

[AuroraHighlands.org](http://AuroraHighlands.org)

**Inside This Issue:**

- ◆ Library summer kickoff and card drive
- ◆ Book review: *A Weed By Any Other Name* by Nancy Gift
- ◆ School News
- ◆ Bike Sharing Program
- ◆ Michael Brown Arrives as County Manager
- ◆ Neighbors Distribute Assistance to Afghanistan
- ◆ Tree Planting Photos
- ◆ Webmaster Needed!

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, June 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

**AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER**

6:30 p.m. Social - come for a mid-week break! 7:00 p.m. Meeting

**Agenda: State Senator Patsy Ticer will update us on the recently concluded Virginia State Legislative Session.**

**Volunteer Webmaster Needed!!**

Our long-time webmaster, John Kriese, is 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](http://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](mailto:AHCA.news@yahoo.com).

**Aurora Hills Library Summer Kickoff & "Get a Card" Drive: June 16, 5 - 7:30 pm**  
by Jenny Lawhorn Sammis

Do you love our local library? Do you want to keep it strong, and keep it right here, where we live? Come out and celebrate with your friends and neighbors on Wednesday, June 16 from 5 - 7:30 p.m. It's the summer kickoff of LIBRARY WEDNESDAYS at Aurora Hills Community Center. NOW is the time to register everyone in your house for a library card. Check

out a book, DVD or CD. Read together. Socialize. Have a nosh. Here's why: It is clear from last year's mammoth effort to save our library that a lot of people in our community really care about Aurora Hills library and community center. However, recent monitoring of our library "door count" indicates that library use is down sharply. County statistics also show

regarding what kinds of services and locations we will have access to in the future, our local library is on the line. WHAT YOU CAN DO: Come on June 16 and bring friends. Help the library by helping yourself... to all it has to offer. In other words, use it or lose it. Get into the habit of visiting the library. Get a library card. Attend story time and reading groups. Request events. Use its online services to reserve a book which you can have sent to Aurora Hills for rapid and easy pick-up. BOTTOM LINE: Please make a point of coming out on June 16. Meet people and hear more about what is going on and what's at stake. It will be fun -- and we will make a point in the process.

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

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that Aurora Hills has the lowest number of library card holders in Arlington. With economic uncertainties and future plans being made

## President's Corner

by Michael Dowell

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the summer weather and putting finishing touches on your summer plans. As you anticipate your week at the beach or in the mountains, don't forget about your summer right here in the neighborhood.

Picture a balmy (ok, hot and humid) late afternoon in the park. You've just finished a game, walked the dog, taken the kids to the playground, or strolled through the new Centennial Grove. And now you wish you could get a drink and a snack, maybe even an ice cream, before going into the cool library to grab a book for the evening.



Virginia Senator Patricia S. Ticer  
Democrat—District 30

Well, you can do just that on Wednesday, June 16 from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the commu-

nity center. We'll provide board games, drinks and snacks. If we get a good turnout, we'll consider doing this every Wednesday this summer! Come on by and celebrate the kick-off to summer!

At this month's AHCA meeting on June 9, State Senator Patsy Ticer will provide an update on the recently concluded Virginia State Legislative Session. Senator Ticer has visited us several times during her 14 years in the Senate and provides a welcome perspective on state issues. I look forward to seeing you there.

## The Neighborhood's on Facebook!

Stay informed and involved in what's going on in the neighborhood. Join the **Aurora Highlands Civic Association** group on Facebook. Get current updates on news and events. Share information and ideas. Post and view photos.

For information mostly pertaining to the Aurora Hills Library, join the Facebook group called **Save Aurora Hills Library**. Learn what you can do to help keep our local library branch open and available as the vibrant center of our community.

## Great Books on the Suggestion Shelf

by Cory Giacobbe

Whenever I walk into the Aurora Hills Library, I always look at the Suggested Reading shelf which is located just inside the door to the right. It is arranged by Katie Thomas every month and follows a theme. This month the theme is gardening, and a book caught my eye on a topic I've been thinking a lot

about lately, and that is weeds. The book, [A Weed by Any Other Name: The Virtues of a Messy Lawn, or Learning to Love the Plants We Don't Plant](#), by Nancy Gift, has an enticing and comforting photo of a typical suburban

lawn, an unkempt mixture of grass, dandelions and clover, just like my lawn.

