



January, 2016

Arlington Ridge Civic Association

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

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Membership Meeting, Thursday, Jan. 21, 7pm Aurora Hills Community Center

LIBBY GARVEY, COUNTY BOARD CHAIR, TO BE GUEST SPEAKER; I-395 HOT LANES ALSO ON AGENDA

Not only will Ms. Garvey be on hand to inform us about the County Board's Agenda for the coming year and answer your questions, but a representative of the company that will be constructing the new Hot Toll Lanes on I-395 will also be on hand to fill us in on that plan and its potential impact on our community. (more information on HOT lanes at www.arcaonline.org). Current and future Neighborhood Conservation projects within our neighborhood will also be a topic of discussion. Finally, members will be voting to elect a new ARCA Secretary and to amend ARCA's Bylaws to clarify that its fiscal year and the calendar year are one in the same. **PLAN TO ATTEND!**

RIVER HOUSE UPDATE

I-395 HOT Lanes



As previously announced, Vornado withdrew its proposal to construct four new, sprawling 6-story apartment buildings on its River House property which would have contained an additional 1,084 apartments along with some retail establishments along Joyce Street, facing Pentagon Row. Before it could move forward with that project, however, Vornado would first have had to obtain County approval of an amendment to the County's General Land Use Plan to re-zone the 37-acre parcel to permit an increase in its density from 48 to 72 apartments per acre. Initially, Vornado believed it could easily achieve that outcome but later discovered that the process would be daunting. While Vornado's River House redevelopment plan is currently "off the table," we expect that the developer will not abandon its effort entirely and will, at some point, return with a new proposal that it hopes will be more likely to meet with County approval.

THE COUNTY BOARD'S NEW YEAR'S DAY MEETING

At the County Board's traditional New Year's Day meeting, each board member delivered his/her County resolutions for the coming year. The 2016 meeting was important given the Board's new composition. We suspect it will be an interesting year as we watch and learn how the new Board's collaborative process works to alter the County's compass heading. Read each member's remarks at: <http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/libby-garvey-named-2016-arlington-county-board-chair/>

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ARCA, PO Box 2976, Arlington,
VA 22202-0976
The membership year is
July 1 – June 30.

FIOS IS HERE!

Long promised, it appears that Verizon is finally at work installing FIOS in our neighborhood. You can get more detailed information by calling 866-266-2775, or at their website

www.verizon.com/home/shop/shopping.htm.

AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER/LIBRARY RENOVATIONS**Next Meeting: Wed Jan 20, 6:30pm, Aurora Hills Community Center**

At the next meeting for the project to refurbish the interior of the Community Center and Library, the county staff will share the 100% design plans with the public. Construction is planned for 2016-7. Info: <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/aurora-hills-complex-interior-refresh-project>

The renovations will include new kitchen cabinets, receptionist desk, flooring and new ADA compliant bathrooms. The Library will also have some minor infrastructure renovations, but plans to stay open during the work.

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BE LOCATED AT THOMAS JEFFERSON

At its Dec. 15 County Board Meeting, the Arlington County Board voted 5-0 to approve construction of a new 725-seat elementary school to open in 2019 on the northwest portion (currently a parking lot) of the Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Community Center. The Board's action came in response to the Arlington Public School (APS) Board's request that the site be approved. The Board also directed the County Manager to "expeditiously initiate the public facilities review committee process with participation by all appropriate stakeholder groups", building on the site analysis, including placement and impact mitigation, already done by the Thomas Jefferson working group. In addition to this new school, the County and APS will soon begin another facility review process with the goal of finding a site for a second new elementary school in South Arlington to open in 2024. The most recent APS enrollment projections estimates that student population will grow by 30% in the next 5 years.

PROPOSED ARCA BYLAW AMENDMENTS

To eliminate confusion, ARCA is asking members to approve an amendment to its Bylaws that will clarify that its fiscal year and the calendar year are one in the same by adding the following underlined language and removing the struck language in **Article IX, Section 4** : "The Treasurer, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall prepare

a proposed Budget for each forthcoming fiscal (January 1 – December 31) year for approval by the members at the November membership meeting ~~Annual Meeting~~ in July.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS PARK UPDATE**1600 S. Hayes Street**

The courts and community fields are renovated, lighting for each replaced, and new site furnishings (benches, shade structures and bike racks) and accessible paths installed. Additional features will include drinking fountain and water bottle filler, bleacher seating for the grass field, a junior half basketball court, new pedestrian access to the restroom and parking lots, digital sign, Wi-Fi hot spots and landscaping.

