



May, 2017

# Arlington Ridge Civic Association

P.O. Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202  
[www.arcaonline.org](http://www.arcaonline.org)

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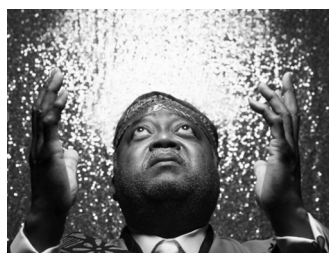
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*WSCAvant Bard presents a concert staging of its "The Gospel of Colonus" at the Lubber Run Amphitheater on August 5 at 8pm*



## PayPal™

You can pay your \$20 annual ARCA membership dues online using PayPal! [www.arcaonline.org](http://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, 7 PM THURSDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> AT THE NEWLY RENOVATED AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

Come check out our newly renovated, Aurora Hills Community Center and learn about the County's plan to reduce parking capacity in new, high-rise apartment buildings in Pentagon and Crystal Cities that may result in spill-over parking in single-family neighborhoods.

In addition, a team of **JBG/Smith representatives** will be on hand. This new company is now the owner of Vornado's properties in 22202, including PenPlace and MetPark in adjoining Pentagon City, and The River House property which lies within ARCA's residential neighborhood boundary across Joyce Street from the Virginia Highlands Park and Pentagon Row.

In case you are new to the neighborhood, PenPlace and MetPark are the two mega-blocks lying between Eads and Fern Streets, running from Army-Navy Drive in the north to 15<sup>th</sup> Street in the south. Vornado had secured County approval to build 2.1 million square feet of commercial buildings on largely vacant PenPlace and to complete construction of additional buildings on MetPark that will eventually house a total of 3,212 apartments. And it was seeking to rezone River House to permit the in-fill of its open, green space with an additional 1,000 low-rise apartment buildings.

How JBG/Smith now plans to develop these properties, as well as redevelop much of Crystal City, will be the major topic of discussion at our May 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. This will be your opportunity both to learn from this major new 22202 property owner about, as well as to share your thoughts and help shape, its approach to urban development in our adjoining, high-rise neighborhoods that will significantly impact the quality of life of ARCA residents in the years to come. ARCA residents are encouraged to avail themselves of this rare opportunity.

## NEW BUS STOPS ON ARMY-NAVY DRIVE

Thanks to ARCA's lobbying efforts, along with help from Congressman Beyer and prior County Board Chair Libby Garvey, we now have two new, federally-mandated, ADA-compliant bus stops on the west side of Army-Navy Drive, one across from Horizon House and the other at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street that County engineers had previously refused to construct, citing a host of technical excuses. While pedestrian cross-walks have yet to be painted on the pavement to caution motorists, ARCA is continuing to press for this final improvement to protect bus commuters who must cross this busy thoroughfare.

## WHERE WILL WE PUT OUR NEW HIGH SCHOOL?

### Three Sites Named as Finalists

The list of nine possible sites for Arlington's new high school has been narrowed down to three finalists: 1. **The Education Center Site:**

Washington Lee High School's capacity increases with space for a 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy, and/or an expanded International Baccalaureate; 2. **Kenmore Middle School site:** The middle school remains and a neighborhood high school is built; and 3.

**Career Center site:** The Career center's capacity increases with space added for a new high school. The options were based on staff analyses as well as feedback from the Facilities Advisory Council and the community. Still to be determined is whether the school will be a specialized choice school or a community high school. (Community surveys so far indicate 44% for a neighborhood school and 56% for a specialized one). Site analysis will continue through mid-May, with final recommendations at the School Board's May 15 work session (after this newsletter goes to press).

