



January, 2015

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

P.O. Box 2443, Arlington, VA 22202
Website: www.arcaonline.org

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*Aurelio:
at Artisphere, Feb. 13*



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You can pay your \$20 annual dues online using PayPal! www.arcaonline.org, by check or cash. Send to ARCA, PO Box 2443, Arlington, VA 22202
The membership year is July 1 – June 30.

Membership Meeting, Thurs. Jan 15, 7pm Aurora Hills Community Center

FEATURED SPEAKER: Bob Brosnan, Director of Community Planning, Housing and Development for Arlington County

Mr. Brosnan is the highest ranking member of the County's staff to attend an ARCA membership meeting in many a year. He is in overall charge of all new commercial high-rise development, (e.g., PenPlace, Pentagon Centre, Crystal City) all the way down to backyard residential zoning issues. This will be a rare opportunity for members both to learn about, and to ask questions about a wide range of topics affecting the welfare of our community, including:

- How cancellation of the streetcar project will impact future development of Columbia Pike and Pentagon City
- How the County plans to protect the quality of life of 22202 residents and address traffic congestion given its plan to vastly increase the office and residential density in both Pentagon City and Crystal City in coming years
- What has become of "Smart Growth" and the so-called "Arlington Way"
- Vornado and the County's plan for redevelopment of the River House property
- Utilization of public land for low-income, affordable housing
- New home construction, additions to homes, backyard decks and fences, neighbor's runoff into "my backyard", i.e., zoning, building permits, inspections and more

MARY HYNES, NEW COUNTY BOARD CHAIR WANTS TO RESTORE "THE ARLINGTON WAY" : Walter Tejada is Vice-Chair

At the County Board's meeting on January 1, new chair Mary Hynes announced a new effort to seek community input on whether or where County facilities such as schools, fire stations, and other infrastructure should be built, and how to retain parks and open space. She will appoint 20 residents to advise elected officials, and promises broad county outreach to those willing to work with the board. This effort is an attempt to restore the "Arlington Way" of seeking consensus before major projects are started, Hynes said, and describes this effort as a new chapter in Arlington's planning history.

Check out the annual Arlington TV **Arlington Year in Review Video**, "Prosperity Through Change" at <http://arlingtonva.tv/arlington-2014-prosperity-through-change>.

DEVELOPMENT

PENTAGON CENTRE SLATED FOR REDEVELOPMENT – SOON

Kimco Realty, the owner of Pentagon Centre, the name of the entire mega-block that includes Costco, will begin redevelopment of its block in 2015. While Costco will eventually disappear, its current lease guarantees its presence for at least the next 25 years. First to go, however, will be a portion of its parking lot on which a new, 7-level parking garage will be constructed to replace not only the parking spaces it will displace, but also the spaces on which a new 10-story residential building will be built at the corner of Hayes and 15th Streets. Also included in **Phase 1** of Pentagon Centre's redevelopment will be a 24-story, 450-unit apartment building over the top of the Metro entrance at the corner of Hayes and 12th Street. While this building will necessitate demolition of a small portion of the enclosed mall, currently anchored by Best Buy, the remainder of the mall will be upgraded and remain for approximately 20 years, until **Phase 2** of the Block's redevelopment will begin. **Phase 3**, that will eventually displace Costco is not anticipated for yet another 20 years. Overall, Kimco's blueprint would bring 714 new resident units to the block, 70 hotel rooms, 730,000 sq. ft. of new office space, and approximately 342,000 sq. ft. of retail along with additional parking.

PUBLIC LANDS FOR PUBLIC GOOD

Civic Federation Votes to Recommend Restart

In 2014, the Arlington County Manager was directed by the County Board to evaluate publicly owned sites in Arlington for use as affordable housing and public school development. When the recommended sites were made public, the then County Board Chair Jay Fissette released an update, noting that there is "growing...misunderstanding" about the report, saying "it was never the County's intention to place stand-alone housing in an officially designated park, nor their intent to disturb existing natural or park area".

Both the Arlington Civic Federation and the Arlington Planning Commission voted to recommend the County Board table the report pending a re-start with a more robust community process with public comment.