NEW TUNNEL TO PENTAGON CITY STATION

A third entrance to the Pentagon City Metro station is slated to open soon. Built in the mid-1980s, the pedestrian tunnel was intended to provide access from the northeast corner of S. Hayes and 12th Sts to the Metrorail station, but was never opened. Renovating and opening the entryway will provide an additional access point to one of Arlington's highest ridership Metrorail stations and to the Fashion Centre. The entryway consists of stairs at the northeast corner of S. Hayes & 12th Sts going down to a pedestrian tunnel under S. Hayes St. and connecting to the mezzanine level of the Pentagon City Metrorail Station. The new entrance will also help accommodate a coming influx of riders from new development in the area, including a [new Whole Foods](#), to be included in the proposed Metropolitan Park 4/5 at 1200 S. Eads Street. Information on the tunnel: <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/pentagon-city-pedestrian-tunnel-renovation/>

32nd STREET TO CLOSE PERMANENTLY JAN 29

The permanent closure of 32nd Street, between Route 1 and S. Eads in Crystal City, has been approved by VDOT and is scheduled for Friday, **January 29**. The street closure will allow for additional parking spaces for Arlington's growing bus fleet. The new ART facility is expected to be completed by fall 2016.

23rd STREET NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PROJECT

At some point in the next year or so, the County will begin construction of a curb and new sidewalk along the north side of 23rd Street, from Nash Street down the hill to Army Navy Drive. This, and one

other 4-block sidewalk and street-light project on Kent Street, currently under development, have been in the works ever since ARCA's Neighborhood Conservation Plan was approved by the County in 2013. ARCA hopes to gain approval for yet another neighborhood project to improve pedestrian safety, particularly for school children, in the near future. The new process for selecting and gaining County approval of civic association projects will be a topic of discussion at our January membership meeting.

CHOOSE A GREEN LANDSCAPING COMPANY

Do you hire a company to take care of your lawn and property? Landscaping companies registered with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as "Green & Clean" agree to follow landscaping practices that will reduce the amount of fertilizer runoff into our streams and rivers. Such practices include testing the soil for nutrient content before applying any fertilizer, adhering to caps on the amount of nitrogen applied to grass throughout the year, sweeping up any fertilizer that lands on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways, and recycling grass clippings back into the soil. To learn more about the program and see the full list of companies on the Green & Clean registry, please visit <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/wqagree>

HOW TO CHOOSE NATIVE PLANTS

Maybe you know a little about native plants and how they are important for the ecological functioning of our landscapes, including assisting our sagging populations of butterflies and other pollinators. Maybe you know nothing about natives and just want some new ideas for beautifying your landscaping. Whatever your goal and whatever your knowledge level, the Plant Nova Natives website (plantnovanatives.org) includes terrific easy to follow information that will help you choose native species that are suited to your property and available at local nurseries. On the website, you will find a colorful guide to local native species, a list of local businesses that supply natives, and links to organizations that will come to your property and offer customized landscaping recommendations.

TREE CARE RESOURCES

As someone who has had to bid farewell to an 80 year old oak tree due to an infestation of borers, I wish I had checked with an arborist years ago to forestall its sad demise. So keep your valuable trees healthy with advice from an arborist and not the representative from a tree company who wants

your business! The most significant advice two arborists gave me was that most trees don't need pruning, but if they do, it is best left to qualified arborists both in terms of evaluating the need, and applying the treatment. Helpful information can be found at:

For a **list of certified arborists** in this area:

<http://www.goodtreecare.com>

Selecting and Working with an Arborist:

<http://www.extension.org/pages/66492/selecting-and-working-with-an-arborist>

Tips for Checking and Caring for Storm Damaged

Trees: <http://www.extension.org/pages/66211/tips-for-checking-and-caring-for-storm-damaged-trees>

Storm Damage and Tree Pruning

<http://urbanforestry.frec.vt.edu/stormdamage/resources/pruningbroch.pdf>

HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AND NOISE IN 22202

Meeting of Dec 16, 2015

Hosted by County Board chair Libby Garvey, the meeting is part of an ongoing effort to hear and address residents concerns about noise pollution, especially near National Airport. As *ArINow* reported on the meeting: "Residents concerns were stuck between federal air traffic regulations and required military practices throughout the metro area." The FAA said it did not have regulations over noise from military aircraft, which is 75% of the helicopter traffic; as the discussion continued, fingers pointed to the U.S. Department of Defense, which regulates military missions, training and how its aircraft operate. It also became apparent that while neither aircraft operators nor the FAA alone could change the flight routes, residents also didn't have an outlet to share their concerns. Garvey was pleased with the open conversation and vowed to continue it in the future. For now, the panelists recommend residents with noise complaints contact the Dept. of Defense Noise Working Group at <http://www.denix.osd.mil/dnwg/NoiseComplaints.cfm> A link to a transcript of the meeting is at ARCA's website, www.arcaonline.org

