



September, 2015

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

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

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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.

Membership Meeting, Thursday July 16, 7pm

Plan to attend this critical membership meeting that will focus on the GLUP study of Vornado's request to up-zone and add 1,084 apartments to its River House property, as well as learn about the potential location of a new school in our neighborhood.

COUNTY REVIEW OF VORNADO RIVER HOUSE INITIATIVE MOVES FORWARD

ARCA members were informed at our July membership meeting that the County and its Planning Commission's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) would undertake a study to determine if Vornado's proposal to build another 1,084 apartments on its River House property would fall "within the realm of reasonableness," thus permitting amendment of the County's General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and re-zoning the property from residential to commercial. By doing so, Vornado (or some future owner) would become entitled to increase the property's density from 48 to 72 apartment units per acre and, potentially, to build very tall commercial buildings on the site in the years to come.

Subsequently, ARCA representatives met with County planning staff who assured them that the "scope" of the study would have to be far more comprehensive than prior GLUP studies given the magnitude and potential impact on our community of Vornado's development initiative. Exactly what the required "scope" of the study will be, and who will be responsible for conducting, supervising and funding the study is under discussion at the present time. It is not expected that LRPC review will commence before late October.

Meanwhile, ARCA has learned that County planning staff informed Vornado a year ago that any GLUP study would need to evaluate the impact of additional density "in the context of the significant development already approved [for construction] by the County Board for the Pentagon City area." Thousands of apartments have already been built, and thousands more have been approved to be built – many by Vornado – in Pentagon City, not to mention the many thousands of additional residential units and millions of square feet of commercial office space called for by the Crystal City Sector Plan. Vornado has also been granted the right to construct 1.8 million square feet of new office space on PenPlace. Whether and to what degree the County will now insist that the River House study evaluate the impact of yet more density **on top of** that which has yet to be built in 22202 remains to be seen.

CANDIDATES NIGHT October 22

Aurora Hills Community Center, 7pm

Aurora Highlands, Arlington Ridge and Crystal City Civic Associations will jointly sponsor a County Board Candidates Night on October 22. Candidates are Katie Cristol (D), Christian Dorsey (D), Audrey Clement (I) and Michael McMenamin (I). If you have some questions you would like to pose to the candidates, please send them to us at arcaneighbor@gmail.com.

A NEW SCHOOL IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD -- WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Arlington Public Schools South Arlington Working Group that is recommending locations for a new elementary school has identified six sites for consideration, including three in our neighborhood. These options are at Gunston Middle School, River House, and Virginia Highlands Park / Library /Community Center / former fire station (the specific location within this large area has not been identified). For all options, go to www.apsva.us/Page/30469, Meeting of August 26.

Vornado recently refiled its application to amend the County's General Land Use Plan (GLUP) to permit the redevelopment of its River House property to include plans for a potential elementary school on the southern portion close to 16th Street *in addition to* construction of 1,084 new apartments.

ARCA will update our membership about the status of this Site Selection process at its September 17th meeting and will also take an informal poll of our members' preferences. Concept designs have been developed for Gunston and River House but, to date, not for Virginia Highlands. Please come to learn more about this ongoing process and to share your opinion on a preferred site.

MATTHEW GALAN NOMINATED TO FILL ARCA VP VACANCY

Mr. Galan is an attorney with the US Patent and Trademark Office who recently moved into our neighborhood on 16th Street. He is interested in, and had already begun to research on his own, many of the County zoning and development issues confronting us when he approached ARCA and offered to help. We look forward to his becoming a valuable asset. Members will be asked at our September meeting formally to elect him to fill the Vice-Presidential vacancy on the ARCA Executive Board.

SEPTEMBER IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONTH Sat. Sept. 19, 9am County Board Public Hearings on Affordable Housing Master Plan

A proposed new Affordable Housing Master Plan will be considered by the Arlington County Board at a hearing on Saturday, September 19th. Despite Arlington's growing stock of housing (single family, duplexes, condos and apartments), its stock of

"affordable housing" has been seriously eroded. The proposed Plan would set a target of 17.7% of all

Arlington housing units to be "affordable" in years to come primarily by adding housing density. During September, the County will celebrate "Affordable Housing Month" with tours, forums and information fairs. Events include an Affordable Housing Bus tour of over a dozen properties; a Public Forum on Mixed Income Housing, its benefits and challenges; a two mile Bike Tour; and a forum that is a "nuts and bolts teach-in" on Affordable Housing. You can read the draft Affordable Housing Report at <http://housing.arlingtonva.us/affordable-housing-study/>. The public can testify on Sept. 19 in the County Board room, or send an email to countyboard@arlingtonva.us.

SCHOOL BUSES HAVE "STOP SIGN" CAMERAS

Blowing past a school bus with its stop sign extended may result in a \$250 ticket if you are caught by one of the newly installed bus cameras. Arlington Public School's spokesman declined to say how many buses have the cameras, saying that revealing that information may encourage drivers to try their luck. The 6 cameras on each bus send their footage to the Police Department. One tolerant bus driver said that people don't stop because they are just not paying attention! So pay attention, slow down, or it might cost you \$250!

VOLUNTEERS FOR ARLINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Enjoy history? The Arlington Historical Museum in the Hume School is in need of weekend docents (1 – 4pm). No experience necessary. Contact info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. The society is also sponsoring an Appraisal Road Show on October 10 in support of the Ball-Sellers House, the oldest structure in Arlington. Information at www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

LANG STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN EXPANDS

Arlington County approved the purchase of a house at 2822 Arlington Ridge Road, which it will tear down and use the land to expand the adjacent community garden. It will enable the addition of 45 half-size plots to the existing 70 plots. Information at <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/gardens/community-gardens/>, or 703-228-7872.