The author, a weed scientist and conservationist, shares my conviction that weeds have value for their beauty, wildlife benefits and nutritional qualities. In her role as acting Director of the Rachel Carson Institute, Gift is often invited to speak on environmentally responsible lawn

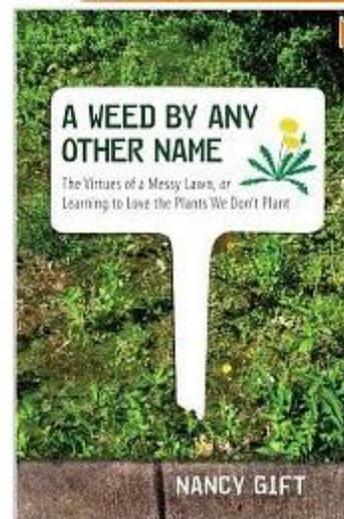
care. She says, "I'll talk, if asked, about the risks of pesticides, the collapse of honeybee colonies, and my sense of Rachel Carson's views on lawn care. But what I love to talk about most is scarlet pimpernel, hawkweed, and violets; about moss, clover and plantain; about dandelion wine

(there is a recipe in the book); and about my daughters picking flowers from our lawn."

This book reads like a letter from a friend. A friend who understands the big picture

and the small pleasures. She confesses her weaknesses and her passions over a cup of tea, and gives you permission to let the lawn go a bit wild and let go of the guilt.

I only wish the book included photos or drawings of the plants that are mentioned. But for that we have the internet. Or another book at the library.



## Potluck and Picnic Food Safety

With the summer potluck and picnic season fully upon us, it wouldn't hurt to review some food safety guidelines to keep ourselves and our friends free from food-borne illness.

A simple and handy little two-page brochure is available online from the Manchester, New Hampshire Health Department. It outlines the most important things to remember when preparing, transporting and storing food for events.

Here are the basics:  
#1 Clean hands and surfaces for food preparation.  
#2 Keep raw meats separate during shopping, stor-

age and preparation.  
#3 Cook meats at the proper temperature.  
#4 Once cooked, keep hot food hot, at least 140°F.  
#5 Keep cold foods cold. Potentially hazardous foods should be kept below 41°F.

Potentially hazardous foods should not be kept in the "danger zone" between 41°F and 140°F for longer than 2 hours.

For more information and tips on food safety, download and print the brochure at <http://www.manchesternh.gov/website/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=AiQiI8UjJG8%3D&tabid=343>

## How do I get a library card?

You can get a library card at any Arlington Public Library location, or apply online at <http://library.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/about/WebReg.htm>. You'll need to bring one form of identification & one proof of residential address on your first visit to the library.

Identification	Proof of Address
Driver's License	Postmarked Mail
State Issued Identification Card	Bank Statement or Checkbook
Passport	Lease Agreement or Mortgage Paperwork
School Identification Card	Current Class Schedule or Report Card
Voter's Registration Card	Voter's Registration Card

## Who is eligible?

You can get a free Arlington Public Library card if you live, work, or attend school in Arlington. The library also has a reciprocal arrangement with the following jurisdictions, meaning their residents can get Arlington library cards and Arlingtonians can get their library cards. Reciprocal Jurisdictions:

- District of Columbia
- Virginia: City of Alexandria, City of Falls Church, Fairfax County, Fauquier County, Loudoun County, Prince William County
- Maryland: Frederick County, Montgomery County, and Prince George County

## At what age can a child get a library card?

Children age two to 13 are eligible for their own library cards. When applying, children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with a valid Arlington library card or another acceptable form of ID. Parents/guardians are responsible for helping children return books on time and arranging to pay for lost or damaged items. The application for a child's library card is online at: [http://library.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/documents/kids\\_card\\_app.pdf](http://library.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/documents/kids_card_app.pdf)



Michael Flack of the Aurora Hills Library displays the two library card sizes that are available.



