



# Arlington Ridge Civic Association

P.O. Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202

[www.arcaonline.org](http://www.arcaonline.org)



## ARCA MAY 2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 snacks, meet the neighbors, 7pm meeting

Aurora Hills Community Center

Guest: Rob Mandle, Deputy Executive Director, National Landing BID: Find out what's new in National Landing

## VIDEO LINK TO ONLINE MEETING

<https://meet.google.com/bve-imqm-xby>

## EXECUTIVE BOARD SLATE FOR 2024-5

We will present the slate for the 2024-5 Executive Board, and entertain nominations from the floor as well. We need to replace at least one member, and maybe a second pending results of the County Board election. Final voting on the slate will happen at our July meeting.

## CANDIDATES NIGHT A SUCCESS!

### Many ARCA residents participated

The April County Board Candidates Night held by our three civic associations (Aurora Highlands, Crystal City and ARCA) was a huge success with a large turnout, all candidates in attendance, and smooth evening with excellent questions (and answers). Now all you have to do is VOTE!

## JUNE 18 PRIMARY ELECTION

[vote.arlingtonva.gov](http://vote.arlingtonva.gov)

**Democratic primary for the County Board (5 people running, ranked choice)**

**Republican Primary for U.S. Senate (5 people running)**

Early voting begins May 3, in person voting at Courthouse Plaza, Madison and Walter Reed Community Centers. Check the website for details

## ALL REMAINING CRYSTAL CITY UNDERGROUND SHOPS TO CLOSE

It is the end of an era, says local news outlet ArlNow. The neighborhood which has seen significant new development since Amazon's HQ2 decision, is losing one of its most memorable vestiges of its time as a hub of government offices. JBG Smith, the main property owner, said that all of the remaining two dozen tenants will close by the end of October, and it hopes to relocate the shops to vacant retail spaces it owns nearby, one of its better known tenants is the Arlington Artists Alliance Gallery Underground. We hope both the National Landing BID and JBG Smith will support them in finding a new home in 22202. The Underground opened in 1976, a "turn of the century shopping village", with wonderful browsing shops selling women's clothing, a gourmet grocery, antiques and rugs, and a gourmet food court.

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## PAY YOUR DUES

We are working on a new online pay portal, but in the meantime, please send your

\$25 annual ARCA membership dues to ARCA, PO Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202-0976  
The membership year is July 1 – June 30.

## 1901 S. BELL CRYSTAL CITY LIBRARY PLANS ABANDONED

And talking of Crystal City, the proposed new Crystal City Library promised as part of the 1901 S. Bell development has been abandoned due to unreconcilable differences between the County and JBG Smith. Livability22202 has demonstrated a long standing need for library services in Crystal City, and several stakeholders have also expressed their need, perhaps for a larger Central Library to serve the burgeoning area. Our three civic associations have sent a letter to the County opposing this decision and requesting the County, at a minimum, find a new site for the Crystal city library and expansion of the Aurora Hills Library.

## THE FIRST PROPERTY TAX HIKE IN 5 YEARS!

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Budget-Finance/FY-2023-Budget-Information>

The average Arlington homeowner will see a tax increase as part of the approved county budget: a 2c raise to \$1.033 per \$100 assessed value. This paired with a 3.3% increase in home value will increase the average property taxes to \$430 annually, a 5.3% increase. (math courtesy of ArlNow).

## SURVEY: A TEMPORARY BIKE PARK IN JAMES HALEY PARK?

**Let us know! Fill in the survey at [arcaoonline.org](https://arcaoonline.org)**

Arlington Trails, who joined us at our March membership meeting, would like to use the James Haley Park as the site for the first sustainable, multi-use, natural surface temporary bike skills park in Arlington. It is close to both Oakridge and Gunston schools, and would be built and run by volunteers. For more information you can check out the link to their presentation at our March meeting in the online survey.

