staff to study if it makes sense to change how permeable surfaces are calculated: currently some barriers to water seeping into the ground rather than running off are not counted. Also, it is now easier with photo-imaging systems to calculate with relative accuracy the entire permeable surface

of any lot. The initiative is an effort to better align zoning regulations with environmental concerns. The issue will be revisited in May with an update.

FREE MONTHLY PAPER SHREDDING

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Recycling-and-Trash/Locations/Earth-Products-Yard>

1st Saturday of the month at 4300 S. 29th St. 22206
(Inert Materials and Scrap Metal dropoff)

Tax time is a good time to get rid of your excess paper, and the price is right if you take advantage of Arlington's free service.

TEEN POLICE ACADEMY THIS SUMMER

Long Bridge Aquatics Center

Applications close May 4

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Police-Department/Community-Engagement/Community-Police-Academy>

Arlington County Police Dept. is offering fun and educational youth camps this summer for rising 10th – 12th grade Arlington students.

WAKEFIELD ROBOTICS TEAM QUALIFIES FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

<https://recf.org/vex-robotics-world-championship/>

The Wakefield High School Robotics team made history by winning the VEX V5 Challenge. This year's competition, titled *High Stakes*, challenged students to design, build and program robots to complete specific tasks. VEX Robotics competitions change each year, requiring students to adapt and develop solutions to meet the season's challenges. The 2025 VEX Robotics World Championship will take place this May in Dallas, bringing together top teams from around the world.

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM GRAND REOPENING

1803 Arlington Ridge Red. May 3, time TBD

Prepare to be wowed! The windows are refurbished and back in place, and volunteers have cleaned, polished and painted the inside preparing the way for new exhibits. The new museum director, Bethany Baker, is reimagining and redesigning the exhibits which cover everything from Native Americans to 9/11, in new and exciting way. Stay tuned, we will send more information as we have it.

EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Wednesday, March 19. 5:30-6:30 PM.

Long Branch Nature Center

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Locations/Nature-Centers/Long-Branch-Nature-Center>

For Adults. Spring beauties, bloodroot, trout lilies! Even before the last frost, some of our spring wildflowers brave the cold to put on a show. Come take a walk and we'll discuss the fascinating lifestyle and ecology of these plants. Teens ages 12 and up welcome to attend with a registered adult. Long Branch Nature Center. Registration Required.

HANDS ON PRUNING CLASS

Saturday, March 22, 1- 2:30 [p.m](#)

St Ann's Catholic Church, 980 N. Frederick St. Arlington

Are your shrubs growing over your windows? Are your lilacs failing to bloom? Join a trained crew of Extension Master Gardeners to learn all you need to know to prune your shrubs, small trees and hedges the right way! Proper selection, use and care of tools and the best timing for pruning specific plants will also be covered. Dress for the weather, bring your hand tools and gloves and your enthusiasm. FREE. Sign up at <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to register to attend.

SPRING CELEBRATION AND PLANT SALE

Sat. April 19, 10am – 3pm

Glencarlyn Library garden, 300 N. Kensington St.

Sponsored by the Master Gardeners of No.VA, the event will have nature-related activities and products for sale, with an educational tree walk, and free saplings. Master Gardeners will be there to answer questions, with events for children throughout the day.

HEALTHY SOIL, HEALTHY GARDEN

Master Gardeners of No.VA. Video

https://www.youtube.com/embed/1y0krho_QxE?feature=oembed

The Master gardeners tell us that the key to successful gardening is cultivating healthy soil, teeming with insects, bacteria and fungi, providing nutrients and water to plants, sequestering carbon and slowing runoff. The video gives key strategies to do this.

ARCA NEEDS A NEW DELIVERY PERSON

Meade, Nash, Ode & 24th 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!

TOOLS FROM ARLINGTON'S "LIBRARY OF THINGS" Borrow Tools and Useful Items from the Arlington Library

Need a set of tools for a small DIY job? you can borrow them from the Library's Library of Things just like a book. They are also listed in the library's catalog. The other "things" they have to lend are garden tools, games, family reading kits, puzzles and much more.

<https://library.arlingtonva.us/collection/library-of-things/>

SIGWORKS IN THE SCHOOLS

Apply at education@sigtheatre.org

Playwrights are wanted to participate in the free Arlington Public Schools and Signature Theatre Playwriting competition. Selected students will work with a professional to create a 10 minute play that will be presented in a live stage reading by professional actors.

2025 HONORED CITIZEN IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

<https://www.apsva.us/arlington-school-board/aps-honored-citizens/>

The Honored Citizen nomination form is available for those who wish to nominate one or more deserving volunteers in the school community, who have made exceptional contributions to Arlington Public Schools. It is given to individuals who have devoted time and energy to activities throughout the year. **Deadline March 28.**

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 recent offer to host a wedding (sorry, it's been won!) 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!

CALENDAR

Thru Mar 23 The Immigrant: The play is based on the classic 1918 silent comedy and set in New York. Thomas Jefferson Theater. Synetic Theater. Synetictheater.org

Mar 26. Poetry@the Museum: Vessels: a poetry reading series featuring Angelique Palmer. 7pm. MoCA Arlington.org

Mar 15, 22. Sound Bath in the Tiffany Gallery at MoCA. Facilitators will use a variety of sound instruments including chimes, crystal quartz and Tibetan sound bowls to bathe you in beautiful sounds as you relax comfortably. 2pm. MoCArlington.org

Thru Mar 29 The Margriad (or the Tragedy of Queen Margaret). A compelling adaptation that brings to life one of Shakespeare's most formidable characters, Queen Margaret of Anjou, with the epic story of her rise and fall. Avant Bard. Gunston Theatre Two. Avantbard.org

Apr 4. Intergenerational Story Time: Volunteers share their love of reading and music with children on the first Friday of each month. 11am. Aurora Hills Library. 703-228-5722

April 4 – 27 Legally Blonde the Musical: The award winning musical based on the movie. The Arlington Players. Thomas Jefferson Theater. Thearlingtonplayers.org

Apr 5 Juilliard Virtuosi Perform Bach, Liebermann and Brahms. National Chamber Ensemble. Marymount University. Nationalchamberensemble.org

Apr 15 – Jun 22 Hedwig and the Angry Inch: The radical rock musical explodes with glam, grit, glitter and heart. Signature Theatre. Sigtheatre.org

May 1 – 24 Hamlet: A bold new interpretation of Hamlet, directed by Kathleen Akerley. Avant Bard. Theatre Two at Gunston. Avantbard.org

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