



# Arlington Ridge Civic Association

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

## NOVEMBER 2021 ONLINE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, November 18, 7pm

**STILL ZOOMING! We hope to be in person for 2022!**

Meanwhile we are delivering the paper newsletter to you, and also sending out our e-newsletter to the listserv. If you are not on that list yet, email [arcaneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:arcaneighbor@gmail.com) to be included and help save the environment, just a little.

The ZOOM registration link for the November 18 meeting:

**Arlington Ridge Civic Association**

**Membership scheduled for 7:00PM (Eastern).**

<https://bit.ly/ARCAMeeting-11-18-21>

### GUESTS

**Matt Mattauszek**

**Master Planner, Crystal City/Pentagon City Planning Coordinator for Arlington County**, who will discuss the current status of the Pentagon City Planning Study and other items of concern to ARCA and those in 22202.

### Arlington Hospital Foundation

A representative of the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation will discuss the Foundation's grassroots initiatives: For Our Neighbors Fund, Healthy Meals for our Healthcare heroes, and the growth of the VHC physicians group in our neighborhood.

### PENTAGON CITY PLANNING STUDY

#### ARCA Board's Comments after the October 27 Special Members Meeting

ARCA continues to engage with Arlington County on the Pentagon City Planning Study, which aims to build the vision and plan for the future of Pentagon City. The ARCA Board conducted a special members meeting on October 27th, soliciting verbal and written inputs from members, which were used to convey feedback to the County Planning Staff in person (virtually) and in writing.

The ARCA Board's feedback included the opinion that developments like RiverHouse would serve the community better as medium density transition areas, a compromise between the existing plan and the zero up-zoning described in the 2013 Arlington Ridge Neighborhood Conservation Plan. We expressed approval of greener and walkable elements, a new elementary school, and improved transit/walkability to a vibrant Pentagon and Crystal City— but also the belief that benefits should not come at the expense of public services and facilities, diversion of traffic through neighborhoods, congestion, and security concerns. We suggested the plan include clear performance metrics and risk mitigation plans to address the heightened demand for public and private transit and other public facilities and infrastructure. We also requested the plan clearly define community benefits/infrastructure to support the needs of 22202, to include schools, a community center/library, parks, public and private transportation improvements, and access to medical facilities.

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### PAY YOUR DUES

We are working on a new online pay portal, but in the meantime, please send your \$20 annual ARCA membership dues to

ARCA, PO Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202-0976

The membership year is July 1 – June 30.

## ICE SKATING RETURNS TO PENTAGON ROW

<https://pentagonrowskating.com/>

The Pentagon Row Ice Rink has opened for the season --changes from last year include higher capacity, a dollar increase in admission fees, and masks are now optional. The 7,000 sq.ft. rink remains the "largest outdoor rink in Northern Virginia," according to its website.

## COMMUNITY CENTER OPEN!

Together with the Library, the Aurora Hills Community Center is now open, mostly for senior programs, and its message is "we look forward to seeing your smiling (masked) faces soon!" And **we** look forward to having our civic association meetings there in the new year.

## APS TO REDRAW BOUNDARIES FOR GUNSTON AND WAKEFIELD

Arlington Public Schools (APS) will be redrawing the boundaries of six schools to relieve overcapacity problems at Abingdon Elementary School, Gunston Middle School and Wakefield High School. It focused on schools where enrollment has exceeded capacity for the last 2 years, and where a nearby school can accommodate additional students. Gunston students will go to Jefferson and Wakefield's to Washington-Liberty (W-L) where 600 additional seats will open in January, 2022. Policy considerations, APS says, were efficiency, proximity, stability, alignment, demographics and contiguity. Full details of the boundary change are at [apsva.us/engage/fall-2021-boundary-process/](https://apsva.us/engage/fall-2021-boundary-process/)

## SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT DOWN 4% , SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

New figures show that Arlington has fewer students than it did pre-pandemic, based on enrollment figures on September 30. The superintendent, Francisco Duran, says the drop compares favorably to Fairfax, which reported a 5% decline.

APS is also recruiting new classroom substitutes, and has increased the daily stipend for them to the highest in Northern Virginia. Contact [subs@apsva.us](mailto:subs@apsva.us)

## ARLINGTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL FOR PENPLACE

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-types/site-plan/Pen-Place-2021>

Arlington County and Arlington Public Schools announced that Amazon will support the building of a permanent home for the Arlington Community High School as part of its PenPlace development in Pentagon City. It will be built as part of the mixed-

use development at S.Fern and Army Navy Drive. The 20,000 sq.ft. space will serve approx. 300 students aged 16 and older from across the County, who are focused on earning a high school diploma while preparing for college, work and the future, with many working full or part time. Currently the school is co-located with the Career Center, which is itself undergoing renovation.

