



Arlington Ridge Civic Association

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

JANUARY 2022 ONLINE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 20, 7pm

STILL ZOOMING! We had hoped to be in person for 2022, but the Omicron tricked us again. If you would like to receive an e-newsletter only, email arcaneighbor@gmail.com

The ZOOM registration link

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tZwsdemoqTotG9XbUfi_svLs_mOhXR4A9HFZQ

GUESTS

Arlington Police Chief Penn: Bring your questions and comments for the Chief
Amazon Senior Manager of External Affairs Patrick Phillippi will have the latest on the HQ2 development

Andrea Walker, ARCA neighbor and member of Arlington's Commission on Aging, will brief us on an innovative intergenerational pilot program, "**Walking School Bus**", that has seniors walking elementary students to school along safe routes.

PENTAGON CITY PLAN SURVEY RESULTS

ARCA continues to engage with the County on the Pentagon City Plan. Some suggestions we provided on previous drafts were incorporated into the final draft of the plan, however, we urged the county to address some critical issues before the plan is approved by the County Board in February. These issues include more information on crucial public services and facilities, green/open space, and transportation infrastructure improvements that would bring a high quality of life for our citizens. We also requested clear performance metrics and risk mitigation plans should the assumptions regarding proposed density fail to address the heightened demand for public services and infrastructure.

In addition to one-on-one engagements with members and public meetings, ARCA gathered member inputs on the final draft of the plan via an online survey. We received 78 unique responses from members to multiple choice and open text questions. The concerns were broad, with opposition to increases in density, and many who welcomed affordable housing with access to public transportation. Across the membership there were consistent desires for improvements in public facilities, green/open space, and transportation. The final letter that ARCA sent to the County and the compilation of survey results can be found on our website. ARCA hopes to conduct more surveys in the future to solicit member inputs, and appreciates those of you who took the time to respond. We also welcome the assistance of any ARCA members who have formal training in survey design.

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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.

HUME SCHOOL MUSEUM BEGINS RENOVATION

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) is located in the Hume School, which was built in 1891 and is the oldest school building in Arlington still standing. AHS has inaugurated a “Bellringer Campaign” for donations to the renovation of the iconic building, which while structurally sound, requires significant preservation as well as updates to building systems, accessibility improvements and expansion of its exhibition space. The society has engaged a preservation firm to determine what needs to be done to bring the 130 year old building to modern museum standards, with a phased approach: firstly window replacements, and future phases for exterior and interior repairs and accessibility improvements. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 – 4pm. The current exhibition through January is “Stirring Up Memories: Arlington Cookbooks”. <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>

LIVABILITY: SCHOOLS

[Livability22202.org/schools](https://livability22202.org/schools)

As many of you may already know, the schools serving our children in 22202 are at capacity. The Livability22202 Civic Association Presidents, including ARCA, voiced support to the School Board for the recent limited boundary changes and reinforced the need to plan for new schools in 22202. Thanks to our advocacy with the County, the siting of a new local elementary school has been included in the Pentagon City Plan. But even though there are significant increases in residential development in this plan, Arlington Public Schools (APS) has no proposal to build new schools in 22202 or anywhere in Arlington in the next 10 years. We continue to engage with APS and the County on a clear process to determine when more K-12 seats will be required in order to ensure equity access across the county. We encourage you to learn more and get engaged via livability22202.org/schools and let the APS know your concerns.

LIVABILITY: THEATER

Amazon Supports Embracing Arlington Arts Black Box Initiative

Fill in the Survey at

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/completed?lang=en>

Arlington's arts advocacy organization, Embracing Arlington Arts, has announced that Amazon is underwriting business consultant fees to enable a move forward on drafting a business plan for a flexible and quality performing arts/black box theater. They have hired a consultant who is meeting with Arlington arts organization and with similar venues around the region to gather intelligence and insight on the project. Please help them by filling in the brief survey, linked above, to solicit views from the community.

FAA CERTIFIES THE HELIX NOT TOO HIGH!

After some concerns that surfaced last spring about the height of Amazon's 354' tall building that will be the centerpiece of its HQ2, it has been determined that it is not too tall for the nearby Reagan Airport. The FAA issued a “Determination of no hazard for air navigation” after the agency spent several months conducting an aeronautical study of the Helix.

DUES RECEIVED STILL DOWN FROM 2020

We still have only less than half the responses to our plea for you to renew your membership dues of \$20 compared to last year's. Please help us to keep you informed and to stay out of the red. Sorry, we are still without an online portal – hopefully it will re-emerge soon! (Of course it is because of Covid, what will we do when we don't have it to blame?) Send to PO Box 2976, 22202 and made checks payable to ARCA.

ARLINGTON FAIR LOCATION TO SAY AT T.J.

The 2022 Arlington County Fair decided it will stay at Thomas Jefferson Community Center (TJ): contributing factors for the site selection include the community has enjoyed the fair at TJ for 45 years, with 60% of the nearly 1,600 respondents of the site location survey preferred keeping the Fair at TJ. Further review of the proposed Long Bridge Park location indicated that it would not be able to accommodate the number and variety of rides the County Fair Board would like. Questions regarding the Fair site location, email the Arlington County Fair Board at info@arlingtoncountyfair.us.

WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Emergency/Weather/Winter-Weather-Preparedness>

Arlington's winter weather webpage includes everything you may know, or have forgotten, over the years of our fickle weather: weather terms, on the road, at home, and a video outlining how to protect your loved ones in an emergency. The site also includes a live storm map

(<https://snowmap.arlingtonva.us>) that offers a display of response progress, with each truck pass along a thoroughfare represented by a line that becomes heavier with each return. The County's live-streaming traffic cameras are incorporated in the map for bird's eye visuals across the county.