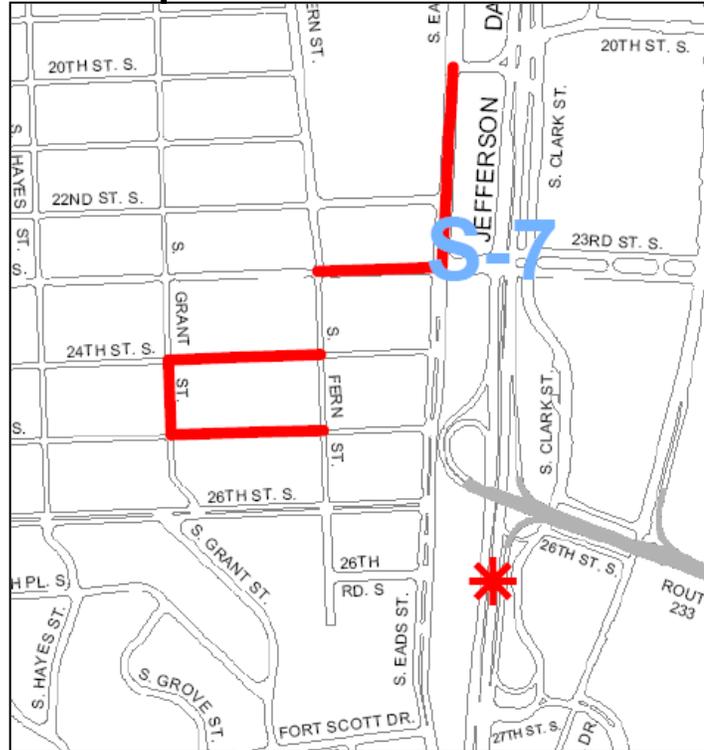
**Two choices!**

**Wallet card or a key fob?**

## Arlington County Street Maintenance - 2010 Milling & Paving Program

Street paving season is upon us, and you may have won the golden ticket! The final 2010 paving map has been posted at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/cpe/pave/EnvironmentalServicesPaving.aspx>. (See the AHCA inset at right - red lines indicate work areas.) Hot asphalt is headed to Restaurant Row, an adjacent stretch of Eads St, the 600 blocks of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> streets, and the 2400 block of Grant. Paving season started in late April and runs through November. The Department of Environmental Services will mail out flyers to the lucky few on the affected streets 4-6 weeks ahead of the work and will then put yellow hang tags on the front doors the day before work starts. The crews will mill off the top layer of old asphalt and then put down a 2-3 inch layer of hot-mix asphalt. The work will take about two weeks.

Comments or concerns?  
Contact Francis Soulamany, the County Project Manager at 703.228.7822 or by email [fsoulamany@arlingtonva.us](mailto:fsoulamany@arlingtonva.us)



### How to Join the Neighborhood Listserv:

For bulletins of neighborhood interest, ask to join the Yahoo group 4D-A. The group is administered by Alice Andors of AHCA. Copy the address below into your browser. Once at the page, click on the blue rectangle marked "Join This Group!"

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/4D-A/>

**How to Join Arlington Alert:** Arlington Alert is an alert system that allows the County to contact you during an emergency by sending text messages to your e-mail or cell phone. Copy the address below into your browser. Once at the page, click on the blue rectangle marked "Click here to register!"

<http://www.arlingtonalert.com/index.php?CCheck=1>

### MT Vernon Baptist Church

You are invited to visit us at:

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## Bike Sharing Coming to the Neighborhood

by Nick Giacobbe

At a Bike to Work day event in Rosslyn on May 21, Arlington County Board Chair Jay Fisetto announced that Arlington will be joining Washington, DC's bike sharing program. The first Arlington bike sharing stations will be located in the Pentagon City and Crystal City areas. Mr. Fisetto said "it will be terrific for residents and visitors to be able to pick up a bike in DC and drop it off in Arlington, and vice versa."

The expansion follows on the successful DC Smart-Bike program and plans to have 1,100 bikes in place at 114 locations by the Fall of 2010. There's a contest underway to name the new system, which will use the "Bixi" bicycle with 3 speeds, internal hub gears, fenders, chain guard, lights,

and a front rack. This system has been running in Montreal since 2009 and will be arriving soon in Minneapolis, Melbourne, and London. The stations are solar powered and use wireless technology to allow for easy installation and adjustments.