<http://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/land-use/public-land/>

FARMERS' MARKETS OPEN ALL WINTER

Three of Arlington's Farmers' Markets will stay open all through the winter so you can continue to have the best in local produce. They are: **Courthouse** (9am – 1pm), **Westover** (9am – 1pm) and **Columbia Pike** (10am – 1pm).

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS PARK UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A large portion of Virginia Highlands Park, one of the busiest in the County, is under construction for a complete renovation due to be finished by next summer. The tennis courts will be replaced, the basketball courts relocated to the north of the current ones, and additions will include a junior basketball court, new fencing and court lights, a covered waiting area outside the tennis courts, and an "information kiosk". You can see the proposed renovation on the County's website at <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/virginia-highlands-park-replacement-athletic-courts-site-improvements/>

OPEN DOOR MONDAYS RESUME

4th Monday at Aurora Hills Library, 7 – 9pm

Concerned about something? Get it off your chest at an informal chat with a County Board member. Every 4th Monday except federal holidays & August & December.

LIVE CAR-FREE? ARLINGTON WANTS YOUR STORY!

Arlington Commuter Services and its Car-Free Diet campaign is looking for Arlington residents' car free or car-lite living stories – they want to know how you commute, run errands or travel around the county without using a car. They hope to put a human face on how mobility and transportation choices are evolving in our community.

Few of us can match "Alison", who commutes to work by bus, runs home, and then takes the bus for evening outings as well! Can you match her?

<http://www.carfreediet.com/pages/about/walkable-living-stories>

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CAR DECAL

Voting is underway to determine the 2015-6 design for Arlington's vehicle decal. All submissions were created by Arlington County High School students, with the four finalists featuring "Hats of Our Heroes", "A Nod to History", "Barcroft Community House" and "The Farmer's Market". **Deadline Jan. 19.**

<http://taxes.arlingtonva.us/vehicles/registration-decals/decalvoting/>

BUILDING SIZED DOWNTON ABBEY MURAL IN CRYSTAL CITY

We would not be fulfilling our duty as a newsletter if we did not mention the hottest topic around, "Downton Abbey". Crystal City based PBS is celebrating the upcoming fifth season of its hit show with a huge mural at its headquarters at 2100 Crystal Drive. The temporary art installation, featuring the likeness of character Lady Mary, is 90 feet high and 54.5 feet wide. It was installed in partnership with the Crystal City BID. According to PBS, the series drew an average audience of 13.2 million viewers.

TREE STEWARD TRAINING FEB. 2015

Want to protect and promote our urban tree canopy? Join us as a volunteer Tree Steward. The next training starts Feb 3, 2015 at Fairlington Community Center. Find out more at <http://www.treestewards.org>

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, Jan 19, 10am – 12pm.

Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive

Celebrate MLK Day by joining fellow volunteers in cleaning up trash along the stream and throughout Barcroft with volunteers from Arlington for a Clean Environment. Sign up at www.arlingtonenvironment.org

FITNESS MEMBERSHIP JANUARY SPECIALS

For a limited time take advantage of membership specials created to help you succeed! \$1 only for drop-in fitness classes, valid through 1/31; three free drop-in fitness class passes at Thomas Jefferson Fitness Center, valid through 2/28. Complete details at <http://parks.arlington.us/2014/12/ready-set-go-time-to-meet-those-goals-huge-fitness-membership-specials>

SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTS CAPACITY PLAN FOR SECONDARY SEATS

After considering input from the community and recommendations from its Facilities Advisory Committee, the School Board adopted a plan to increase secondary capacity on December 21, 2014. The options are slated to be completed by the start of school 2019, and include: new construction for a school on the Wilson School site on Lee Highway, where the H-B Woodlawn and Stratford programs will be re-located; renovation

and addition at the Stratford site for a new neighborhood middle school; and additional secondary seats at multiple secondary sites with renovations, to be determined later.