## AMAZON BUILDS "AWS Think Big Space" AT WAKEFIELD HS

<https://www.apsva.us/post/arlington-public-schools-and-amazon-to-launch-an-aws-think-big-space-at-wakefield-high-school>

Amazon is building a tech and innovation education lab at Wakefield High School, where students, teachers and the community will have access to hands-on STEM and robotics learning as well as Amazon-proprietary and cloud computing technologies. It should be ready to launch by the end of 2021 and will be open to students in grades 9 – 12 from across the school system. Brian Huseman, Amazon's vice president for public policy says "We are committed to making a positive impact in the communities where our employees live and work, to provide the tools for students to build, imagine and innovate their best future."

## NEED SOME GENTLE EXERCISE?

### Help Deliver the Paper Newsletter

We count on an army of volunteers to deliver our paper newsletter in the neighborhood every two months just before our ARCA meeting, and have a few vacancies. If you are able to help us and want to increase your heart rate at the same time, please let us know. Two hours maximum! Let us know at [arcaneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:arcaneighbor@gmail.com)

**Routes Needed:** East side of Ridge Rd. at addresses greater than 2500 (14 homes); Lynn St. from 20<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Streets (15 homes.)

## HOLIDAY WREATHS SALE BENEFIT HUME SCHOOL

The Aurora Hills Womens Club's annual Holiday Wreath sale is underway, and all proceeds from the sale will benefit the Hume School and the local nonprofit, Bridges to Independence that supports people in need in our community. Browse the large selection at [www.ahwc1958.org](http://www.ahwc1958.org)

## COOKBOOK EXHIBIT AT ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Thru January 2022

<https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>

Speaking of the Hume School, it is also the home of the Arlington Historical Society, who are hosting an exhibit "Stirring up Memories, Arlington Cookbooks"

through January 2022. Many Arlington organizations have issued cookbooks over the years, mostly with the aim of building community and also improving local cuisine. Come and see this fascinating collection at our iconic building.

**ARLINGTON'S NAMING CENTENNIAL: 1920 – 2020**

**Nov. 19, 5 – 7pm**

**Lubber Run Community Center**

Celebrate 100 years of being called Arlington County with leaders from Arlington and the state, and to reflect on Arlington's diverse history over the past century. There will be a dedication ceremony to seal an official centennial time capsule, and exhibitions from the extensive photographic and document collection of the Arlington Public Library's Center for Local History. RSVP:

[arlingtonva.libcal.com/calendar/apl/arlington-100](https://arlingtonva.libcal.com/calendar/apl/arlington-100).

The Arlington Historical Society will also have an exhibit at the Hume School in conjunction with the centennial on how far we have come since 1920.

**FILL THE CRUISER! POLICE TOY DRIVE**

**Nov 11 – Dec 3**

<https://www.arlingtonva.us> 703-228-4270

Help spread joy this holiday season by donating new, unwrapped toys during the Arlington Police Department's 7<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Toy Drive. With families impacted by Covid, the need for donations is greater than ever, and your generosity helps ensure the holidays are bright for our most vulnerable community members. Officers will collect toys in our neighborhood on Tues. Nov.30 at **Our Lady of Lourdes, 6 – 8pm**. See the website for other locations.

**DOMINION SUBSTATION ARTWORK GENERATING A BUZZ**

The new Dominion Energy substation at 18<sup>th</sup> & Fern Sts. that is undergoing renovation has also given us a sneak preview of its eye-catching artwork by California artist Elena Manferdini that will adorn the new building. Construction will also include a public plaza, and will be completed by early 2022.

**FREE TREES!**

<https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/tree-canopy-fund-application-spring-2022/>  
**Deadline January 7, 2022**

The Tree Canopy Fund gives well established trees to Arlington residents, and not only are the trees free, but the Tree Canopy Fund has a professional

tree service come to your home and plant it for you. Trees will be planted March – May 2022. Our neighbor Natasha Atkins has offered to help you choose the right tree. [Natashaatkins1@gmail.com](mailto:Natashaatkins1@gmail.com).

**TIPS ON KEEPING YOUR HOME WARMER IN WINTER**  
**Nov. 16, 11am**

**Lubber Run Community Center, 703-228-4747**

<https://web1.myvscloud.com/wbwc/vaarlingtonwt.wsc/splash.html>.

