



Arlington Ridge Civic Association

P.O Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202

www.arcaonline.org



ARCA JULY 2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, July 18, 6:30 snacks, meet the neighbors, 7pm meeting
Aurora Hills Community Center

Guest: Melwood Chief Strategy Officer, Scott Gibson will update us on their site plan for its 23rd Street building renovation.

VIDEO LINK TO ONLINE MEETING

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

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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.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SLATE FOR 2024-5

We will present the slate for the 2024-5 Executive Board and vote on it.

The Slate: President: Kateri Garcia; **Vice Presidents:** Robert Jamison, Fred Zimmerman, Arthur Fox, Richard Rebh; **Treasurer:** Bob Hyde; **Communications:** Maggie Gaffen; **Secretary:** Christina Wolf; **ArNac Rep:** Lauren Bailey; **At Large:** Julie Farnham, John Steele and Chris Adams (new member)

MELWOOD:

Scott Gibson, Melwood's Chief Strategy Officer, will brief attendees and answer questions on the organization's Site Plan Application recently submitted to Arlington County for a mixed-use development, including 105 affordable housing units and 18,000 sq. ft. of ground level space at its 23rd Street location, the old Nelly Custis School. The Aurora Highlands Civic Association nominated the building as a historic one to the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB), and the nomination is moving forward after the review board voted 5 – 3 for it to continue through the designation process.

Melwood provides training and employment for people with disabilities, and with its partner Wesley Housing will offer affordable housing with a broad range of household sizes and affordable income levels, with a portion of the units for people with disabilities. More information at

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Plans-Studies/General-Land-Use-Plan/Studies/Melwood>

SEND IN YOUR DUES

Mail in envelopes attached

I know, I know, we continue to promise you that we will have a) a new website and b) a payment portal. Sigh. It is coming! In the meantime, an envelope is included with your newsletter, and for those of you who are unfamiliar with "mail", just fill it in and put a stamp on it, and we will receive your dues. Incidentally, as of July 14, stamps are 73 cents. Address: PO Box 2976, Arlington, VA 22202

LIVABILITY22202**JOINT LETTERS ON UNDERGROUND, RT.1, APS CIP**

The three local civic associations, Aurora Highlands, Crystal City and ARCA sent joint letters to JBG Smith (Crystal Underground closing decision), Va. Dept. of Transportation (Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Study Phase 2) and Arlington Public Schools on its failure to address overcrowding in 22202.

See [arcaonline.org](https://www.arcaonline.org) for copies of all three letters

FUTURE OF PENTAGON SECTOR PLAN: RIVERHOUSE PLANS RESUBMITTED

<https://www.arlnow.com/2024/05/08/court-overturns-pentagon-city-sector-plan-raising-questions-for-future-of-proposed-riverhouse-development/>

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Site-Plan/RiverHouse>

Arlington's Pentagon Sector Plan has been overturned by a state court, saying the County failed to provide sufficient public notice before adopting a vision for the next 30+ years of growth in Pentagon City and failed to specify that the plan included the RiverHouse property that would increase height and density limits within the affected areas. The Sector Plan is heading back to the County Board for another vote: County staff said they do not intend to make any substantive changes to their submission, and will recommend the County Board's approval and adopt the exact plan they approved in 22202. Meanwhile, JBGSmith has made changes recommended during Long Range Planning Committee discussions, and resubmitted plans for the Riverhouse development.

BIKE PARK SURVEY FOR HALEY PARK

We received over 60 responses to our survey on a temporary bike park in James Haley Park, and we are in the process of reviewing them. The plan was proposed by Arlington Trails, who joined us at our March membership meeting and outlined their plans for a "sustainable, multi-use, natural surface temporary bike skills park" in James Haley Park. If Haley Park is vetoed, the County, who has been working with Arlington Trails, suggested Fraser Park as an alternative. We will send out a notice when the surveys have been checked out.

