



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

**AURORA HIGHLANDS CENTENNIAL
1910—2010**

Inside This Issue:

- ◆ Joyce Street Redesign Proposal
- ◆ Wakefield High Construction and Funding
- ◆ Centennial Tree Project
- ◆ Spring Tree Distribution
- ◆ Four Mile Run Pedestrian Bridge
- ◆ Community Center Support at Budget Hearings
- ◆ Mosquito Control
- ◆ Neighbor Profile: Glen Evans
- ◆ Synthetic Theater Coming to Crystal City
- ◆ Spring Photos

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. Childcare will be provided.

OUR UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, April 14

AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

6:30pm Social - come for a mid-week break! 7:00 pm Meeting

Agenda: (See page 5 for detailed Agenda)

- ◆ Arlington County Recycling Presentation in Honor of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day
- ◆ Wakefield School Bond
- ◆ Joyce Street Traffic Calming Conceptual Design Review

Joyce Street Redesign Proposal

The Joyce Street Traffic Calming Project now has a conceptual design for the AHCA and ARCA communities to review. After more than a year of rainy night street meetings with neighbors, and updates at monthly meetings, AHCA approved a list of design priorities in 2009. Richard Best, the Arlington County project manager, has now taken the community inputs and produced an integrated design covering Joyce Street in the blocks from 15th to 23rd Street. The aim of the design is to

remake Joyce as a neighborhood street from the oblivious-driver-cell-phoning-texting-makeup-applying-stop-sign-ignoring-wrong-side-driving-cut-through that it has become over the last ten years.

Elements of the design include:

- A brick-patterned gateway across Joyce with a pedestrian island in the 1500 block where the road transitions from Virginia Highlands Park to single family houses.
- Narrowing and alignment of the street to a consistent 25 mph neighbor-

hood street design throughout.

- Continuous sidewalk along the east side of Joyce.
- A brick-patterned gateway across Joyce at 23rd Street.

Although no design short of banning cars altogether will completely resolve our traffic concerns, this design should go a long way toward mitigating the worst problems and will position the neighborhood well for the considerable development planned in Pentagon City and Crystal City over the next decades.

Please come review the plan yourself at the April 14th AHCA Meeting. Richard Best will be there at 6:30 to discuss the plan, and the underlying traffic calming principles, and take our comments. During the meeting, we'll take a vote on support for the design.

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President's Corner

by Michael Dowell

What a change over the last six weeks. We can still see the mini-moraines of gravel at the street corners from our February snow storms, and we're at 90 degrees already! If summer's going to come at us fast this year, let's get going with some outdoor fun.

We have two Aurora Highlands Centennial events coming up in the next two months. The Hundred Tree Woods clearing and planting, two weekends worth, will be in May. Cory Giacobbe is coordinating this, and we'll need a lot of

folks to help out, so get in touch with Cory (see page 12) to help create a green legacy for the next 100 years in our Neighborhood.

May 15th is Arlington Neighborhood Day, and we're going to have a neighborhood walk. In the early evening, come out for an evening stroll, a La Passeggiata even, around the neighborhood. Stroll with your drink, your ice cream, check out the neighborhood gardens, new houses, meet new neighbors, and take in a lovely spring evening. Use our handy-dandy guide (coming soon!) to guide your walk to little-known, almost-famous-but-not-quite parts of our neighborhood. We'll discuss it at the April monthly meeting. See you there.

Wakefield High School Rebuild Presentation on Agenda for AHCA April Meeting

A slide presentation on Wakefield's schematic plans is on the agenda for our April 14 civic association meeting, with Cathy O'Malley (chair of Wakefield's Building Level Planning Committee and past PTA president). Sue Super (past co-chair of the successful 2006 Arlington School Bond Campaign and former AHCA president) will follow with an update on construction estimates and school bond funding. The following remarks on the status of the project and the proposed 2010 school bond were prepared by Sue Super.

Projections for significant construction cost savings during the current economic downturn look promising for moving sooner than previously planned on the long-anticipated rebuilding of Wakefield, our neighborhood high school.