### JOINT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (JFAC) Public Forum, May 24, 7pm, Wakefield HS Cafeteria, 1325 S. Dinwiddie St. 703-228-1775

The JFAC continues to focus its efforts on unique opportunities the County has to acquire new land and is tackling the tough question about the best uses of that land before making recommendations to both County and School leadership. Members of the commission want to hear from the public at a forum on Wed. May 24 at 7pm on the key issues, including the potential use of several sites. More information at <https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/>

### NAMING THE NEW ELEMENTARY ON THE TJ SITE

Suggestions for the name of the new elementary school on the same site as the Jefferson Middle School include **Alice West Fleet** (she was the first black teacher in an all-white school in Arlington); **Grace Hopper** (a rear admiral, and an acclaimed computer scientist, who also has a park on S. Joyce St. at

the River House named for her); **Journey;** **Liberty;** and **Patrick Henry**. (The current Patrick Henry Elementary will move to the new school.) In response to an online survey, over 500 people weighed in: someone even suggested "Pokemon Elementary". Next input solicited on the naming will be from parents, students, staff and nearby neighbors of both Patrick Henry and Jefferson Middle Schools.

### AQUATIC CENTER MOVING FORWARD

The County Manager announced that the design process for the long delayed Long Bridge Park Aquatic Center is moving forward. The scaled-down facility and 10.5 acre park will include all the programs recommended by the Long Bridge Advisory Committee and already adopted by the County Board, such as advanced energy efficiency, a therapy pool, a 10m. dive tower and additional spectator seats. The County will use a "design/build" approach construction method which establishes a budget at the outset of the project which the contractor must not exceed. The budget is \$63 - \$67million, originally approved in 2012. The public will be invited to review the submitted concepts and share feedback, scheduled for November 2017; construction will begin late 2018. Information: <https://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-county-moving-forward-with-long-bridge-park-phase-2/>

### "COMPLETE STREETS" SEEKS NOMINATIONS

#### June 16 deadline

The Neighborhood Complete Streets program is accepting nominations for future projects. A "complete street" allows safe and comfortable use by all users – walking, biking, public transit and cars. If you know of a street missing a section of sidewalk, accessible curb ramps, safe street lighting, has obstructions, or is unsafe in any way, please consider nominating it. This new program will fund a small number of projects on non-arterial streets, and applicants are asked to be as specific as possible in their description of the location and the nature of the problem. Submit nominations at <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/programs/neighborhood-complete-streets/>

### **GUNSTON DIAMOND FIELD TO BE CONVERTED TO SYNTHETIC TURF**

A grant of \$180,000 from the Arlington Sports Foundation will help the County convert a softball field at Gunston to synthetic turf. County Board Chair Jay Fissette says "The number of people playing sports...and the hours our fields are in use continue to grow, and we need creative solutions to meet the demand". Officials estimate the conversion will add nearly 880 playing hours to the popular field. Questions were raised about the safety of the synthetic turf, made from EPDM rubber, but County Board vice chair Katie Cristol said the health of children is something Arlington takes "incredibly seriously", and asserted the health risks of EPDM are minimal. Nationally, independent studies report that "the preponderance of evidence shows no negative health effects association with crumb rubber in synthetic turf".

### **DID YOU KNOW? TECHSHOP**

**TechShop DC-Arlington, Crystal Underground**  
**<http://www.techshop.ws/arlington.html>**

Located on Crystal Drive in Crystal City, the Tech Shop is a community based workshop and prototyping studio on a mission to democratize access to the tools of innovation. Packed with cutting edge tools for metalwork, woodwork, painting, electronics, textiles and bicycle repair, it also has computers loaded with design software. Many of its members are hobbyists and students, but it also serves as a laboratory for start-up companies by providing access to the tools needed to build a first prototype, with four laser cutters, three 3D printers, a waterjet that can cut through 5" of anything, and a vacuum forming machine. The TechShop offers a class for each machine, and is open 7 days a week, on some days till midnight. Check it out.

### **PAY YOUR DUES! (Please)**

**Membership Year: July 1 – June 30**

It's that time of year again, when your \$20 (or more if you care to donate) helps keep our neighborhood vibrant. We hope all ARCA

residents will feel this is a small price to pay to support our Civic Association, whose officers work tirelessly to advocate on their behalf and to preserve the health, safety and overall welfare of our neighborhood. Help us fight off developers, nag county officials, stay up-to-date on environmental and parks issues, keep the traffic running smoothly, and remain alert and proactive on all fronts. We have included a dues envelope to make it easier for you to send in your dues, you can also pay online at our website, [www.arcaonline.org/](http://www.arcaonline.org/)

### **RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

You can help us save money and time by signing up to receive your newsletter online instead of having a print issue delivered to your door. Email us at [arcaneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:arcaneighbor@gmail.com).