OCTOBER 3 E-CARE

**Thomas Jefferson School, 125 S. Old Glebe Road
703-228-6570**

At the Arlington Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE) you can safely dispose of household hazardous materials and recycle bikes, small metal items, shoes and clothing, among other things. **New this year!** Exchange your old CFL light bulb for a new LED bulb (one per household), while supplies last.

<http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/events/e-care-fall-2015/>

FRIENDS OF AURORA HIGHLANDS PARKS

A new group of concerned citizens in our adjoining neighborhood has been organized to support preservation of existing parkland for parks and recreation use, and for adding more parkland when possible. They are particularly concerned about parks that are "under threat of having parkland converted to other uses," e.g., Nelly Custis Park (they oppose plans being considered for a second playground) and the Virginia Highlands Park (where they oppose possible location of a new elementary school). Hearings on the Nelly Custis improvement project will be on Sept. 30 at 7pm at the Aurora Hills Community Center. For more information: <http://friendsofahparks.org>

AFAC'S 4TH ANNUAL CHIEFS v. CHEFS

Wed. Oct 28, 6:30 – 9:30, Clarendon Ballroom
Don't miss this sizzling culinary contest and help AFAC feed the hungry in Arlington. www.afac.org

WANT A FREE TREE FOR YOUR YARD?

The more trees we have in Arlington, the better it is for the community. Arlington is providing a variety of native tree species for Arlington residents. (One tree per household.) Select your tree at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-distribution-program-2015-tickets-183955887010> now through **Oct. 23** (or while supplies last). Tree height varies with species but generally ranges two to four feet in height and are in two-gallon containers. Pick up trees on Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the nursery located on South Four Mile Run, behind Tucker Field. Questions? Email: pwegeng@arlingtonva.us or call [703-228-6521](tel:703-228-6521).

ENERGY MASTERS TRAINING & VOLUNTEERS

**Wed. Sept 30 – Nov 4, 6:30 – 8:30pm
Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.**

The program trains a corps of volunteers in energy efficiency and water conservation techniques who then provide education to residents in affordable housing developments. Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment. 703-228-6406.

CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION (CUE)

CUE is a 501(c)(3) organization concerned about environmental protection issues that arise in urban settings. It was originally formed to analyze and respond to the 1975 Pentagon City tract proposal and has been following development of Pentagon City ever since. Members support a "holistic" approach and environmentally sound analysis in the making of development decisions. Such an approach and analysis includes costs to the County and its citizens as well as financial returns. Members seek knowledge about the impacts upon County infrastructure--transportation, land use, services, noise, water, air quality--and the concomitant challenges to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

Current development issues in 22202 demand more in-depth study. The building of all the apartment and office buildings already approved for this zip code as well as others under consideration mean major infrastructure and quality of life challenges to the area.

The Center for Urban Education is recruiting new members who share its concerns, values, goals, and objectives. For more information or to join CUE, contact

Joan Quinn at juinnest@gmail.com or Brent Spence at brentspence@juno.com

COFFEE WITH A COP

**Thurs Sept 17, 4 – 6pm
Bob & Ediths, 539 23rd Street S.**

Join officers from the 2nd Police District who will host an informal meet-and-greet, and serve coffee and goodies at Bob and Ediths new location at 539 23rd Street.

ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Aurora Hills Community Center, 7pm
3rd Thursdays in Jan/May/Jul/Sept/Nov

Thru Oct 11 Friendship Betrayed. A 17th Century comic gem about liberated women and what happens to their friendships in the pursuit of men. WSCAvantBard. Th2 at Gunston.
www.wscavantbard.org

Sept 2 – 30 Preparing Your Garden for Winter: Wednesdays in the Garden series at Central Library. 7 – 9pm. 703-228-5990

Sept 18 Chimney Swifts Put on a Show: Each Sept. chimney swifts put on an amazing show – hundreds gather, swirl, then disappear. Enjoy one of the coolest sights in Arlington at the Walter Reed Comm. Center, 7 – 8pm. 703-228-6535

Sept 19 Native Plant Sale: Featured are sun-loving and butterfly-attracting plants, wildflowers, shade plants, ferns. 1 – 4pm. Long Branch Nature Center, 703-228-6535

Sept 24 Educating Rita: The comedy examines the journey of Rita, a bright Liverpool hairdresser with a thirst for knowledge. Peter's Alley Theatre. Theatre on the Run. www.petersalley.com

Sept 29 Adult Coloring Party at Aurora Hills Library: Experience the latest trend in relaxation: adult coloring that studies show has a calming effect on the mind! 7 – 8:30pm. 703-228-5715

Sept 29 – Nov 22 WVTF: Cake-Off: It's the 48th Annual Milberry Cake Off with hardy contestants Paul and Rita vying for the million dollar jackpot. Signature Theatre. www.signaturetheatre.org

Oct 1 – Nov 8 Alice in Wonderland: Synetic Theater's dark take on the classic story, with all its wonderful characters. 1800 S. Bell St. Crystal City. www.synetictheater.org

Oct 9 – 24 Little Shop of Horrors: The story of a man-eating plant combines horror, comedy and blockbuster rock and roll songs. The Arlington Players. www.thearlingtonplayers.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
ARCAnighbor@gmail.com

Neighborhood Conservation comments/questions to
arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com

BIKE OR WALK TO SCHOOL**Oct 7**

Encourage your student to take part in the Bike or Walk to School Day! In addition to its health benefits, the day raises community awareness about the importance of pedestrian safety, safe routes to schools, well maintained walkways and traffic calming in neighborhoods around schools. For more information go to bikearlington.com