

ARCA NEWSLETTER NOV. 2020

ARCA Membership Meeting
Thurs Nov 19 7pm
Zoom

Please join us for our November 2020 meeting, when we will have three guests discussing about issues of interest to our neighborhood:

Gabriela Koch on the proposed design of the intersection of S. Lynn Street and Arlington Ridge Road to make it safer for pedestrians and cars.

Sara Brandt-Vorel, an Alexandria City urban planner, will update us on the proposed Virginia Tech in Potomac Yard

A DES representative will discuss the County's plan for the **31st Street lot** adjacent to the Water Treatment Plant; this was originally planned for March 2020.

ARCA QUESTIONS PENTAGON CITY DENSITY STUDY METHODOLOGY

Shortly after Amazon announced its plan to locate its HQ2 that will house 25,000 employees in Pentagon City, the County Board finally recognized the need for an independent think-tank study of the ability of 22202's infrastructure to accommodate all of the new development and population growth coming to the area in the coming years. Indeed, ARCA had been seeking such a study for many years given that 22202's land mass is located within a geographic bubble that is accessible via only a scant few roadways that might eventually become unduly, or even dangerously congested.

However, County staff elected instead to focus the study on just Pentagon City even though most of the already authorized growth in 22202 is to be located in Crystal City where the number of residential units is scheduled to double and the commercial square footage to grow by 60 percent. Thus, staff arranged for one study to examine the capacity of just the multi-modal transportation infrastructure lying within and immediately adjacent to Pentagon City. And they arranged for a second study to determine whether the current ceiling on density in Pentagon City could be lifted, and if so, by how much. And while we are informed that the first study has not yet been completed, the second study was recently launched, and it seems to be engineered to secure public approval for additional development in Pentagon City. Thus, staff and the contractor scheduled a large public meeting at which they seemed to be attempting to manipulate the study's eventual outcome by whipping up public enthusiasm for density growth by seeking residents' advice on where to locate, and how to design large, new buildings for construction in Pentagon City.

There is just one problem. No determination has yet been made that **any additional density** beyond HQ2 and that which has already been approved for development, can be located anywhere in 22202, much less in Pentagon City. Talk about putting the cart before the horse!

It may come as no surprise that the density study is being funded by Pentagon City's commercial property owners and orchestrated by the County, all of whom would stand to benefit financially by the addition of more density via greater rental income and tax revenue. It's 22202's residential population that could see the livability of its neighborhood undermined were it to become unduly congested. Be assured, ARCA is doing its best to ensure that these studies are eventually completed objectively only after holistically analyzing all of 22202's infrastructure and the overall population density it will be able to accommodate within the entirety of 22202's land mass in the coming years.

Pentagon City Planning Study Public Workshop #2

Wed. Dec 9, 6 – 8pm (rescheduled from Nov. 17)

Register for the meeting at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451111111>

REDESIGN OF S. LYNN ST. & ARLINGTON RIDGE RD.

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/arlington-ridge-road-and-lynn-street-safety-improvements/>

The two intersections covered by this project have experienced a high number of collisions, and the goal is to improve safety for all modes of transport and pedestrians, and to create predictable vehicle movements at Lynn Street and the on/off ramps to I-395. **Details of the design:**

https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2020/09/DES-Arlington-Ridge-Lynn-Street-Exhibit_60pct.pdf

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

ARCA 2021 BUDGET

At our Membership Meeting on November 19, we will present and (hopefully) approve our budget for 2021. The covid-19 pandemic increased the difficulty in preparing this budget as revenue and expenses are harder to predict, but the Board of Directors decided to present a budget which represents a normal year, with the understanding that if the pandemic continues into 2021 we will have less revenue and fewer expenditures, with fewer donations to community events. We have not sent out paper newsletters because of concern for our delivery force, which has resulted in an elimination of printing costs. Also community financial support has decreased with fewer

meetings. (Hint: Now would be a good time for you to renew your membership, or add a donation so we in turn can donate to others).

A simplified version of the proposed budget is as follows:

Revenue (dues)	\$4,000	
Expenditures: Newsletters & envelopes		2,900
Community Support	400	
Post Office Box		225
Other	475	
Net		0

LIVABILITY ROUTE 1

Improvements to Route 1 were part of Arlington County's agreement with Amazon, with several options discussed in August at a meeting with over 100 neighbors and stakeholders. The next step in this process is a Virginia Dept. of Transportation (VDOT) survey that is currently underway, in which residents and users of Route 1 are asked to help shape a study of potential future multimodal improvements between 12th and 23rd Streets South in Crystal City.