<http://www.apsva.us/moreseats>

ARTISPHERE SLATED TO CLOSE JUNE 2015

"A Business Decision", says Donnellan

The Arlington County Manager, Barbara Donnellan, is recommending to the County Board that Arlington's cultural center, Artisphere, be closed this coming June for budgetary reasons. Opened in 2010 with a 15 year rent-free offer from the developer Monday Properties, the center has presented "real artistic success...with very limited resources", according to Donnellan. "We acted in good faith in our attempt to meet a long-standing community need for an arts center and a need in Rosslyn for an infusion of culture and life into the neighborhood. This is a repositioning, not a retreat, and we will work on a new strategic plan for the arts in Arlington".

Before June those of you who have not been to Artisphere should check out some of its innovative and thought provoking performing and visual arts events, such as "Strange for Hire" (Jan 31), with Danny V who performs feats of the strange, weird and bizarre such as juggling chainsaws and swallowing swords and "Lula del Ray" (Feb 6,7) whose performance is conveyed through music, sound and image using projectors and intricate paper puppets.

More information at www.artisphere.co

THEATRE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Educational Theatre Company

A Pirate's Life for Me for K – 2nd Grade

Superheroes Save the World, Gr 3 - 5

Sat. Jan 24 for 8 sessions, 10 – 11am. Gunston.

Transform into daring pirates and superheroes with the Educational Theatre Company. A performance for family and friends on the last day of class.

<http://www.educationaltheatrecompany.org>

Encore Stage and Studio

Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Beginning Jan 24 for 6 weeks.

Offerings will include:

Foodie Adventures (gr K – 1); Broadway Basics (gr 2 – 3); Adventures of Narnia (gr 4 – 5) Make 'em Laugh (gr 4 – 5); Saturday Showstoppers (gr 4 – 8).

More at www.encorestageva.org

ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS**Aurora Hills Community Center, 7pm**

Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thru Jan 31: Crime and Punishment in America: One act plays about crime. American Century Theater. Theatre 2 at Gunston. www.americancentury.org

Thru Jan 18 Cinderella: A musical adaptation of the classic fairy tale. Encore Stage. Thomas Jefferson Theatre. www.encorestageva.org

Thru Jan 24 The Great American Trailer Park Musical: The relationships of the tenants of the Armadillo Acres Trailer Park. Dominion Stage. Gunston Theatre 1. www.dominionstage.org

Jan 17 Children's Theatre Festival: Annual all day festival for the whole family. 11am. Rosslyn Spectrum. www.teatrodelaluna.org

Jan 24 Kids Club: Music Sessions with Levine School: Tuneful fun with Levine teachers: Babies – age 3: 11 – 11:30am; Age 4 & up: 11:45 – 12:15. Aurora Hills Library. 703-228-5715

Jan 24 Hike to Arlington's Highest Peak: Ages 6 and up, a 1 ½ mile loop to Minor Hill, Arlington's highest peak. 10 – 11:30am. 703-228-3403

Feb 4 Othello: Shakespeare's tragedy unfolds against the backdrop of war in the middle east and the struggles of veterans to cope with their traumas. WSC AvantBard. Theatre on the Run. www.wscavantbard.org

Feb 7 Cosi Fan Tutti: Opera NOVA presents the Mozart opera at a special performance for seniors in Gunston's Theatre 1. \$5. Reception with the cast after the performance. 703-536-7557. www.operanova.org

Feb 11 Kids Club at Aurora Hills Library. A variety of fun activities. Gr. K – 5. 4pm

Feb 13 Aurelio: Singer, percussionist and guitarist Aurelio is well known for his charismatic mastery of Garifuna, African and Caribbean music. 8pm. Artisphere. www.artisphere.com

ARCA OFFICERS & CONTACTS

President	Arthur Fox	202-371-6626
Vice-President	Elizabeth Wirick	703-521-3191
Vice President	Lisa Gammon	703-528-4890
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.comNeighborhood Conservation comments/questions to arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com

**2015 TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 7 – 9PM
Washington Lee High School Auditorium
1301 N. Stafford Street**



The young dancers of The Dance Institute of Washington will perform, and winners of the Literary and Visual Arts Contest will be featured in a video. Bring non-perishable items for the Arlington Food Assistance Center.