Does cold air seep into your home with unwanted odors or pests? Learn easy and low-cost tips best practices and maintenance tips to manage your energy bills and keep warmer.

**22202 THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE for AFAC**

**Food Boxes List at**

<https://nationallanding.org/do/22202-thanksgiving-food-drive-for-afac>

In the spirit of giving, Livability22202, civic associations, the National Landing BID, and the SustainableScoop have come together to organize a Thanksgiving food drive for AFAC. Join your 22202 neighbors November 1-20 to provide canned food and dry goods to help everyone enjoy a good Thanksgiving. The most needed foods include canned tuna, canned soup, canned vegetables, peanut butter, cooking oil, and low sugar cereal. No glass items please, and low sodium and low sugar items are preferred.

Food boxes will be located at 17 sites around 22202. In addition, collection drives will be held at Advent Lutheran Church from 9-12 on Sundays October 31 and November 7, 14, and 21 and from 4-6 on Wednesdays November 3, 10, and 17. Collection drives will be held at the Melwood parking lot from 9-12 on Saturdays November 6, 13, and 20. Please help us give back to our community and those in need this Thanksgiving season.

**CELEBRATE NATIONAL HIKING DAY**

**Wed. Nov 17, 1 – 2pm**

**Long Branch Nature Center**

Adults. Join us for a nature hike on National Hike Day led by a naturalist who will identify trees, plants, and different types of wildlife all while making a connection to the beauty that is in our environment. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. Registration Required

**ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Via ZOOM until further notice

3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sept/Nov**CALENDAR**

**Open Door Mondays: Virtual:** Have a question for the County Board? Every Monday from 7 – 9pm a member is available for your queries. Registration necessary at [arlingtonva.us/government/departments/county-board/open-door-mondays/open-door-Monday-RSVP](http://arlingtonva.us/government/departments/county-board/open-door-mondays/open-door-Monday-RSVP)

**Thru Nov 20 Five Women Wearing the Same Dress:** Five bridesmaids find a common bond in this funny and touching play. Gunston Th.2 Dominion Stage. [Dominionstage.org](http://Dominionstage.org)

**Thru Nov 26: Words Matter:** Gallery Underground's two person show of fused glass focusing on the power of words. [Galleryunderground.org](http://Galleryunderground.org)

**Nov 2 – Jan 2** The Tony Award winning rock musical is a "pure rush of adrenaline, passion, energy and joy". Signature Theatre. [Sigtheatre.org](http://Sigtheatre.org)

**Nov 27 – Dec 26 Cinderella:** Synetic Theater presents an innovative take on the classic fairy tale. [Synetictheter.org](http://Synetictheter.org)

**Thru Dec 18 Take a Number: Artists and Bureaucracy:** Arlington Arts Center's exhibit explores and challenges bureaucracy, their failures both banal and catastrophic. [Arlingtonarts.org](http://Arlingtonarts.org)

**Dec 1 – 19 How I Learned What I Learned:** Avant Bard presents this autobiographical tour de force by August Wilson. Theare 2 at Gunston. [Avatbard.org](http://Avatbard.org)

**LOST ARLINGTON COUNTY****By Charlie Clark**

Arlington journalist and historian, Charlie Clark, has just published "Lost Arlington County", a compendium of gone-but-not-forgotten institutions, businesses, homes and amusements. The book contains memories of our neighborhood around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when Luna Park on what is now the Arlington Alexandria border, near the water treatment plant, was the go-to amusement park for area residents. It featured roller coasters and circus performances, and in one famous incident a pack of elephants broke loose and terrorized local residents for more than a week (just like our zebras). Opening in 1906, Luna Park was described as " "forty acres of tackiness with space for 3000 picnickers, restaurants, a circus area and ballroom, as well as a 350 foot tall chute that spilled riders into a 80' deep lagoon." It flourished for a time, but after World War II much of it was destroyed in 1925.

**You can get the book at Amazon, Target, and Barnes and Noble.**

**ARCA OFFICERS & CONTACTS**

President	Kateri Garcia	505-264-2794
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Member at large	Joe Hogler	202-420-8979
Member at large	Patrick Collard	703-225-8044
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ARCA History	Dick Herbst	703-892-5290
22202 NU	Diane Litman	703-920-7638
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CCCRC Reps	Susan English	703-549-6554
	Rich Kelly	703-622-4260

Comments and questions to [ARCAnighbor@gmail.com](mailto:ARCAnighbor@gmail.com)

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