

Are you a homeowner or a renter? If you live in the Aurora Highlands area you are invited and encouraged to come to our monthly meetings where we meet neighbors, discuss topics of interest and share information. All are welcome to attend. Come and meet your neighbors at the Aurora Hills Community Center at 735 18th Street South.

**OUR UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING:
WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER**

Guest Speakers:

Arlington County Police Officer Francis Cicholski, 2nd District Team – will speak on recent crime and break ins in our area.

Diane Kresh: Director of Arlington County Library will speak on **proposed budget cuts to Aurora Hills Library**. Diane's forum is expected to start around 8:00pm, but the community will discuss this issue prior to her arrival.

***PLEASE GO TO WWW.ARLINGTONVA.US/PRCR, AT BOTTOM RIGHT HAND SIDE THERE IS A SECTION: GET IT DONE ON-LINE. CLICK ON SPORTS AND RECREATION INTEREST SURVEY, THIS PERTAINS TO GETTING HELP FOR OUR CENTER, WHICH IS MUCH RELATED TO LIBRARY ISSUE WE ARE FACING.**

TRAFFIC CALMING FUNDS:

AHCA and ARCA have had further conversations with relevant county staff. It appears there is about \$170,000 that can be used along length of 23rd and/or Ridge Road. There is another \$97,000 that is solely for Joyce south of 15th Street. Residents within both communities at large, not just those along these three streets, must agree what best use of these funds will be.

ARLINGTON COUNTY TREE GIVE AWAY:

Get ready to place your order for your free native trees from Arlington County this spring! For your planning purposes, the two species available this year are the Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) and the American Filbert, or Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*). The Bur Oak is a very large deciduous shade tree and the American hazelnut is a smaller multi-stemmed shrub. Look for order details in the April newsletter and on the listserv.

**AURORA HILLS LIBRARY DEATH BLOW VIA
BUDGET CUTS AND OPERATING DAY REDUCTIONS**

—THE REST OF THIS NEWSLETTER (**SEE INSIDE**) PROVIDES DETAILS ON THIS IMPACT TO OUR COMMUNITY. AHCA IS HOSTING THIS FORUM ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE AREA SOUTH AND EAST OF ROUTE 395.

Key County Data:

Best web link to county data:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ManagementAndFinance/budget/page68674.pd>

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ManagementAndFinance/budget/page68453.aspx>

Specific pages to look at are:

Summary by Department
Service Reductions - Detail
Administrative, Managerial and Overhead Reductions - Detail

Library users also are encouraged to read and post questions or suggestions on Ms. Kresh's blog: <http://arlingtonclimateblog.typepad.com/thearlingtonyears/2009/02/arlington-public-library-service-reductions-and-the-fy-2010-budget.html>

Key Dates:

Arlington Public Library Director Diane Kresh is scheduling open "town meetings" at Central Library and each branch library (except Plaza) to answer questions regarding the Library's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget and its impact. All meetings will start at 7 p.m. Here is the schedule:

- **March 4**, Cherrydale (*This will be an opportunity to hear Ms. Kresh's approach*).
- **March 10**, Glencarlyn (*This will be another opportunity to hear Ms. Kresh's approach to community*).
- **March 11**, Aurora Hills (@ Senior Center adjacent to the branch library)
- March 17, Westover
- March 18, Central (Auditorium)
- March 31, Shirlington
- April 1, Columbia Pike

March 14th (8:30am): County Board Meeting at which Public Comment Period may be utilized by citizens.

March 24-25, County Budget Hearings Open to Public

April (?) County Board adopts final budget.

Key County Contacts:

County Board Members:

Barbara Favola – Chairman, Jay Fisette—Vice Chair, Chris Zimmerman, Mary Hynes, Walter Tejada (see contact info on adjoining page)

County Manager:

Ron Carlee (see contact info on adjoining page)

Director of Library:

Diane Kresh
Director, Arlington Public Library
2100 Clarendon Blvd Suite 406
Arlington, VA 22201
703-228-6342
Dkresh@arlingtonva.us

Public Information Officer

Arlington Public Library
Arlington County, Virginia
Telephone (703) 228-3346
Fax (703) 228-3354
Mobile (571) 481-8760
Pgolkin@arlingtonva.us

Key Community Contacts:

AHCA (See back page of newsletter)

ARCA Leadership:

Don Clark: dclarke12@juno.com
Chick Walters: chickandsandy@msn.com
Elizabeth Mailander: elizabeth@mailander.net

Friends of Arlington Library (AH Rep)

William Gillen: wgmgarl@gillen.org

Local Face Book sight dedicated to this issue "Save Aurora Hills Library":

SaveAuroraHillsLibrary@ymail.com

Oakridge PTA

Art Mirrow: amirrow@yahoo.com)

Gunston

Mary Callow: mjcallow@gmail.com
Cheryl Mendonsa: cmendonsa@verizon.net

Honorable Barbara Favola
Chairman, Arlington County Board
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201
bfavola@arlingtonva.us

Mr. Ron Carlee
Manager, Arlington County
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 302
Arlington, VA 22201
rcarlee@arlingtonva.us

Dear Ms. Favola and Mr. Carlee,

The Aurora Hills Library is an important part of southeast Arlington. To reduce this library's operations to three days per week would, in effect, deny library access to nearly 17,000 Arlingtonians especially: children; senior citizens; working adults; and those without access to the Internet. The current economic situation causes us to buy fewer books and rely on the library for books, newspapers, Internet access, children's activities, and supplemental school research.