There will be three levels of memberships: an annual membership for \$80; a monthly membership for \$30; and a one-day membership for \$5. All of these memberships allow for an unlimited number of rentals. After the first 30 minutes of free use, members will be charged a usage fee for each additional increment of 30 minutes.

For more on bike sharing or biking in Arlington, visit [www.BikeArlington.com](http://www.BikeArlington.com).



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## Crystal Farms Farmers Market Now Open Tuesdays 4 - 7 p.m.

Within easy walking, biking and driving distance is our local farmers' market, Crystal Farms, a delectable outdoor repast, open every Tuesday this summer from 3-7 p.m. along Crystal Drive from the 18th Street metro to 20th Street. Along with fresh, local seasonal fruits and vegetables, you'll also find addictive fresh salsa, local artisan cheeses, home-made jams, bison steak jerky, cheese snacks, cut flowers, croissants and bread, and flower and herb plants for your garden, not to mention compost. Vendors are giving away cool recycled, re-usable grocery bags with every purchase of \$10 or greater.

For a full list of vendors visit [www.freshfarmmarkets.org/markets/crystal\\_city.html](http://www.freshfarmmarkets.org/markets/crystal_city.html). In season now: Strawberries and rhubarb plus lots of lettuce, radishes, sugar snap peas, and spring onions. More produce in June and July.



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## Michael Brown Arrives as County Manager

by Nick Giacobbe

Following the announcement of a Fall 2009 retirement by former County Manager Ron Carlee, the County Board launched a nation-wide search for a new County Manager. The Board was pleased to announce the selection of Michael Brown, who

**...we should be able to achieve a balance in which the neighborhoods are safe, without traffic, noise, and other intrusions as a result of development.**

took over as Arlington's tenth County Manager on May 17.

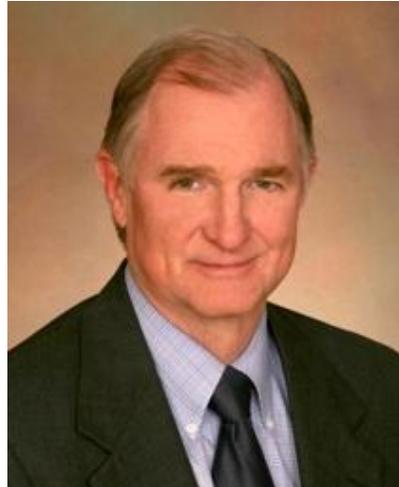
A native of Woodbridge who studied at the University of Virginia, Mr. Brown has been serving as the City Manager in Savannah, Georgia, for the past 15 years. This is the first time in nearly 30 years that the County Board has hired an outsider for the top job and the fresh perspective will be valuable as the County navigates these tough economic times. Mr. Brown brings many important skills to Arlington since Savannah faces many of

the same challenges as it seeks to maintain and improve the quality of life for its residents.

In his role as County Manager, Mr. Brown hopes to use his time and talent to contribute to and improve Arlington's quality of life as a community that is environmentally oriented. He recognizes the challenges we face in meeting the requirements of economic growth and the needs of the neighborhoods. He says we should be able to achieve a balance in which the neighborhoods are safe, without traffic, noise, and other intrusions as a result of development. Getting there will require lots of patience, learning about each

neighborhood's history and listening to their challenges; there really is no way to short circuit

the process. Mr. Brown's goal is to ensure that he maintains open communication and engagement with the various stakeholders in the community. As he noted at the Civic Federation meeting on June 1, "great ideas can come from the most unexpected places."



We welcome Mr. Brown to Arlington, look forward to introducing him to our corner of the County and wish him well in his tenure as County Manager.

## Survey Results - Aurora Hills Community Center

by Cara Tenuta

The online survey on activities residents would like to see at Aurora Hills Community Center is done and the results have been tabulated. Over 200 residents completed the survey. A summary of the top picks of respondents is shown below.

1. Classes residents would utilize: Yoga, Art, Gardening.
2. Activities for Children: Preschool 2-4 yrs, Homework Support 5-10 yrs, Reading 2-4 yrs.
3. Youth (ages 11 to 14) activities: Summer Recreation & Camps, Language Workshops, Enhanced Science Classes.

