

## ARCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING JULY 15, 2021

### Guests:

Darren Buck will update us on VDOT's turn-around recommendation to convert Route #1 into a local main street bordered by shops, along with the three 22202 civic associations' Livability response.

A Representative of Arlington County will discuss the CIP Process (Capital Improvement Plan): the County's 10 year plan for building, maintaining, upgrading or replacing facilities and infrastructure).

<https://budget.arlingtonva.us/cip/>

### Annual election of slate of Officers for ARCA Board

ARCA is losing several of its Board members and welcoming three new members: Patrick Collard, Al McComber and Eric Olson. Returning members, some in new positions are: Kateri Garcia, President; Arthur Fox, President Emeritus; Vice Presidents: Fred Zimmerman, Robert Jamison; Treasurer, Bob Hyde; Neighborhood Conservation, Lauren Bailey; Communications, Maggie Gaffen; Secretary, Marlee Baucom.

### DUES

ARCA is replacing PayPal and installing a new vendor to allow residents to pay their annual \$ 20 dues online. In the meantime, our coffers are running a bit low, so we ask you to please mail your \$20 membership dues to our PO box instead. Our fiscal and membership year is July – June. Make your check out to ARCA, and send it to P.O. Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202. Many thanks! We will let you know when we are up and running with our new online portal.

### UPDATE ON ROUTE I

Press release sent by 3 Civic Assns.to the County Board

<https://livability22202.org/route-1-working-group/>

22202's three Civic Associations, united as "Livability22202", have taken issue with VDOT's tentative Feasibility Study recommendation to drop Route 1 to grade on the grounds that it is short sighted and incomplete in that it raises new questions, fails to address a number of community concerns, and would compromise safety. If Arlington County and the state proceed without addressing these concerns, our 22202 community will be divided by a dangerous, 7-lane wide roadway pedestrians and bikers would have to cross at signaled intersections as they now have to do at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The Associations are urging the County Board not to approve the study when submitted unless these larger questions and concerns are addressed.

You can also check out the VDOT website on the study.

**VDOT Route I Multimodal improvements study: Virtual public information meeting #3 Slide show**

[https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/NorthernVirginia/Presentation\\_-\\_Route\\_1\\_Multimodal\\_Improvements\\_Study\\_Virtual\\_Public\\_Information\\_Meeting\\_June\\_2021.pdf](https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/NorthernVirginia/Presentation_-_Route_1_Multimodal_Improvements_Study_Virtual_Public_Information_Meeting_June_2021.pdf)

## **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

### **LONG BRIDGE AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER**

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/parks-open-space/long-bridge-park/>

The long awaited pool and fitness center will open “soon, perhaps as early as July”, says the spokesperson for the Dept. of Parks and Recreation. The \$60 million facility will feature a 50-meter competition pool with diving towers, a whirlpool, family pool with splash pad, water slide, volleyball area, and lazy river, in addition to a 8,000 sq.ft. fitness center. We will let you know when we learn the actual opening date.

### **FORT SCOTT RESTROOM AND PARKING LOT RENOVATION**

The Dept. of Parks and Recreation will renovate the parking lot and restroom at Fort Scott Park, beginning in September, finishing early next year. During that process, parking will be tight during work hours, so it is recommended patrons park on Fort Scott Drive. The rest of the park will remain open.

### **TARGET COMING TO PENTAGON CITY??**

Our local news source, AriNow, reports that a Target store “appears to be coming to the former Bed Bath and Beyond” space on Pentagon Row, now known as Westpost. They report that the building permit says the store will include retail sales of merchandise and groceries, but no food or beverage preparation. Stay tuned!

## **AMAZON NEWS**

### **AMAZON ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST ON HQ2 LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

An informative article in the July 8 *Washington Post* about the design of the Amazon’s HQ2 by renowned landscape architect Kate Orff.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/public-garden-amazon-hq2/2021/07/06/3916657a-d441-11eb-a53a-3b5450fdca7a\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/public-garden-amazon-hq2/2021/07/06/3916657a-d441-11eb-a53a-3b5450fdca7a_story.html)

### **AMAZON WILL PAY HQ2 EMPLOYEES TO BIKE TO WORK**

Amazon wants its employees to bike to work so much it will pay them to do it -- \$350 a month. Each office building will have dedicated street-level bike entrances to nearly a thousand interior parking spaces. As of May, Amazon had 1,600 employees on board, and was in the process of hiring for 1,900 new positions. By the end of the decade, its staff will have swelled to at least 25,000 employees.