With a retired fire station serving as a county storage facility, a community center without equipment or scheduled activities (except for a three day per week senior program that essentially shuts down by early afternoon), and a library operating just three days per week, southeast Arlingtonians are being presented a dead zone in the heart of their community. For the common good of Arlington, southeast Arlington is forced to suffer through intrusive life impacting construction of a new waste water treatment facility, sends its teenagers to high school in an inadequate and outdated facility, and watches as the Crystal City Business Improvement District encroaches into our community and accommodates a thriving business community, while serving as one of the gateways into Arlington. In return, we will be rewarded with a library that operates just three days per week.

County data show that operating the Aurora Hills Library just three days per week will yield little dollar savings. Alternatively, in this time of belt tightening budgets, all libraries, including the Central Library, should cut their operations by one day per week, which will be a more equitable approach to sharing the pain throughout the county.

Southeast Arlington is growing and will expand even more with the new Crystal City Plan, Pentagon City growth and growth within Arlington's portion of Potomac Yards. We have multiple high rise dwellings either recently opened or under construction while more homes are undergoing expansion and/or renovation. With this construction activity, the county must look for ways to fully service our actively growing community rather than destroying what is left of the heart of our community.

Please, keep the Aurora Hills Library open. This isn't just a Branch Library; this is the heart of our community.

Most sincerely,

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

PRINTED NAME:

ADDRESS:

Action Needed by Residents:

Be in touch with our County Board Members: by email, phone and fax. Feel free to clip back page of newsletter and use as your newsletter. (This will be available in e-file at www.aurorahighlands.org)

Be in touch with the County Manager: by email, fax and phone. (Letter on page 3 will be on www.aurorahighlands.org).

Attend the public forums at other two libraries prior to March 11th.

SHOW UP AND PARTICIPATE in MARCH 11th forum at Aurora Hills Library.

Bring a signed copy of the insert letter to the March 11th meeting. The letters will then be delivered to the County Board at the March 24-25 meetings.

Attend March 14th County Board Meeting and take advantage of Public Comment Period.

SHOW UP and PARTICIPATE in FINAL-County Budget Hearings March 24-25, 2009.

BE GREEN! Wear Green to these meetings to visually identify to the Board that we need our library during these economic hard times. After all, what's more renewable than a library book.

Advertisements will return in next month's newsletter.

Our sincere thanks to SOC for their support of AHCA by printing our newsletter.

SOC Enterprises

750 South 23rd St. Arlington, VA 22202
703-920-9400 Fax: 703-299-3255

"Business and Rehabilitation"

We combine both to provide meaningful training and work for our community's disabled
SOC for Printing, Mailing, and Fulfillment Services

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

P.O. Box 25201 - Arlington, VA 22202

"The Association is a non-partisan organization of community residents formed to work in the overall community interest in promoting civic pride, enhancing the quality of life in the community, preserving the character of the community and planning for the orderly, safe, and humane development of the community" (AHCA Bylaws, Article II). The AHCA meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (unless specifically noted) in the Aurora Hills Recreation Center (735 S. 18th St.) at 7:00 p.m.

2009 Issues

1. **Community Center & Virginia Highlands Park**
2. **NC Projects: 19th Street (600&700 blocks) sidewalk & street lights, spray park in VHP, Ives Street (20th-22nd) sidewalks & street lights.**
3. **Nina Park improvements**
4. **Nellie & Eads Park**
5. **Potential Dog Park?**
6. **Sidewalks & Street Lights**
7. **Crystal City Long Term Plan as well as CCBID and CCBID, Inc impact on Aurora Highlands area**
8. **Wakefield High School Capital Rebuilding and quality of academic programs.**
9. **Waste Water Treatment Plant**
10. **Social Events**
 - Spring event TBD?
 - Community event with Restaurant Row ?
 - 4th of July picnic in Virginia Highlands Park

AHCA acct balance as of Feb 2009: \$7,938.37

Association Officers & Committee Chairs

- ◇ President – Bruce Cameron 703 892-5071
- ◇ Vice President – Michael Dowell 703-521-7739
- ◇ 2nd Vice President – Van Newstrom 703 683-5911
- ◇ Treasurer / Membership - Gail Fleming
- ◇ Business Secretary & Web Master– John Kriese 703 519-0961
- ◇ Corresponding Secretary – Paul Mcaree
- ◇ AHCA NCAC Rep: Chris Mann
- ◇ Aircraft Noise Liaison - Denis O'Sullivan 703-521-6425
- ◇ Meeting Hospitality - OPEN
- ◇ Newsletter Distribution - Bruce Cameron
- ◇ Newsletter Editor—Maria Cameron 703-892-5071
- ◇ Police and Waste Water Treatment Plant Liaison -Brad & Louise Garris - 703-548-1944
- ◇ Urban Planning Ted Saks 703-683-1312

Items for the Newsletter: Send items in e-mail messages (not attachments) to the newsletter editor, Bruce Cameron at brucecameronahca@gmail.com.