4. Teen and Adult activities: Lectures and Comedy Shows, Home Energy Conservation Workshops, Book Reviews.

5. Community Groups and Clubs: Community Service, Parenting.
6. Entertainment Activities: Film Screenings, Theater Performances, Family Bingo, Choral Events, Family Scrabble.
7. Activities Suggested By Respondents: Cooking Classes, Rent the Space for personal event use, Garden Club.

By the way, you can rent the rooms at the Aurora Hills Community Center. Information can be found at:

[www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/facilities/ParksRecreationScriptsFacilitiesRentals.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/facilities/ParksRecreationScriptsFacilitiesRentals.aspx)

Respondents were asked to answer for their family/household and represent 348 adults and 167 children.

The report on the survey will be available on the AHCA web site ([www.aurorahighlands.org](http://www.aurorahighlands.org)) as soon as we find a new webmaster to support the site.

# Aurora Highlands Centennial Grove



All photos by Maya Giacobbe. To see more photos visit the Facebook photo album at:  
<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=149166&id=679614297&l=8002f79b91>

## School News

Compiled and Edited  
by Kathie Laird of ARCA and Sue Super of AHCA

All of our school news this month comes from Wakefield High School.

**Doris Jackson**, acclaimed Wakefield High School principal, is retiring. A search is underway for her successor.

**The Wakefield Education Foundation** has just announced this year's awards. A graduating senior in our neighborhood was awarded the millionth dollar that the Wakefield Foundation has given to college-bound graduates. The Foundation deeply appreciates any and all donations that come from our community.

There is optimism that **Wakefield's rebuilding** will start in 2011. The official votes are scheduled for June, but with the Arlington County Board's May 12 press release already expressing their support for fast-tracking the rebuilding of Wakefield, there's good reason for optimism that construction will be under way next year.

The Arlington School Board is set to take the official vote June 3 on the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2011-2016, which includes funding in the proposed 2010 school bond to start construction in July 2011 on the new Wakefield.

The School Board's CIP meets the County Board's requirements that the ratio of debt service stay below 10% of total expenditures (the ratio ranges from 7.93% to 9.55% over the 6 years of the CIP). At an average growth of 4.6% for 6 years, the CIP is also below the County Board's limit of 6.2% growth.

The CIP goes to the Arlington County Board for approval, with the vote set for June 12. The \$107,238,000 school bond would then be on the ballot for Arlington voters on Tuesday, November 2. Most of the bond funds (some \$104.6 million) would go toward Wakefield's construction, with the rest for cabling, roofing, and HVAC projects.

Earlier this spring, both the Aurora Highlands Civic Association and Arlington Ridge Civic Association took positions of support for Wakefield's rebuilding and funding for the construction in the 2010 school bond. Such early and strong expressions of support from organizations and individuals throughout the Wakefield community, combined with favorable economic factors and support for the design plans by numerous county committees, helped influence the County Board's willingness to move ahead on the project. Arlingtonians have been very supportive of school bonds to fund improvements for the county's schools over the last two decades. With voters' support again on November 2, Wakefield's rebuilding will be assured.

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# Neighbors Help Distribute Assistance for Our Troops in Afghanistan

by Gail Fleming and Cheryl Mendonsa

Our neighbor and former Aurora Highlands Civic Association President Les Garrison is currently serving in Afghanistan with his son Luke, though they are not located in the same area.

The Aurora Highlands Civic Association is participating in a neighborhood-wide ongoing effort to assist American troops in Afghanistan with care packages from home. We have two donation drop off sites: Harris Hall at Calvary United Methodist Church (corner of 23rd & Grant Streets) and Aurora Hills Library (look for the decorated box clearly marked for donations). AHCA will handle the packing of boxes and APO postage for shipment to Les and Luke Garrison (father and son). Cheryl Mendonsa and Gail Fleming are getting the project up and running, but welcome a volunteer who would take over coordination of the project. They are also looking for volunteers who are willing to help pack boxes once or twice a month in the Community Center. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact Cheryl at 703-920-2547 or Gail at [gafleming@verizon.net](mailto:gafleming@verizon.net) (type Afghanistan in the subject line).