### **AMAZON DONATES \$25,000 TO THE COLUMBIA PIKE REVITALIZATION ORGANIZATION**

The donation will support three events: the Blues Weekend (already held) the drive-in movie nights and the CPRO Anniversary Celebration in October. The Blues Weekend

was held over three days, and included performances streamed online “live from the rug shop” at Manoukian Brothers Oriental Rugs, and in-person performances at the Fillmore Shopping Center with local performers and food from local restaurants. The donation from Amazon made it possible for them to put on the events without charging a fee. Among other things, CPRO sponsors the Sunday morning Farmer’s Market in the Fillmore parking lot.

### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 3**

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) invites community members and organizations to celebrate outdoor [National Night Out](#) (NNO) events on **Tuesday, August 3, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.** NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our communities safer and improve quality of life nationwide. During NNO, residents in neighborhoods throughout the County are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters and other County personnel. Outdoor events such as cookouts, block parties and ice cream socials will occur simultaneously throughout the County.

The Crystal City Civic Association, with the assistance of the National Landing BID is planning an event for National Night Out in Crystal City. ARCA is hoping to be involved in some way, and will let you know as plans are formalized.

### **SEPTEMBER ARCA MEETING**

By September we hope to be able to resume holding our by-monthly meetings in the Aurora Hills Community Center, complete with a social half hour and food and drink!. We also hope to go back to delivering the paper newsletters to everyone!

### **LIVABILITY UPDATES**

#### **Open Space**

<https://livability.org>

**HUG** (Highlands Urban Garden) in Virginia Highlands Park. 100lbs of produce has already been donated to food shelters, and they hope to reach 500lb by the end of the season.

**Biophilia and Connectivity:** A focus group is looking at how to introduce more biophilic design into future development in 22202.

**Virginia Highlands Temporary Dog Run:** It is now open off 15<sup>th</sup> St. near the baseball fields at Virginia Highlands Park. Hours: sunrise to 30minutes after sunset.

**Crystal City Benefits from Proposed CIP (Capital Improvement Plan):** A key element of the proposed CIP is that Crystal City parks and public spaces are included. County Manager Schwartz says: “I have asked staff to convene a review of the parks and open space plans, learning from the 22202 Livability Initiative. Arlington is committed to supporting public infrastructure improvements in National Landing”. Proposed projects include a new library, funding for 2 parks in Crystal City and the second entrance for the Crystal City metro.

### **OUR LIBRARY IS OPEN!**

On July 6<sup>th</sup> , the Aurora Hills Library reopened its regular operating hours with full access to its collection, restrooms and water fountains also! For now, a face covering policy remains in effect. Hooray!

### **ARLINGTON NEWSPAPERS DIGITIZED**

The Center for Local History at Arlington's Central Library now contains five decades worth of Arlington newspapers which have been digitized through a partnership with @LibraryofVa. Issues in the collection include the Columbia News, the Daily Sun, the Northern Virginia Sun and the Sun. Start your research at [www.virginiachronicle.com](http://www.virginiachronicle.com) .

### **ARLINGTON COUNTY FAIR RETURNS**

**August 18 – 22, <https://arlingtoncountyfair.us>**

**Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

The county fair, the summer staple of Arlington, is returning this August. Its 2021 theme is "Nights, Lights and Bites", with goat yoga, a beer garden, carnival rides, lots of good food, vendors, exhibits, music and more.

### **LUBBER RUN AMPHITHEATER IS OPEN!**

**July 9 – August 25**

**N. 2<sup>nd</sup> & Columbus Sts. With plenty of free parking**

Fairfax has Wolf Trap, we have the leafy glades of Lubber Run! And it is free! Bring a picnic and listen to everything from "The Gospel at Colonus" (July 16) to reggae masters Nkula (July 30). Friday and Saturdays at 8, and family programming on Sundays at 11am.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

### **ARCA CONCERNS ABOUT THE PENTAGON CITY PLANNING STUDY (PCPS)**

ARCA's representative on the task force had the following comments about the study: "Despite the underlying Pentagon City Transportation Study that preceded this PCPS, it has been assumed by County personnel that limitless new density can be accommodated by 22202's existing transportation infrastructure. More recently, the citizen "focus group" was informed that if all new construction that is currently in the pipeline were to be built, there would still be room in 22202 to add an additional 20% to its population without compromising the area's livability. But, to date, staff has refused to explain how they arrived at this conclusion. During the Study, no attempt has been made to estimate this increase in population and no consideration has been given to the ability to provide the amenities, goods and services that would be required to meet the needs of that population."

Heretofore, every 22202 planning study approved by the County Board over the years has called for building heights in the urbanized sector to taper down as they approach the existing residential neighborhoods. The River House property, albeit not even part of Pentagon City, is at the very least the only transition buffer between Pentagon City

and the surrounding Arlington Ridge residential neighborhood to the south and west. Nonetheless, the Study's current plan calls for many large and tall structures to be built on that property within feet from the property line of existing homes. A full report can be found at [arcaonline.org](http://arcaonline.org)

## **NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION**

### **REMOVE YOUR BIRD FEEDERS**

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington advises residents to remove their bird feeders and birdbaths while officials try to figure out why birds in the region are getting sick and dying. Due to the unknown illness they advise taking this precaution to keep it from spreading. The labs of the National Wildlife Health Center, the University of Georgia and the University of Pennsylvania are investigating the disease.