Take the Survey at <https://route1multimodal.metroquest.com/>

LIVABILITY HOUSING

"Missing Middle" Study

<https://housing.arlingtonva.us/missingmiddle/>

Key questions to be answered during Arlington County's study on "Missing Middle" housing are: What housing types are appropriate for Arlington; Where could new types be located; What would the infrastructure and environmental impacts be; How could they be mitigated; How much would new types cost and what impact would that have on Arlington's housing market.

LIVABILITY OPEN SPACES

Urban Garden Project in Virginia Highlands Park

1600 S. Hayes St.

The Friends of Urban Agriculture (FUA) has been working with neighbors from Aurora Highlands Civic Association to create a demonstration urban garden, Highlands Urban Garden (HUG), in Virginia Highlands Park. It is a collaborative project with the National Landing BID, Livability22202, and Arlington County Department of Parks & Recreation. Project HUG is revitalizing underused land, showing how otherwise fallow spaces can be transformed into productive land that builds a vibrant ecosystem.

The small-scale garden will demonstrate modern sustainable agricultural practices, and a team of neighborhood volunteers will install, maintain and manage it. As a pilot site, the HUG will serve as a model for future community-driven agriculture features throughout Arlington's urban neighborhoods. <http://home.arlingtonurbanag.org/home>

Virginia Highlands Park Reflects Livability Open Space Initiative

Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA) with the help of the County Parks and Recreation Dept. and volunteers has turned the currently under-used Virginia Highlands

Park into a community asset with programs for all ages and interests. AHCA persuaded the County to remove some of the walls used to keep in softballs and keep out other users -- “The fields were significantly underused relative to other facilities”, they say, “Each field is used for only 600 hours per year, 14% of the time”. With greater casual use over the past 6 months, the space has been used to put into practice the Open Space priority in the Livability Framework, with a public space for art installations, social distance meetups, kite flying, exercising, and play space for families. . Also involved are stakeholders like JBG Smith, the BID, area businesses and restaurants. The need for open space is growing, especially with the imminent influx of new residents in the approved apartments to be built.

TEMPORARY DOG RUN IN VA HIGHLANDS

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/virginia-highlands-temporary-dog-run/>

The Virginia Highlands Temporary Dog Run project proposes to develop the space between the baseball diamond and the pétanque courts in Virginia Highlands Park into a temporary dog run. Originally proposed by Pentagon City Dogs last October, the dog run would include areas for both large and small dogs, fencing with screening in some areas, natural grass surfacing, double entry gates, maintenance gates, repurposed and ADA accessible benches, dog waste receptacles, a message board, The temporary dog park will also be reviewed annually to ensure it is operating safely and in accordance with the County’s policies regarding temporary park uses and facilities.

SECRET SANTA

<https://publicassistance.arlingtonva.us/secret-santa/>

2020 has seen more Arlington households in financial crisis than ever before. You can help these families by donating to the Secret Santa Program: gift cards are distributed to clients in Department of Human Services safety net programs and other programs for low-income residents, including COVID-impacted households, children in foster care, people with disabilities, seniors with low incomes and teen parents. This year, the Secret Santa Program can accept gift cards and checks by mail, or online donations via secure credit card payments, any time before December 18.

RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING

<https://transportation.arlingtonva.us/parking/residential-permit-parking/>

Arlington has updated its Permit Parking program, and made the following key changes: 2 hour paid parking allowed on all streets; the zone parking would remain in effect; and vehicle permits will be reduced with increased fees. Check the website for the many details.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADDS 70 ACRES

https://www.arlnow.com/2020/11/10/heres-a-look-at-the-forthcoming-arlington-national-cemetery-expansion/?mc_cid=dff504e3d4&mc_eid=87f6211765

A major project to add 70 acres to Arlington National Cemetery while reconfiguring the eastern end of Columbia Pike is moving forward. The cemetery's southern expansion project will add about 60,000 burial sites across 37 acres of new burial plots and an above-ground columbarium, allowing the cemetery to continue military burials through the 2050s. It will also bring the Air Force Memorial within the cemetery grounds, and add a parking garage across Columbia Pike. The federal government acquired county-owned land for the expansion via an eminent domain suit, and in exchange, the feds are paying for the reconfiguration of Columbia Pike and the creation of a new S. Nash Street in the tiny Foxcroft Heights neighborhood adjacent to the Air Force Memorial — a \$60 million project. The project will also transform Columbia Pike from S. Oak Street to Washington Boulevard by re-aligning and widening it. It includes streetscape zones with trees on both sides of Columbia Pike, adding a new dedicated bike path, and widening pedestrian walkways.