Below is an excerpt from Les's latest e-mail:

"The other day I received a box from a group in Flint, Michigan who sends stuff for the soldiers and Marines. One of our young sergeants remarked that I got a lot of stuff, and she wished she

had someone Stateside who sent stuff to her. I immediately handed her a box and told her that the good people of the US wanted her to know that they appreciate her and love her. Her mood changed 100%. She said, Wow! People really do care about us?! I hand stuff to soldiers all of the time... or I forward them to our remote Combat Outposts (COPs) where our soldiers are TRULY on the frontier of freedom."

**A REQUEST FROM LES:** Please get a RED shirt and wear it on Fridays to show support for the troops. We have been at war since 2001.

These men and women need to know that we appreciate them.

<http://www.redshirtfridays.org/>

Luke requested paperback books, magazines and Tums for his unit. We sent him these items in a care package on May 28. We'll mail a package to Les by June 15, so drop off donations at either location before then, or bring your donations to the AHCA meeting on June 9. You may also send cards or notes, if you wish.

We'll never know the full effect our actions have on the troops who receive them or the Afghan citizens who receive items from these troops. But even our smallest act of goodwill will make a difference.

## What to send the troops?

Foot powder  
Toiletries of all kinds (no aerosols)

Batteries (AA, AAA, D, 9V, C)  
Sharpie permanent markers  
550 nylon cord  
Magazines (motorcycle, fitness, guns, hunting, etc.)

Tape (duct, packing, strapping)  
Laser pointers, small  
Sunblock  
Small flashlights  
Button hole dangly flashlights  
Use your imagination

## Items for soldiers and Marines to give to Afghans:

Children's multiple vitamins (No pig shapes) (Parents are glad their kids get the multivitamins, even if the

kids aren't. These kids NEED vitamins.)

Kites and kite making materials, including sticks and tissue paper and such. (Adults, read [The Kite Runner](#))

Frisbees

Soccer Balls

Soccer ball pumps and needles (balls are shipped deflated)

Volley Balls & volley ball sets (The Afghans are addicted to volley ball and beat the pants off of a lot of Americans.)

School supplies

Pens (Luke says kids love pens and they are easy to carry and pass out)

Winter clothes (We have plenty of blankets.)

Stuffed animals (No pigs.)

Toys in general



## Update from the Water Pollution Control Plant

After lots of community input, the team has completed the landscape plan which will be the final phase of plant's re-construction. The landscape architects, Lee and Associates, will now complete work on the construction documents and the County will put the project out for bid. The schedule still holds. The project goes for final County Board approval in September and installation will begin in the Fall of 2010.

Neighbors might have noticed increased odors from the plant during the month of May, due to technical failures. The scum concentrators failed, which allowed release of more odor than the plant usually allows. The problem should be fixed by the time you are reading this.

## Upcoming Events

**Pentagon Row Summer Concerts**  
**Thursdays, 7 - 9 p.m. starting June 3**  
This is the 8th annual Rock at the Row Summer Concert Series. For schedule, visit <http://www.pentagonrow.com/>

**Green Living Home and Garden Tour**  
**Sunday, June 6, 1 - 5 p.m.**  
A neighbor on 25th St. South is featured on the tour this year. Tour local green homes and environmentally friendly gardens. Talk with local residents about their experience greening their homes and making their yards more watershed-friendly, and pick up resources with ideas for your own yard and home. For self-guided tour locations visit [http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/garden\\_tour10.pdf](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/garden_tour10.pdf)

**Crystal Screen: Star Trek**  
**Mondays at sundown starting June 7**  
Join the Crystal City BID for 11 weeks of Star Trek! On Monday nights from June 7 - August 16, Crystal City will take a trip out

of this galaxy with Captain Kirk and the Enterprise. Each night will also have special giveaways, sponsors, and other activities. Screenings are at 18th and South Bell Streets, across from Crystal City Metro Station. For full schedule visit <http://www.crystalcity.org/do/crystal-screen-star-trek>

**Library Kickoff to Summer**  
**Wednesday, June 16, 5 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Bring your family, friends and neighbors to the library on Wednesdays for games, snacks and drinks. Show your support for the library by registering for a library card and checking out some books. Check it out! See you there!