### **NO BALLOON RELEASES IN VIRGINIA!**

You can keep your balloons securely tied, but you may not release them anywhere in Virginia, according to the latest state law that took effect July 1. Violators will be fined \$25 per balloon. "There is no such thing as an environmentally friendly released balloon", said a representative of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management, an ardent foe of balloon litter: 20% of power outages are caused by released balloons, latex balloons are among the deadliest ocean trash, and are a threat to birds, marine life and mammals.

### **Challenges of the Summer Garden**

**Fri. July 16, 10- 11:30am**

**RSVP:**

<https://mgnv.org/events>

What happened to your beautiful spring garden? Summer got you and your garden down? Plants drooping, insect attacks, aggressive weeds, and is that fungus? Join extension service gardener Beth Butting for tips on what you can do right now and what you can plan to do to make sure your summer garden thrives in the future.

### **Summer Pruning for Woody and Herbaceous Plants**

**Fri. July 23, 10 – 11:30am**

**RSVP** <https://mgnv.org/events>

Summer is the time to prune trees and shrubs that bloom in the spring, and to keep perennial flowering plants look their best. Extension agent Kristen Conrad will walk you through the how, when and why to prune hedges, multi-stem shrubs, small trees.

## **SCHOOLS**

### **Livability Update**

**Update June 23, 2021:** The 3 22202 civic associations (Aurora Highlands, Arlington Ridge and Crystal City) sent a letter June 23 to the County Board, prepared by the Livability Schools Working Group voicing support for the Board

to develop a plan for the creation of more K-12 seats in 22202. It calls for the County to engage with APS with the aim of siting an elementary school within walkable distance of a significant percentage of children in 22202. It calls for a long-term plan in next year's CIP to address capacity issues at Gunston Middle School and Wakefield High School, through construction of existing facilities or new and innovative solutions leveraging partnerships with industry and commercial real estate developers.

See the letter at <https://livability22202.org/wp-content/uploads/3-CA-Letter-to-County-Board-on-Schools-6.23.21.pdf>

## CALENDAR

### ARLINGTON ARTS AT HOME

<https://arts.arlingtonva.us/arlington-arts-at-home/>

Check out the Arlington Art Truck, online programs: book covers, stories told by artists; Greetings from our microbiome, featuring the work of artist Shelly Smith with microscopic life found in water and soil.

**Through July 30 Hot!** Gallery Underground presents a show of works inspired by the steamy temperature. [www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org)

**Through August 28: We Can't Predict Tomorrow:** A snapshot of life as lived throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, featuring the work of 9 multidisciplinary artists. Issues such as social justice, climate change, a record of a time when humanity lived at the knife's edge of uncertainty. Arlington Arts Center.

**Emily Fussner: Even a Parking Lot is Beautiful at Dawn.** New works by Arlington Arts Center artist Emily Fussner.

<https://arlingtonartscenter.org>

**July 16 The Gospel of Colonus:** Sophocles' timeless tale of Oedipus, with epic poetry and a magnificent score. Avant Bard. Lubber Run Amphitheater. 8pm. Free.

**July 17, 24 Summer Music in the Park: Sunshine Gang & Jim Sheats:** Virginia Highlands Park. 6:30 – 8pm.

**July 25 The Big Bad Musical:** Encore Stage presents this family performance of the biggest trial in the fairy tale world, with the Big Bad Wolf, Red Riding Hood, the Three little pigs and more. Free. 11am Lubber Run Amphitheater. [Encorestageva.org](http://Encorestageva.org)

**July 31 19<sup>th</sup> Street Band:** A constellation of Americana, country and rock and a taste of punk. Lubber Run Amphitheatre. 8pm. Free

**Aug 3 – Sept 16 Detroit '67:** It's the summer of 1967 in the Motor City, tensions rise when a mysterious white woman enters just as simmering violence erupts in the city—and life gets a lot more dangerous. Signature Theatre. [Sigtheatre.org](http://Sigtheatre.org)

**Aug 6 La Marvela:** All women music band playing rhythms from the Colombian Caribbean region rooted in African Indigenous and European influence. 8pm. Lubber Run Amphitheater.

**Aug 13 The Grandsons:** Roots rock 'n roll with catchy tunes and danceable rhythms brought to the group's home base of Arlington. 8pm. Free. Lubber Run Amphitheater.

**Aug 14 National Chamber Ensemble:** Arlington's own group of acclaimed musicians perform in the great outdoors. 8pm. Lubber Run Amphitheatre.