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

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

5c PLASTIC BAG TAX

Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax are all adopting plastic bag ordinances for a 5cents surcharge to reduce the environmental impact of single use bags. They hope it will encourage shoppers to bring reusable bags. The tax would apply only to bags at grocery, drug and convenience stores, and has exemptions for "bags intended for reuse, bags used to wrap certain items (ice cream, meat, fish, perishable items". Fairfax Board of Supervisor Chair says, "I hope not a single person will need to pay the tax as it is completely avoidable". The retailer gets to keep 2cents on each bag.

WHAT WOULD A CLIMATE-SOLVED ARLINGTON LOOK LIKE?

<https://arlingtonva.libcal.com/calendar/apl/our-environment-our-future-imagine>

Sat. Feb. 12, 2:30 – 4:30pm. Lubber Run Center, 200 N. Columbus St.

An EcoAction Arlington and Arlington's Depts of Parks and Environmental Services program. The urgency of climate change is real and can be overwhelming and anxiety-inducing. But spending

time and energy in imagining a future in which a problem is already solved can encourage taking action in the present. So, inspired by author Bina Venkataraman's idea of the [Optimist's Telescope](#), let's take a look through the telescope 50 years into Arlington's future and imagine that we see an Arlington that is successfully combating climate change. What does Arlington look like? How can we each contribute to taking steps and decisions now that will help us get there? Join us for this three-part journey to transform Arlington into a world leader in climate action.

"PROTECT OUR WATER SOURCES" HIGH SCHOOL ART CONTEST

Deadline March 18, 2022

Arlington high school students are invited to enter this year's contest with "Protect Our Water Sources" as its theme with prizes of \$300, \$100 and \$150. Full details at

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Water-Utilities/Water-Conservation-and-Environment-Water-and-Utilities/Water-Art-Contest>

2022 MLK TRIBUTE AT WAKEFIELD HS.

Sunday, Jan. 16, 5 – 6:30 pm Wakefield Auditorium

Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy at Arlington's 53rd annual tribute event. *His Truth is Marching On* follows a group of students as they uncover Arlington's connection to Dr. King. The program, written by Arlington resident Anne Smith and produced by Encore Stage & Studio, also tells the story of Dr. King, John Lewis and others as they prepare for the March on Washington in 1963. Other highlights include music from Kimberly D. Gordon and original spoken word by Kim B. Miller. Admission is

free. <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Parks-Events/MLK-Tribute>

WINTER INTEREST GARDENING

Mon Jan 24, 1 – 2:30pm: Does your garden look boring and colorless? Va. Master Gardeners will help you plan ahead for and exciting garden in the winter by recommending plants with winter interest such as colorful bark, berries or seed heads, to also help support our birds. Register: <https://web1.myvscloud.com/wbws/vaarlingtonwt.wsc/search.html?module=ar&primarycode=912401&search=Yes>.

ARCA BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Via ZOOM until further notice

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

Jan 15 – 30 Midsummer Night's Dream: TAP's take on the play gives a fresh spin with beautiful movement choreography and original musical interludes. Thomas Jefferson Theatre. The Arlington Players. Thearlingtonplayers.org.

Jan 20 The Long Bridge Over the Potomac: Local historian Patrick O'Neill will discuss the history of Long Bridge and its evolution into a major transportation artery for cars and rail. Virtual. Register at registration@arlingtonva.us

Jan 29 World Wetlands Day Hike: Join a naturalist for a Four Mile Run hike and see the unique wetland plants and animals that are so crucial in a changing climate. 1 – 2:30pm. Meet at 4131 Mt. Vernon Ave. Register at <https://web1.myvscloud.com/wbwsc/vaarlingtonwt.wsc/search.html?module=ar&search=yes&primarycode=622842>

Feb 1 – Mar 20 Daphne's Dive: Colorful characters create a makeshift ménage at the neighborhood watering hole in this vibrant play. Signature Theatre.

Feb 1 – 25 Changing Perspectives: Opening Reception: Feb 4, 5 – 7pm. A national juried show of works representing unusual, off-kilter or innovative perspective where artists step out of their comfort zones. Gallery Underground. <https://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org/events>

Feb 12 Beguiling Brahms and Schumann: National Chamber Ensemble. 7:30pm. Gunston Theatre One. Nationalchamberensemble.org

Feb 21 – Mar 13 The Servant of Two Masters: Mistaken identities, wily servants, and madcap antics in this tale of the ultimate trickster. Synetic Theater. Synetictheater.org

ARCA OFFICERS & CONTACTS

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Comments and questions to ARCAnighbor@gmail.com

Neighborhood Conservation comments/questions to arca.ncac.representative@gmail.com

**Oakridge to be the pilot school**

Andrea Walker will discuss this innovative pilot program at our January meeting. Defined as a group of students walking to school with one or more adults, it can be as informal as two families taking turns walking with students to school or as structured as an established walking route with stops/meeting points/a timetable and a schedule of trained volunteers. In our case, the adults are Arlington 55+ volunteers and the school is Oakridge, and will serve families that lie within the one mile walk zone.

This unique Arlington County/APS pilot project will kick off in spring 2022, with training, safety resources and family meet-ups prior to the kick-off. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Andrea Walker at tasteless@verizon.net, or Lauren Hassel at lauren.hassel@apsva.us.