GET READY FOR GROUNDHOG DAY

Sun. Jan 31, 2 – 3pm, Ages 5 and up

Gulf Branch Nature Center

The real groundhogs are fast asleep, but that won't keep us from learning about America's only rodent with its own honorary day. Hear stories and learn fun facts about this legendary animal prognosticator. Information: 703-228-3403. Registration required at 703-228-4747.

ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**Aurora Hills Community Center, 7pm****3rd Thursday of the month: Jan/May/Jul/Sept/Nov**

Jan 14 - Feb 14 A Midsummer Night's Dream: WSC Avant Bard will reimagine Shakespeare's dream using Indonesian-inspired shadow puppets, with an actor-generated percussion orchestra. Gunston Theatre Two. 703-418-4808. www.wscavantbard.org

Jan 15 - 30 The History Boys: An unruly bunch of bright seniors at a British boarding school are in pursuit of sex, sport, and a place at a good university –in that order. Dominion Stage Gunston Theatre One. www.dominionstage.org

Jan 16 - 30 Mouse in House: Adapted from the book by Elizabeth Spires, "Mouse in House" reveals an unlikely friendship between a mouse and reclusive 19th-century poet Emily Dickinson. Jane Franklin Dance. 3pm. Theatre on the Run. www.janefranklin.com

Jan 23 - Apr 3 King of the Forest: Adventures in Bioperversity. Artists explore what our relationship to animals and to the planet could be in some future, dystopian version of the natural reality. Arlington Arts Center. www.arlingtonarts.org

Jan 24 Owls of Virginia: Join members of the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia as they share their insights into these fascinating and mysterious nighttime predators. 3 – 4pm Ages 6 & up. 703-228-6535. Long Branch Nature Center. Free. Program

Jan 25 Open Door Monday at Aurora Hills Library: Come chat with a county board member about any topic, no appointment needed. 7 - 9pm. Open Door Mondays are held at A-H on the 4th Monday of the month.

Jan 29 Aurora Highlands Civic Association January Social, 6 – 8pm. Join your neighbors and friends, share the latest neighborhood news while enjoying a special deal on food and drink at the Crystal City Sports Pub. 529 S. 23rd Street.

Jan 29 – Feb 13 Deathtrap: An exquisite blend of mystery, plot reversals and humor. The Arlington Players. Thomas Jefferson Theatre. www.thearlingtonplayers.org

ARCA OFFICERS & CONTACTS

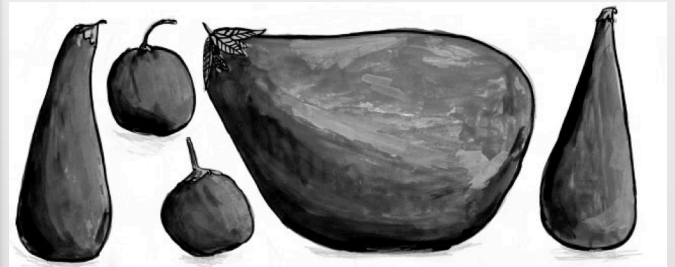
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We would love to hear from you!

Please send comments and questions to

ARCAneighbor@gmail.com

Neighborhood Conservation comments/questions to

arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com**ART ON THE ART BUS**

Art by Elizabeth Graeber

Art on the ART Bus is a mobile gallery on one of Arlington County's ART public transit buses. A program of Arlington's Public Art Program, this unique bus features original works of art by a variety of visual artists. This dynamic connection between public transit and original art makes the commute as exciting as the destination, cultivating a vibrant arts experience for transit in Arlington. Initiated in December 2010, this bus rotates throughout the different routes available to ART bus passengers. Look forward to being surprised next time you take the bus!

Current Art on the ART Bus Artists: Khanh H. Le, Jason Horowitz and Scott Pennington. More Information: <http://publicart.arlingtonva.us/temporary-installations/art-on-the-art-bus>