## AMAZON FALLING BEHIND ON NEW JOBS

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2024/04/16/amazon-hq2-jobs-arlington-virginia/>

Amazon has fallen behind on creating new jobs, reports *The Washington Post*; its workforce actually shrank. In exchange for taxpayer subsidies from the state, the company agreed to fill its new campus with tens of thousands of new

employees and the state agreed to pay them as they hit their annual hiring target. However, a company spokesperson said that last year they slowed hiring around the globe, and hope to meet their goal by 2038. The rise of remote and hybrid work has shifted work habits, affecting the whole tech industry. Amazon has paused construction on three office towers and their futuristic "Helix", and the dropoff in hiring will affect how much money Amazon receives from Virginia. The assumption at the time was that with a large company in Arlington, it would help fill hotel rooms, which it has not done. Libby Garvey, chair of the Arlington County Board, said they were not concerned about the hiring slowdown, "it was to be expected". Dozens of new street level retailers have opened at the HQ2 office towers, and it is, Garvey avers, "so vibrant, so alive, because of Amazon's presence."

## NEW LOCAL HISTORY WEBSITE

[arlingtonhistorical.com](https://arlingtonhistorical.com)

Arlington has a rich and diverse history, and this new website has articles by local historians, community members and history-focused organizations on a wide range of subjects: the beginning of the Arlington Symphony, the 107<sup>th</sup> African American regiment during the Civil War; the 1967 Pentagon protest, an all woman string band from the 40s; filmmaking by D.W. Griffith at Fort Myer, and of course "No Way Out". Fascinating stuff!

## ARLINGTON CIVIC FEDERATION COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD TO LIVABILITY22202 ([livability22202.org](https://livability22202.org))

Livability22202 is a coalition of the Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands and Crystal City Civic Associations, and the group was presented with the Arlington Civic Association's Community Impact Award for 2024. The three civic associations banded together in 2018 after the announcement of Amazon's plans to bring its second headquarters to 22202. Since then, neighbors from the 3 associations met to develop a framework for development in the area, to serve as a guide for both County and developers planning projects in 22202. This framework has been heralded as an excellent example of a neighborhood laying out a clear vision so each new project could contribute in a coordinated fashion, ensuring good planning from their

inception. Key priorities are housing affordability, ensuring essential services, environmental sustainability, encouraging arts and culture, and the multimodal transportation network.

### **BIKE TO WORK DAY MAY 17**

[Bikearlington.com/biketoworkday](https://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/register)

Hop on a bike and ride with us whether you are working at home or commuting to the office. Join people from all over the region. Register at <https://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/register>

### **MORE FLIGHTS AT NATIONAL?**

The Senate and House have approved the addition of five daily round trip flights from National Airport despite opposition from our representatives and the FAA. The changes come despite an analysis by the FAA that this would result in 12 extra delay hours each day, and could compromise safety. Our airport has the busiest runway in America and serves 10 million more passengers than it was built for. The additional flights will worsen delays and risk safety – another near collision? “There is no reason to compromise the safety and timelines of 25 million passengers for the benefit of a few members of Congress who want more flights into DCA”, said our senators. Hear hear!

### **WE ARE STILL A HAVEN FOR WORK-FROM-HOME**

A new survey suggests that Arlington has one of the largest post-Covid remote-work environments in the nation. Storagecafe.com commissioned the study, and found Arlington has 27% remote workers, most of them in Information related jobs. Arlington’s Economic Development found that 76 of the County’s 328 office buildings were economically at risk owing to shifting work habits, with 17.3 million sq.ft. idle. Arlington’s leaders are also looking into potentially amending zoning laws to make it less cumbersome for owners of commercial buildings to redevelop them into something else – potentially residential units. Any zoning changes by the Planning Commission won’t come before September, they say.

### **FORT SCOTT DRIVE SPEEDING**

**Email the County’s “Report a Problem” on [arlingtonva.us](https://www.arlingtonva.us)**

Members of the civic association have been trying to get a resolution to this serious issue,

which results in many local and cut through vehicles zooming down Fort Scott from 23<sup>rd</sup> to Eads Street. A machine that calculates car’s speed was up for a week, but we are not sure just what comes next. School bus stops for both elementary and high school students need at least a crosswalk, but so far we have no particulars on what the traffic people may suggest as next steps. Stay tuned, and help by writing a letter/email “Report a Problem” at [arlingtonva.us](https://www.arlingtonva.us) if you would like to see this issue moving faster.