SPEEDING ON FORT SCOTT

We have been speaking with the County about ways they could address speeding on Fort Scott Drive. You can see the solution they came up with:

a 4 way stop sign at S. Lynn, and crosswalks at that intersection, at S. June, at two S. Grant Street intersections. We hope this will make a difference, we will continue to monitor the traffic when school resumes. The County avers they could not do anything more forceful as we have not had any accidents/bodily injury/serious crashes (yet).

KENT ST. SIDEWALK PROJECT

Arlington County notified ARCA that they anticipate starting the update on the final design of the Arlington Neighborhood plan for a sidewalk on S. Kent St. in 2 months, and should be complete in 2 – 3 months. They will then schedule timelines, construction schedules and HEY PRESTO! Kent Street may have one block of sidewalks after many, many years of waiting! If those residents of Kent Street who decided not to participate now like the look of the improvements, we are told they may be able to include them...stay tuned.

ASPHALT ART PROGRAM

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/Community-Canvas>

Arlington is piloting the "Community Canvas Pilot Initiative", a process that will allow community organizations to apply for and implement temporary asphalt murals in areas of the public rights-of-way. 5-6 locations will be selected as pilots for 2024 and will be coordinated with BIDs and civic associations throughout the County through the Arlington Neighborhood Program. They will be located in the areas of a street that are outside of sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, bus stops and travel lanes.

LUBBER RUN AMPHITHEATER

Fri. and Sat. at 8, Sun at 11am thru Aug 2
N. 2nd & Columbus Streets, plenty of on-street parking

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Arts/Programs/Lubber-Run>

All summer long and absolutely free! Check out Arlington's answer to Wolf Trap (without the entrance fee) featuring music from big bands, blues, cabaret, soul and orchestral music and kids stuff on Sundays. Working in partnership with the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation, Lubber Run brings the very best of DC metro area arts to the bucolic setting of the amphitheater. (Bring a picnic and a cushion).

HUG FAMILY FUN DAY AT VA. HIGHLANDS PARK
Saturday, July 27, 9 am - 12 pm: Rain date: Aug.3

Highlands Urban Garden (HUG) at Virginia Highlands Park, (next to the tennis courts) The Crystal City Civic Assn. (CCCA) and the Friends of Urban Agriculture (FOUA) invite you to a family fun day focusing on urban agriculture. With generous backing from Arlington County and the National Landing BID, the CCCA and FOUA have partnered with the Sustainable Scoop to bring you this event that will showcase community-shared urban agriculture with design workshops and biophilic activities for adults and children. FOUA is excited to engage multi- and single-family housing residents in community gardening practices. The HUG Garden hosts various activities designed to educate and inspire participants, who will offer opportunities to get involved, learn, and share gardening tips. Planned activities will include garden tending, seed workshops, planting techniques, composting, plant identification, worm composting, pollinator beans and more. Through education, advocacy, and hands-on projects, FOUA shows individuals and communities how to grow their own food and contribute to a greener, more sustainable future. For more information, contact FOUA President Emily Landsman at info@arlingtonurbanag.org

ARLINGTON COUNTY FAIR
Aug 14 – 18, Hours vary, check the website
Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd Street

Something for everyone – carnival rides, live performances, a kids court, stage performances by local and regional artists, fitness classes, obstacle courses, and of course, midway games and a pie eating contest (no hands!). VERY limited parking. Free shuttle buses from the Bozman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

WINDOWS BEING REINSTALLED AT THE HUME SCHOOL!

Lately the Hume School building (our iconic image) has been looking derelict and abandoned: not to worry, their “Sashmeister”, an expert window man, will reinstall the windows taken out to be refurbished. The museum will be closed July 13 – 20, but expect a spectacular new look when he is finished!

MEMORIALIZING THE ENSLAVED IN ARLINGTON WITH STUMBLING STONES

This fall, students at Arlington Tech High School will make 15 stumbling stones (“Stolpersteine”) that will be placed in locations of enslavement throughout the county, in a collaboration with Arlington Historical Society, the Black Heritage Museum, the County and Schools. The project will identify and recognize the men, women and children who were enslaved in Arlington, and will memorialize their lives with markers installed where slavery occurred. On sidewalks the markers will be bronze plaques, others will be plaques on square blocks. The project is based on the stumbling stones embedded in pavements throughout Europe indicating where victims of the Holocaust lived.