Wakefield (opened in 1953) is the last of Arlington's three high schools to be rebuilt, with Washington-Lee recently completed and Yorktown's construction underway for scheduled completion in 2013. Design planning for Wakefield, which started in 2007 with funding from the 2006 school bond, has gone through numerous levels of community, county, and school system input and reviews. The schematic plans approved by the School Board in 2009 incorporate energy-efficient systems that will meet high-level LEED (Leadership in Energy

and Environmental Design) standards.

Ironically, because of the economic downturn, there is some good news: interest rates on bonds are historically low. Construction costs also are way down: the construction companies really need work, and large commercial projects are on hold with restricted bank lending. This is an opportunity for significant cost savings for Arlington's capital projects. For example, the latest construction costs at Yorktown H.S. came in about 30% below previous estimates, saving some \$26 million.

Wakefield's construction cost estimates in the last 2008 update of the school system's Capital Improvement Plan were at \$156 million or higher. The School Board's plan called for funding Wakefield out of the 2010 school bond, but as some may remember, the County Board voted for a two-year delay to 2012.

Now the financial situation argues for moving sooner. Revised estimates presented at the School Board's recent budget work session show that funding Wakefield's construction in the 2010 bond and starting construction in 2011 would save almost 30% compared to the old estimate. That's a savings of close to \$50 million, based on a total construction cost of \$109 million instead of \$156 million or more. And the debt service

as a percentage of total school expenditures would stay under the County Board's cap of 10%, according to projections for the next several years.

Delay is expensive. Estimates show that delaying Wakefield's funding until the 2012 bond would add another \$15 million. Further, there's the risk of increases in bond rates and construction costs, especially if construction picks up in the private sector and fewer construction companies are bidding.

The Aurora Highlands Civic Association, the neighboring Arlington Ridge Civic Association, and our community have been very supportive and gone on record many times in recent years to support school bonds and urge the rebuilding of Wakefield. It's time to make that support known again to the County Board and the School Board. The School Board is starting to work on the amount and which projects to include in the proposed 2010 school bond to send to the County Board this spring.

A motion will be introduced after the presentation for our civic association to go on record, once again, as we did in 2006, 2007, and 2008, with a letter to the County Board and School Board to support Wakefield's rebuilding with construction funding in the 2010 school bond.

58% Response Rate So Far on Census— Not Good Enough!

by Michael Dowell

Have you sent in your census form yet? As of April 4, we had a low response rate of 58% in the single family housing section of our AHCA neighborhood. By comparison, many areas in Arlington are already well over 60%. In the 2000 census, we had a 78% final response rate, also lower than many other Arlington neighborhoods.

How do we know how we're doing? Go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>, enter the 22202 zip code and zoom into our neighborhood. You'll see the current response rates.

Did you lose the form or not get it? Call the census office at 1-866-872-6868

Why is the census important?

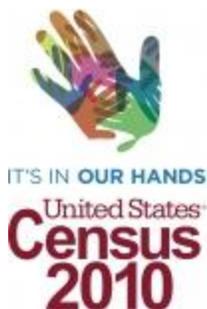
- When legislative boundaries are drawn, the census data are used to ensure that each district has the same number of people per elected official.

- When the federal government awards grants, it often does so based on census data.

- When the county decides how to allocate services, **including libraries and schools**, it relies on census data.

- When cell phone providers, cable companies, retail stores, or just about any business reviews how best to serve an area, they rely on census data.

The form takes only 10 minutes to fill out. Do your part and be counted.



Long Bridge Park Construction Kickoff on April 10

by Nick Giacobbe

Work has begun to transform a former junk yard and industrial area at what used to be known as the North Tip into Long Bridge Park, a distinctive showplace of environmentally sound development. Long Bridge Park is a \$23.7 million project to build three lighted synthetic grass athletic fields, an esplanade and other amenities on a contaminated former industrial site. Construction by the Donohoe Companies, Inc. is expected to finish in summer 2011. The new park will include public green spac-

es, native plant gardens, outdoor recreation facilities and environmentally responsible structures. Construction kickoff is **April 10** at 1:30pm at 475 Old Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington (enter the site at corner of Old Jefferson Davis Highway & 6th St.). For more information, visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/forums/northtract/ParksRecreation-ForumsNorthtractNorthTractOverview.aspx>.