ARLINGTON ELECTION STATS

https://www.arlnow.com/2020/11/10/2020-election-turnout-in-arlington-slightly-lower-than-2016/?mc_cid=dff504e3d4&mc_eid=87f6211765

ArlNow reports that despite record-setting levels of early and mail-in voting, the final 2020 general election turnout in Arlington slightly underperformed that of 2016. It set a local record in terms of votes cast, but a rise in population and voter registration meant that the final turnout figure was a few points below the 82% turnout from 2016.

“In all, 131,518 voters, or about 79 percent of 166,416 registered voters, cast ballots on Nov. 3,” Arlington County said after all the votes were tallied. “In 2016, turnout was 82 percent (122,023 of 148,032 registered voters).” “Absentee turnout this year was record-breaking, with more than 108,394 Arlingtonians (65.1% turnout) casting their ballots by mail, drop box, or in person before Election Day,” the press release continues. “With so many Arlingtonians voting before Nov. 3, turnout remained light throughout Election Day, with only 23,124 people voting (14% turnout).”

GET YOUR HOLIDAY WREATH

The Aurora Highlands Womens Club (AHWC) has a tradition of holding an annual fundraiser for local charities, where its talented members design and decorate custom wreaths. Due to the pandemic, however, they are unable to get together for this work, so they have instead partnered with Lynch Creek Farm to provide the wreaths. This year the funds raised will be go to two charities, the Hume School building, which houses the Arlington Historical Museum and the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Wreaths are delivered directly to you or your friends and family with nationwide delivery. With the wreath sales, AWHC has provided over \$147,000 in donations to local organizations over the past ten years.

Order Your Wreaths at <https://www.ahwc1958.org/>

ARLINGTON CIVIC FEDERATION (CIVFED)

<http://www.civfed.org/>

For over one hundred years, the Arlington Civic Federation (CivFed) has devoted itself to improving the quality of life in Arlington County, in advocating improvements in the infrastructure of the County, and in airing and discussing issues of concern to its members. If you are interested in joining its leadership team, or working on a task force examining Arlington's governmental form, email president@civfed.org.

DIALOGUES ON RACE AND EQUITY

Amid our national conversation on race, Arlington County will participate in steps towards true justice and equity with **Dialogues in Your community**; small interactive virtual conversations with neighbors to discuss race and equity; **Dialogues Together**: discussions with nonprofits, businesses and faith organizations; and **Dialogues in Your Neighborhood**: Neighbor-to-neighbor facilitated conversations.

<https://www.arcaonline.org/2020/10/history-of-race-and-housing-in-arlington/>

AHC INSTALLS SOLAR PANELS ON S. GLEBE RD. APARTMENTS

Affordable housing developer AHC is putting 342 solar panels on its new apartment complex, The Apex, across from the Shirley Park Giant (replacing The Berkeley). The 130 kilowatt installation will generate enough electricity to offset common area energy usage. The Apex is a 5 story 2 building complex that opened this spring, with 256 affordable units.

PENTAGON CITY ICE RINK OPEN

Mon – Fri: Noon – 10pm; Fri: Noon – 11pm; Sat 10am – 11pm; Sun: 10am – 10pm

Safety precautions and protocols will be followed, with mask wearing mandatory. Rink capacity is restricted to 50% with expanded seating to allow for social distancing.

<https://pentagonrow.com/visit/visit-the-ice-rink/>

SANTA WILL BE AT THE MALL THIS YEAR!

The Fashion Center has announced that it will have Santa at the Mall beginning November 27 (Black Friday). He will be a safe and socially distanced Santa as part of the "Simon Santa Photo Experience", and will remain there till Christmas Eve. Probably no lap-sitting this year, and Santa and his helpers will all be wearing masks!

ARLINGTON POLICE TOY DRIVE

Dec 1, 5 – 7pm

Our Lady of Lourdes, 830 23rd St. S.

Help make the holidays bright by donating to the "Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive" featuring drive-through, contactless drop-off.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION

FREE TREES

Arlington's Tree Canopy Fund is providing free 7', 8' trees and free planting to homeowners. As we all know trees are good for the environment and for our wallets.