### **ARLINGTON 2050**

**Send a postcard from the future**

<https://publicinput.com/arlington2050>

What would you like the County to look like in 2050? Cheap housing, a tree canopy over us all, a farmer’s market in every neighborhood, European city type housing, get-togethers for the young, middle aged and old? Send the County a postcard with your flights of fancy (or rock solid predictions), and the information will serve as a basis for long term strategic planning, even if you are not here to see it.

### **OAKRIDGE STILL A PROBLEM FOR MANY PARENTS**

A group of parents and staff at Oakridge have been meeting with Schools representatives about what they perceive is a breakdown of civility at Oakridge, with concerns about staff behavior and test scores. The administration has initiated a monthly meeting with all parties to try to resolve the issues, but so far they feel they are not moving forward. If you are a parent and are concerned, please let your PTA know.

### **NEW ART STUDIOS IN SHIRLINGTON**

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/County-Facilities/3700-S-Four-Mile-Run-Drive-Renovation>

The County will renovate a vacant portion of the Cultural Affairs building at 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive in Shirlington to house several programs currently located elsewhere in the County: the ceramics and printmaking studios at the LAC Studios (formerly at the Lee Center) and the textile studio (formerly the Costume Lab at the Gunston Middle School.) The program will provide fully equipped fine craft studios for skilled

artisans to develop their work and share with the community through classes, demonstrations, art talks and more. The new construction will provide a new, modern space with three studio spaces, a retail area for the display and sale of art, office and storage space, a glaze kitchen, multiple electric kilns and a new gas kiln. The printmaking studio will have a dedicated dark room and studio space, and the textile studio will have multiple sewing tables, steam press, fabric and pattern storage, a dye vat, and more. It is expected to be opened in summer, 2025.

## CALENDAR

### Public Art collection

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Public-Art/Public-Art-Collection/Permanent-Collection> Arlington is home to more than 70 public art projects commissioned by the County and developers to be integrated into various projects.

**Thru June 19 Black in the Day:** photos of historic Black Arlington, by photographer Lloyd Wolf with John Robinson, from the collection of the Arlington Photographic documentary project. 2206 S. Monroe St. fohta.com

**May 17. Acoustic Hour with PhEd-up with Phriends.** Bring a blanket or chair to enjoy this group, 1 – 2:30pm, Virginia Highlands Park.

**May 18 Concerto Celebration:** National Chamber Ensemble presents Concertos by Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Bologne. Nationalchamberensemble.org

**May 21 – July 7. Where the Mountain Meets the Sea:** A poignant beautiful musical of parallel journeys across America by Haitian migrants, with lyrical storytelling and an evocative folk score. Signature Theatre. Sigtheatre.org

**May 31 – June 9 Rapunzel:** Can prince Llewellyn persevere over the power of evil? Encore Stage. Thomas Jefferson Theater. Encestage.org

**June 1 Festival Argentino USA:** Celebration of tango tango, folklore, pop, with many dabce abd music groups. Kenmore Auditorium. Festivalargentino.org

**June 2 Misa a Buenos Aires with QuinTango.** A captivating fusion of musical genres from the Arlington Chorale, with a unique composition combining classical mass with the lush harmonies of tango. **5pm** Unitarian Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Boulevard. Arllingtonchorale.org

**June 7 – 22. Rent:** Based loosely on La Boheme, the play follows a year in the life of a group of poor young artists and musicians struggling to survive in NY. Theater 2 at Gunston. Dominion Stage. Dominionstage.org

**June 27 – July 7. Night of One Acts:** In collaboration with the Little Theater of Alexandria, The Arlington Players night of one acts feature three winning scripts in last year's competition. Thearlingtonplayers.org

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