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Weekly services:

11am Sunday, 7pm Wednesday.

Community Neighborhood Workshop Survey

Please spend a couple of minutes next time you are on the Internet taking the Community Neighborhood Workshop Survey. TCNW would like to know what kind of classes, activities, and clubs you would like to see available at the Aurora Hills Community Center. For example, I have a small dog and would like to start a **Small Dog Club** for dog owners and dogs. If you have any interest in a small dog club, please contact Cara

Tenuta at ctenuta@earthlink.net. My phone number is on the back of the newsletter. The survey is at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BDGTB99>. If you are Internet-savvy and have a friend or neighbor who does not use the Internet, please invite them over and help them complete a survey.

Calling all writers!

- Would you love to see your name in print?
- Do you have knowledge or expertise in a field that would interest or help your neighbors?
- Have an interesting story about our neighborhood's history?

Write an article for the AHCA Newsletter! Share your knowledge about health, finance, pets, home repair, gardening, car maintenance or any other neighborhood tips that would interest or benefit your neighbors. Pitch your idea to the newsletter editor at AHCA.news@yahoo.com. We have your byline waiting to print!

Upcoming Events

**Stay involved.
Keep informed on
what's going on in
our community.**

Gunston Middle School Fiesta FUNdraiser Friday, April 16

The Gunston Middle School (GMS) PTA will hold its 3rd Annual Fiesta FUNdraiser, which includes a silent auction and raffles, to support student teams, cultural and reading programs, and other school enrichment activities on Friday April 16 from 6 pm to 9 pm. This year's FUNdraiser promises to be a memorable evening of fun and fundraising for families in the Gunston community, including families of prospective Gunston students. Entertainment will be provided by the GMS musical group the Jazz Ensemble. Games will also be provided for middle schoolers and food will be on sale. Families will have the opportunity to bid at the silent auction on unique items and services. Come join the GMS community at 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington on Friday, April 16.

Power Purge April 21

Crystal City's Annual Power Purge (this year's event includes a community paper shred) will be held on Wednesday, April 21 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at 220 Twentieth Street. Start cleaning out your homes and offices and collecting unwanted documents and electronics for safe and secure disposal and recycling. For more information, visit www.crystalcity.org.

Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition Discussion Thursday, April 22

Transportation officials from Arlington and Fairfax Counties, the City of Alexandria, and regional transportation entities will present their jurisdictions' transit plans for streetcars, bus rapid transit, light rail and other options. The discussion will be held Thursday, April 22, from 7- 9 pm at the Hilton Mark Center Alexandria at 5000 Seminary Road in Alexandria, VA.

Oakridge Spring Fling Sunday, April 25

Save the Date for Oakridge Elementary School's Spring Fling Carnival and Silent Auction, Sunday, April 25 from 2-6 pm. There will be carnival rides, moon bounces and tons of country fair style family fun. This is Oakridge PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year and we rely on parent volunteers to staff it. Want to volunteer? Contact Jennifer Long at JennifereLong@gmail.com

Arlington Spring Tree Distribution April 27 Deadline

Last day to sign up for a tree. See page 12 of this newsletter for details

Quarterly Police Meeting April 28

The next Quarterly Police Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 830 S. 23rd St. We look forward to seeing you there.

Synetic Theater Coming to Crystal City

by Cory Giacobbe

The Crystal City Business Improvement District announced this week that the Synetic Theater will be moving to Crystal City this summer to occupy the space being vacated by the Arena Stage. Synetic Theater, founded by Paata and Irina Tsikurishvili in 2001, is DC's premier physical theater company. Synetic has been nominated for 65 Helen Hayes awards and has received the award 17 times.

According to its website, Synetic seeks to advance and enrich the theater arts in the Nation's Capital through its unique performance style, which fuses the classical elements of drama, movement, dance, mime, and music into

a distinct form of non-realistic theater. This form is simultaneously avant-garde and accessible, with a broad appeal to a wide, culturally diverse, and cross-generational audience.