WAKEFIELD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
wakefieldalumni.org/donations

Each year Wakefield High School, through its educational foundation, makes it possible for students from low income families to attend college. This year 36 were selected, and will be enrolled at colleges throughout the US. When you are deciding on annual donations at tax time, this is a very worthy cause close to home.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN IN MET PARK

Butterflies and other pollinators have a new place to call home in Amazon HQ2’s Met Park. To attract them, professional horticulturalists and volunteers planted swamp and butterfly milkweed, echinacea, coreopsis and seven other native species in a 250sq.ft. bed. A bench and a dozen tables and chairs are nearby for people to sit and enjoy the view and be there when the monarchs show up.

HONEYBEES VA’S “OFFICIAL STATE POLLINATOR”

“The honeybee is the single most important insect in the founding of Virginia,” says Arlington delegate Patrick Hope, who worked to make it Virginia’s official state pollinator. There is historical significance to the bee, as the relationship goes back to 1622 when the Jamestown colonists realized the native bees were not pollinating their fruit and vegetables; they wrote to the King asking for some honeybees, and the rest is history.

CALENDAR

SUMMER EVENTS AT MET PARK

S. Fern Street

Details at nationallanding.org/events/calendar

Jul 21 – Aug 25, Summer Fun Family Days: Sundays

at 10am – 1pm. Join MoCA on Sundays for live music, hands on art making, bubbles and chalk.

Aug 14 – Sept 11, Plants in the Park: Wed. 11am – 2pm. Join Plnt House for a 30 minute botanical activity

Jul 25 – Sept 26, Open Studio Art Class: Thurs 10am – 1pm Weekly open studio for creating art with community, and receiving feedback from the artist in residence.

Jul 26 – Sept 20, 7 – 9pm: Movie Nights every other Friday. 1330 S. Fair St.

Aug. 1: Dark Star Park Day: An Arlington tradition, you are invited to watch the shadow alignment the iconic sculpture was designed to capture. Also, a reading by Arlington's poet laureate, Courtney leBlanc. **9.32am**, 1655 Fort Myer Drive, Rosslyn. <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Public-Art/Public-Art-Collection/Permanent-Collection/Locations/Dark-Star-Park>

Thru Sept 8 Celebrating 50 years: 50 years of new classics; Wish You Were Here: the work of current and past resident artists. Museum of Contemporary Art. Moca.org

Jul 19 – 28 The Sound of Music. Join the actors of Encore Stage at this beloved play, and come at 1pm on **July 27 for a Trivia and Tea Event.** Test your knowledge of all things von Trapp! Thomas Jefferson Theatre. Encorestage.org

Jul 19 The 257th Army Band: 8pm. Lubber Run Amphitheater. Free

Thru Aug 22. A Night of One Acts: The Arlington Players. Thomas Jefferson Theatre. Thearlingtonplayers.org

Thru Aug 23. Fridays at the Fountain: Every Friday

from 5.30 – 8pm, free family friendly concerts with an outdoor food hall. 1601 Crystal Drive.

Aug 6 – Sept 15. Soft Power: A visionary musical fantasia. Signature Theatre. Sigtheatre.org

Sept 12 The Unitarian Church's Role in Desegregation. How far did some Arlington churches go to fight segregation? Many joined African American clergy in speaking out and standing up for civil rights. The Unitarian Universalist Church was one such, find out what spurred this mostly white congregation to action in an account by Bill Fogarty. Arlington Historical Society. 7pm. Marymount University and on Zoom. <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>

Thru July 27 Oh, You paint: soul, by artist LaPrea Rich. Arlington Artists Alliance presents a solo show in its location in Crystal Underground, the last before it is closed. The group will move to a new location at The Crossing Clarendon, 2700 Clarendon Blvd. #330, with its inaugural show, **Ad Astra per Aspera**, July 18 – August 18. Arlingtonartistsalliance.org

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