### **ARLINGTON BIOBLITZ**

**May 20, 9 – 5pm**

**Long Branch Nature Center**

**[parks.arlingtonva.us/events/Arlington-bioblitz](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/Arlington-bioblitz)**

Participate in Arlington's first ever public BioBlitz, an inventory of County plants and wildlife during a 24 hour window. Residents conduct "citizen science" that will help shape the County's updating of its Natural Resources Management plan.

### **GREEN HOME & GARDEN TOUR**

**June 4: Fort C.F. Smith, 2411 24<sup>th</sup> St. N.**

**[parks.arlingtonva.us/events](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/events)**

Get inspiration and ideas to go green at home – see homes featuring energy efficiency, solar, water saving technologies, native plants, rain gardens, wildlife habitat and more. Take either a self guided tour or a guided cycling option.

### **FIREFLY FESTIVAL**

**June 25, 7:30 – 9:30pm Ft. CF Smith**

**[parks.arlingtonva.us/events](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/events)**

Celebrate the friendly bioluminescent beetle with bug hunts, games, walks and talks. Bring a blanket and a picnic, then wait for sunset and the winged lights to come out.

**ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**  
**Aurora Highlands Community Center, 7pm**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sept/Nov**

**CALENDAR**

**May 19 – 21 BABEL:** A full dome projection of color and light created by artist Kelley Bell at the David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 N. Quincy St. arlingtonarts.org

**May 20 Truck and Bus Day: Children** of all ages are invited to investigate construction trucks, fire trucks, a recycling truck, an ART bus, and more. Central Library parking lot, 9 – 11am.

**May 23 Tween Book Club:** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid". Book discussions, games, crafts and projects. Book club for ages 8 – 12, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 5 – 6pm. Aurora Hills Library. 703-228-5715

**May 25 – Jun 25 King Lear:** Featuring local acting legend Rick Foucheux. WSC Avant Bard. Theatre 2 at Gunston. Wscavantbard.org

**Jun 2 – 11 The Jungle Book:** Encore Stage presents this classical tale by Kipling, suitable for ages 4 and up. Thomas Jefferson Theatre. Encorestageva.org

**Jun 3 - 11 UrbanArias: Independence Eve:** Arlington's contemporary chamber opera company presents an engaging new opera exploring the troubled journey of race relations in America. Signature Theatre. Sigtheatre.org

**Jun 3 Ho'olaule'a 2017 Hawaiian Cultural Festival.** Hands on activities, performances and food. Noon. Gunston Theatre One. Halauoaulani.org

**Jun 13 Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?** Learn key factors to successfully pass down your personal possessions and how to consider options and consequences. Free. The Connection Library, 2100 Crystal Drive. 703-417-6421. <http://bit.ly/VCEFinancePrograms>

**Jun 17 Columbia Pike Blues Festival:** Featuring Bettye LaVette and Jon Bon Jovi. Columbia-pike.org

**Jun 25 Arlington Philharmonic Pops for Pets:** Classical music concert at Lubber Run Amphitheatre, a benefit for the Animal Welfare

League. 8pm. Free. Arlingtonarts.org

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Comments and questions

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Neighborhood Conservation comments/questions to [arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com](mailto:arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com)

**LUBBER RUN AMPHITHEATRE**  
**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**  
**"All Summer Long & Absolutely Free"**



Don't miss the series of free events at our very own Wolf Trap, except it is FREE! Events begin at 8pm every Fri & Sat, from June 16 - Sept 17; Sunday starting times vary. Bring a picnic and some bug spray, and have a wonderful family night out, entirely free. Opening weekend offers **THE GRANDSONS** on June 16, **MR. KNICK KNACK** June 18 at 11am. Come for music, dance and theatre, by **LITTLE RED AND THE RENEGADES**, **SIGNATURE THEATRE**, **THE NATIONAL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**, **"SPEED" THE MAGICIAN**, **COMPANY DANZANTE** and much more.

N.Columbus & N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sts. Arlingtonarts.org

Pictured: Cissa Paz. Brazilian songwriter. Julv 1 at 8pm