Before moving to Crystal City, Synetic will be staging Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, directed by Derek Goldman, April 9 to May 22 at the Rosslyn Spectrum; and Shakespeare's *Othello* directed by Paata Tsikurishvili, June 3 to July 3 at the Kennedy Center's Family Theater. Synetic Theater's performances in Crystal City will begin in September 2010. For more information, visit www.synetictheater.org.

Four Mile Run Pedestrian Bridge Design Firm Chosen

by Neal Sigmon

Excitement is growing for a pedestrian/bicycle bridge to span Four Mile Run just upstream of Eads Street to connect to Alexandria's Commonwealth Avenue as envisioned in the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan. A Design Competition identified three top design teams from 41 different submissions, including international teams. On March 27th, the three top teams presented their credentials and concepts for the bridge. A four-judge panel of experts ranked the proposals. Using a Federal grant of \$400,000 the top ranking firm will design the bridge. At this point, no funding has been identified to build the bridge, but a concept in hand may serve as a catalyst for a serious effort to secure construction money. The presentations may be viewed at this website: <http://www.4milerun.org/>.

The Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan is a joint project shared by Arlington and Alexandria to restore some of

the ecological values to Four Mile Run lost when the flood control project was



put in place in the late 1970's. The Plan also addresses the need for urban amenities along the Four Mile Run corridor from Shirlington downstream to Potomac Yard.

Currently, the first in-stream restoration project is in design to improve the tidal

portion of the stream from Arlington Ridge Road/Mt. Vernon Avenue to Jefferson Davis Highway. Money is available to carry out this design when it has been through a public review process as the design matures. A public meeting most likely will occur during the first two weeks of June.

A Joint Task Force made up of residents of Arlington and Alexandria serves as a community link to the implementation of the Four Mile Run Restoration Master

Plan, which will occur over a long period of time. Ted Saks is the Aurora Highlands representative on the task force.

For more information about the Master Plan go to: <http://www.novaregion.org/index.aspx?NID=214>.

April 14 AHCA Meeting Agenda

6:30pm Social - come for a mid-week break!
7:00 pm Meeting

Arlington County Recycling - Kristen Rannels from Arlington County Environmental Services will discuss single-stream collection and other aspects of the county program. Kristen will join us at the social starting at 6:30, so bring your questions.

Wakefield School Bond - Sue Super and Cathy O'Malley will bring us up to date on Wakefield High School construction and a possible funding strategy that may save the county tens of millions of dollars. Sue and Cathy will introduce a motion for AHCA consideration to support the Wakefield construction in the 2010 School Bond

Joyce Street Traffic Calming Conceptual Design Review - Richard Best from Arlington County will present the concept design that is responsive to the design priorities developed in 2008 and 2009 and approved by AHCA vote a few months ago. Richard has a 12-foot scroll of the Joyce Street concept design for review. Come at 6:30 to get an up-close look and to discuss it with Richard.

And of course, normal business.



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Aurora Hills Senior Program, Community Center and Library Supported at Budget Hearings by Cara Tenuta

The neighborhood (Aurora Highlands, Arlington Ridge and Crystal City) has come to the support of the Aurora Hills Community Center and Senior Center. The Arlington County Board held public meetings on the 2011 Budget on March 23rd and 24th. Many people spoke to the Board in support of the Aurora Hills Community Center, Senior Center, and Library.

On March 23rd speakers included: Andrea Walker--leader of the Fast Fowards walking group and Secretary of the Senior Adult Council Executive Committee, Kathryn Hunter--President of the AHSC Advisory Council, Frank Minichello--VP of the AHSC Advisory Council, Cara Tenuta--2nd VP of AHCA, Dan Levin--Treasurer of AHSC Advisory Council, Ron Musselwhite--Chair of the of the Senior Adult Council Executive Committee, and Peggy Tevis. On March 24th Mike Dowell--President of the AHCA, Bruce Cameron--past president of the AHCA, and Al Burt spoke. In addition, children spoke to the Board on behalf of the library and maintaining the current hours.