Deadline to order Jan.8. Contact your neighborhood coordinator Kathy Landis for an application, questions and advice. Landis59@gmail.com.

<https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Tree-Canopy-Fund-Guidelines-Spring-2021.pdf>

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LEAVES

Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and fertilizes the soil as it breaks down, says the National Wildlife Federation. Removing the leaves eliminates vital wildlife habitat for turtles, toads, songbirds and invertebrates that rely on leaf litter for food, shelter and nesting material. Those fall leaves could also form an essential part of your “lasagna garden”: a garden where you’re trying to build soil, not grow plants, and is a no-dig, no-till organic gardening method that results in rich, fluffy soil with very little work from the gardener.” In the fall, place cardboard over the top of weeds, wet it down, and then add layers of organic material such as grass clippings and leaves. You’ll have a thriving soil ecosystem come the spring.

LEAF BAGS

Biodegradable paper leaf bags are available at only a few locations near us; Thomas Jefferson, Courthouse, and the Solid Waste Bureau at 4300 29th St. S. More information at <https://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/yard-waste/year-round/>

HOG PULL CONTINUES...

Meet at 2400 S. Meade Street at 9am, participation limited to 10 people.

Preregister: Jennifer Soles, jsoles@arlingtonva.us

This project on the first Saturday of the month reclaims the natural area between Haley Park, Oakridge Elementary and Gunston Middle Schools from non-native invasive plants. Bring appropriate clothing, long pants, long sleeves, tools and drinking water.

SCHOOLS

Superintendent’s Updates on Return to Schools

<https://www.apsva.us/post/superintendents-nov-10-return-to-school-update/>

Public Hearing on Elementary School Boundaries

Dec 1, 7pm

The Superintendent presents School Year 2020-21 update.

NO WINTER SPORTS IN SCHOOLS

Arlington has announced it will have no winter sports season beginning in December. Superintendent Duran noted “Participating in sports while continuing distance learning does not send a consistent message.”

Also, according to Arlnow, 61% of Arlington’s teachers prefer to continue distance learning according to a school survey.

CALENDAR

Nov 25 – Dec 1 Arlington Turkey Trot: Now in its 15th year, the Turkey Trot is an annual fundraiser held throughout the community to help “those in search of a friend, good food, child care, a place to call home” through several non-profit organizations. The 2019 Turkey Trot raised \$100,000. Check the website for the 5K routes, one in our neighborhood at <https://arlingtonvaturkeytrot.org/virtual/>
<https://arlingtonvaturkeytrot.org/about/>

Through Dec 13 Passages: 26 large scale sculptures designed to evoke the ships that transported more than 12 million enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean between the 16th and 19th centuries. The artwork reflects the ways Virginia was implicated in this history, while grappling with the legacy of Matthew Fontaine Maury for whom the building is named. Arlington Arts Center.

Nov 14 - 22 The Arlington Players *Voices of Hope: a digital cabaret*

Filled with uplifting music and a talented cast, this one hour show allows us to come together in these challenging times -- even though we can't be together in person. You'll even see an encore performance from TAP's WATCH Award-winning production *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* featuring Alex Bryce and Alden Michels. No tickets required! Just check out TAP's YouTube channel to watch the stream.
<https://www.thearlingtonplayers.org/seasons/season-70-coronavirus-edition/voices-hope-digital-cabaret/>

Dec 2 Visual Verse in Crystal City: The Nation's 23rd Poet Laureate Joy Harjo joins Arlington Poet Laureate Holly Karapetkova and two other regional poets laureate will have their poems projected onto large, highly-visible screens at 2011 Crystal Drive from 6 – 9pm. Drivers and pedestrians will see the towering words in a safe socially distance manner. <https://arts.arlingtonva.us/humanities/>

Dec 4 – 6 Annual Artful Weekend at Fort CF Smith: Arlington Arts Alliance weekend features 30 top Arlington artists in the historic Hendry House. Arlingtonartsalliance.org

Dec 11 American Yu, by Terence Patrick Hughes. Do you have the courage to stand up to your convictions? Prologue Theater presents original full length plays, presented virtually. Free, donation suggested. <https://www.prologuetheatre.org/foreword-series-registration.html>

Dec 12 National Chamber Ensemble Holiday Concert: Holiday favorites. Streaming or at Unitarian Universalist Church. 7.30pm. nationalchamberensemble.org