Kathryn Hunter led the members of the Senior Center in collecting over 500 petition signatures supporting the Senior Center, the Library, and the Community Center and she sent letters to each board member with a blue book on the Aurora Hills Senior Center. Staff members were reviewing the blue book during the March 23rd public meeting. Mike Dowell got a meeting with Vice Chairman Chris Zimmerman and he led a group to discuss the importance of the Senior Center to the seniors and to the community.

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Honduran Charity Calls Aurora Hills Home

by Jenny Lawhorn Sammis

After a fire destroyed their 25th Street South home ten years ago, Glen and Karen Evans began the arduous task of rebuilding. And there, in the midst of wrangling with insurance, budgets, zoning, architects and contractors, Glen began a different, more human kind of renovation project: helping the thousands of Honduran laborers and their families attain a better future.

As his home was being rebuilt in 2002, Glen befriended a group of undocumented immigrants from Honduras living in Arlington. He soon realized these young men were totally cut off from their families. From his background as a pastor and volunteer in some of DC's poorest neighborhoods, he had seen firsthand the problems that were created when communication between family members is severed. So he decided to visit the men's families in Honduras. He made videos of the men here and videos of the families in Honduras, allowing each to see and hear the other. Using his vacation time to make the trips, Glen discovered the tremendous destitution of Honduras. Poverty was nothing new to Glen. He volunteered for six years in a homeless shelter in Washington DC, and had also volunteered in India, but the poverty he saw in Honduras touched him in new ways. He wanted to find a practical solution for the poverty - thus Art For Humanity was born.

Art for Humanity is an all-volunteer nonprofit serving Honduras, the second-poorest country in the western hemisphere. Art For Humanity uses donations of money, clothing and household goods to help poor families begin small businesses with which to support themselves and educate their

children. Traveling to Honduras six or more times a year with large container shipments of art supplies, kitchenware, new and gently used clothing and shoes, computers, and



Children in Honduras receive clothing and shoes from Art for Humanity donors

more, Glen and his volunteers help Hondurans foster new businesses that include bike repair, sewing, farming, and nursing.

Lack of quality education is a major hindrance to Hondurans. Many leave school without attaining the equivalent of a second-grade proficiency in math and writing. This creates many hardships and has the effect of keeping people poor. To illustrate

the need for basic education, Glen related an anecdote from a few weeks ago. "On February 21, there was fear and excitement in Honduras. Unknown to the average Honduran, the US space shuttle was making a night landing in Florida. It passed over Honduras creating fire as it reentered the atmosphere. When people saw the big fire in the sky, they thought the end of the world was at hand. Many ran into their homes to hug family and see what would happen next. To their surprise, nothing else happened. The next day, news spread via TV, etc. that the fire in the sky was not the end of the world but the space shuttle landing in Florida. Man were they relieved!"

This news story shows how underdeveloped Honduras is in many ways,

Do you have a neighbor who's doing something cool? Write it up and send it in.

especially related to education. One of Art for Humanity's current missions is to build the country's first English speaking college. The Leadership University of Honduras, which will be based in a rural center of the country, will also be the first college in Honduras offering full scholarships for good students from needy families.

Last year, Glen was in Honduras during the coup and, later, during the free elections that changed the leadership in Honduras. "These elections were a huge victory for the Honduran people," says Glen. "It is also good news for Art for Humanity. With stability returned, we can once again focus on our mission here - to work with the local people as they empower themselves to provide incomes for their families, educate their children and participate in their government."

To join Art for Humanity, visit www.artforhumanity.org or email Glen: glenevans@starpower.net Glen regularly sends his donors email updates and photos from the field, and they are always interesting to read.



Glen Evans visits Hondurans on election day in November

Glen Evans Art For Humanity.....redefining the art of helping the poor. Neighbors can leave donations at his home at 635 S. 25th St. Arlington, Va. 22202 or call 703-684-4635. Combined Federal Campaign 11701

Mosquitoes Take the Fun Out of the Outdoors

by Cory Giacobbe

It's suddenly spring and any day now, the mosquito eggs that were laid in grass and ivy last fall will be ready to hatch, and they're going to come out of the eggs hungry for blood! I've talked to many neighbors over the past year about mosquitoes (I'm a bit obsessed) and you have all told

The bottom line is...we need to dump all standing water at least once a week

me that the arrival of the Asian Tiger Mosquito, *Aedes albopictus* has changed your outdoor recreation routines. You grill out less, eat outside less,

play outside less, and you are building screened porches. These new bugs on the block have a different biting schedule from the dawn and dusk biters we grew up with. They are active all day long and they have a very short breeding cycle. They can complete their entire cycle from blood meal to egg laying to larva to hatched adult in only 4 days during warm weather if they have a constant pool of water, even if the amount of water is tiny. I learned 3 quick and simple yard maintenance tips that will GREATLY reduce mosquito breeding. If we all do these things, remind our neighbors and help neighbors when they are away or unable, we will reduce

The #1 mosquito breeding site is inside the corrugated black plastic tubes we've all been attaching to our downspouts to move rain away from the house. Those little corrugated bumps hold in enough water (even on a slope!) long enough for thousands of mosquitoes



to hatch and reach adulthood. After every rain, and once every weekend, remove the tube and tip it vertically to pour out all water, mud and debris. Consider removing the tube entirely and using instead a smooth tube or one of those cement or plastic trays.

The #2 mosquito breeding site: water that collects in flower pots, saucers, furniture and toys in your yard. Empty puddled water after every rain and again once every weekend. Do a search for lost toys in the ivy and shrubs. A lost sand pail or grocery bag can breed thousands of mosquitoes per week.

The #3 mosquito breeding site: bird baths. Empty, rinse and refill at least every weekend.

Another very common mosquito breeding site is clogged rain gutters. Anywhere water puddles for a few days can be an attractive egg laying site. Clean your rain gutters regularly or hire somebody like Ned Stevens.

The bottom line is, to interrupt the mosquito breeding cycle, we need to dump all standing water at least once a week. For more information, consult the online pamphlet, "Protecting Yourself From Disease Carrying Insects: A Reference Guide to Mosquitoes, Ticks, West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease." It has a very useful checklist on page 9 for eliminating mosquito breeding sites in your yard.

Here's the link: <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/departments/HumanServices/PublicHealth/EnvironmentalHealth/file64967.pdf>

(Note: I personally do not advocate the use of pesticides listed in the brochure.)

Greening the Water Pollution Control Plant

by Nick Giacobbe

The \$581 million project to enlarge and upgrade Arlington County's Water Pollution Control Plant is finally coming to an end. One of the final tasks is to design and install approximately \$1 million of landscaping in and around the site. The County is now working with the neighborhood and the landscape architects, Lee and Associates, to develop a plan. The goal is to improve the appearance of the plant by introducing trees and plants of varying sizes onto the site to help buffer the site visually. Work is also progressing on

a new perimeter fence that is nearly half way finished. The schedule calls for completion of the landscape design within the next few months, approval by the County Board in September and then planting in the fall of 2010.

To learn more about the landscaping plan, contribute your ideas, or just hear what's going on at the plant, join the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services staff for a community meeting on Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. The staff will give an update on con-

struction schedules, landscape plans, lift station upgrades and new equipment and facilities.

There will also be time for a question and answer period. The meeting will take place at the Operations Control Building of the plant, accessible through the gate at 3151 South Fern Street near the intersection of South Glebe Road. The security guard at the plant entrance will direct you where to park.

Attend the community meeting April 15th at 7 pm at the Water Pollution Control Plant

Spring at last!



Photo by Maya Giacobbe



Photo by Peter Tunison



Photo by Peter Tunison



Photo by Maya Giacobbe



Photo by Peter Tunison



Photo by Peter Tunison

To see more spring photos visit the Facebook photo album at:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=149166&id=679614297&l=8002f79b91>



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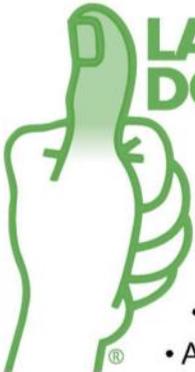


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Ethel and I just have to go to
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Membership Renewal



Please join or renew your membership in the Aurora Highlands Civic Association.



We can work together more effectively to improve our South Arlington home if we have more people sharing opinions and becoming involved in issues that matter to us as a community. Our neighborhood social events create opportunities to



get to know each other as neighbors and friends.



Join Today!

If you are interested in the quality of life in our neighborhood and want to participate in keeping our community safe and vibrant, please join Aurora Highlands Civic Association. Membership is open to all residents aged 18 or older. Dues are \$3 per year (individual) and \$6 per year (family). Donations are always welcome. Please complete the following information and mail with your check payable to “**Aurora Highlands Civic Association**” to AHCA, P.O. Box 25201, Arlington, VA 22202 or bring to the next monthly meeting.

Additional contributions in any amount are always appreciated.

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Other (please specify) _____

Tree Talk: Restoring Our Community's Native Tree Canopy

by Cory Giacobbe

Volunteers Needed for Centennial Tree Project

In honor of our neighborhood's 100 Year Anniversary, the Aurora Highlands Civic Association will sponsor the planting of 100 trees in Virginia Highlands Park. The County Parks and Recreation Department has pledged to provide 100 trees and work with us to design a grove in the sloping area between the soccer field and the softball fields. The resource that we must provide is labor. We will be convening a team of neighborhood volunteers to work on two Saturdays to clear the site of invasive plants, and then, two weeks later, begin planting the trees. The more helpers, the faster we get it done. The work will take place on May 1 and May 15. To volunteer, please send an email with your name and phone number to Cory at AHCA.news@yahoo.com.



of the trees will be distributed through the neighborhood coordinator. This year there are four species available:

American Sycamore, Swamp White Oak, River Birch and Sweetbay Magnolia. These young trees are approximately 3–5 feet in height and come in one- or two-gallon plastic containers. For more information on the trees and the program, visit the web-

site: <http://www.arlingto nva.us/departmen ts/parksrecreati on/scripts/parks/page61495. aspx>

To request trees, send an email to your neighborhood coordinator with your name, address, phone number and which tree you want.

Residents within Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA) boundaries contact Cory Giacobbe at arltrees@yahoo.com.

Residents within Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA) boundaries contact Michael Reamy at mreamy3@comcast.net.

Residents in all other Arlington neighborhoods: send an email to ArlingtonTrees2010@gmail.com with your address to find out who your local coordinator is.

Sign Up Now for Spring Tree Distribution

Arlington County is distributing trees again this spring to green our neighborhoods and enhance the tree canopy. **All requests must be submitted by April 27, 2010.** Trees will be delivered to each neighborhood coordinator during the first two weeks of May, 2010. Education on planting and care

Volunteer Webmaster Needed

Our long-time webmaster, John Kriese, will be moving from the neighborhood. We are looking for a neighbor who is willing to serve as the webmaster for the neighborhood site, www.AuroraHighlands.org. If you know how to manage a web site and are interested in volunteering, please contact Cory at AHCA.news@yahoo.com.

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

www.AuroraHighlands.org

Association Officers & Committee Chairs

President – Michael Dowell
703-521-7739

Vice President – Nick Giacobbe
703-842-5441

2nd Vice President – Cara Tenuta
703-864-6826

Treasurer / Membership - Gail Fleming
Business Secretary – Cory Giacobbe
703-842-5441

Web Master– John Kriese
703-519-0961

Corresponding Secretary – Jenny Lawhorn

AHCA Rep. to Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee - Chris Mann

AHCA Rep. to Crystal City Business Improvement District (CCBID) - Cheryl Mendonsa

Long Range Planning Commission's Crystal City Long-Term Plan - Bruce Cameron & Mike Dowell

Aircraft Noise - Denis O'Sullivan
703-521-6425

Meeting Hospitality - Rosamunda Neuharth-Ozgo

Newsletter Distribution - Cara Tenuta
703-864-6826

Newsletter Advertising - Marty King
Newsletter Editor - Cory Giacobbe
703-842-5441

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, Cory Giacobbe: AHCA.news@yahoo.com

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 Community Center (735 S. 18th St.) at 7:00 p.m.