**Tree Walk**  
**Sunday, June 20, 3 - 4 p.m.**  
Join Tree Steward volunteers for a walk through our neighborhood to learn about trees. Meet in front of Aurora Hills library. Details on page 12.



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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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in.....

Library     Schools     Parks & Rec     Streets and Lights     Kids     Pets

Serving on an AHCA committee

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## Tree Talk: Restoring Our Community's Native Tree Canopy

by Cory Giacobbe

### Aurora Highlands Centennial Grove

Our neighborhood is celebrating the centennial of its founding in 1910. We were looking for a way to commemorate the anniversary and make a difference in our neighborhood. During one of our planning meetings, some neighbors developed the idea of a Centennial Grove and found lots of community support as the word spread. We approached the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) to help develop a location and we were pointed to the core of Virginia Highlands Park, an eyesore of scrubby trees, overgrown weeds and a mass of exotic invasives. We organized the work over two Saturdays in May; on the first Saturday PRCR delivered a dumpster and some tools for the volunteers who scoured through the hillside removing the invasives. On the second Saturday another group of volunteers descended, filling up a second dumpster (and a pile large enough beside it for a third), and planting 100 native trees that had been delivered by the County. It was a fantastic example of what a dedicated group of volunteers can do with just a little bit of direction from the County staff. We are excited about working with PRCR in the future to maintain, monitor and enhance the Centennial Grove. Take a stroll through the Centennial Grove next time you are in Virginia Highlands Park; there are lots of proud neighbors who got their hands dirty to help make it happen.

### County chooses natives for Sewage Treatment Plant

Kudos to Lee and Associates, who just wrapped up the landscape plan for the Water Pollution Control Plant. The plan uses all native plants with the exception of Zelkova, which was the only variety/specimen that met the tough conditions for one area. *Zelkova serrata* or Japanese Zelkova is a hardy tree that is in the same family as the American Elm. It is resistant to Dutch Elm disease and Elm leaf beetle,



but not immune to them. It is particularly tolerant of urban street and parking lot conditions. The foliage is deep green and resembles the elm leaf. Leaves turn orange, red or bronze in the fall.

### Neighborhood Tree Walk

Free neighborhood walk and talk on all things trees - how to enjoy your trees and when to worry. Sunday, June 20 at 3 p.m. Tree Stewards of Arlington & Alexandria invite you to a free 60-minute easy walk and talk on all things trees. We'll show you examples of tree care in the neighborhood and discuss the following questions: What trees are appropriate for planting near power lines? How can trees help reduce my air conditioning and heating costs? How close to my house or street can I plant my tree? Will tree roots damage my home's foundation? Do I need to mulch, and how much is the right amount? Should I choose a native or non-native tree? How much water do newly planted trees and established mature trees need? Tree Steward volunteers will be available at the event to answer your questions. Meet in front of the Aurora Hills Library at the corner of South Hayes and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets.

### Tree Care

If you've planted a tree within the last two years, congratulations! You're helping to make our neighborhood more beautiful, more valuable and more ecological. The first two years are critical for the long-term survival of the tree. Please monitor the tree and the weather to make sure the tree gets 10 gallons of water per week. Keep two to three inches deep of mulch around the base of the tree to keep it moist and nourished, and to protect it from mower damage. Lastly, keep mulch away from the tree trunk. Mulch can lead to rotting of the trunk by holding moisture and bugs. Use your hands to move the mulch about 3 inches away from the trunk. The trunk should be bare down to the root flare at the surface of the soil.

## Aurora Highlands Civic Association

### Association Officers & Committee Chairs

President – Michael Dowell  
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Treasurer / Membership - Gail Fleming  
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Corresponding Secretary – Jenny Lawhorn  
AHCA Rep. to Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee: Chris Mann  
AHCA Rep. to Crystal City Business Improvement District (CCBID): Cheryl Mendonsa  
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Items for the Newsletter: Send items in e-mail messages (not attachments) to the newsletter editor, Cory Giacobbe: AHCA.news@yahoo.com

For past issues of the newsletter, bylaws, and neighborhood boundaries and more, visit

[AuroraHighlands.org](http://AuroraHighlands.org)

P.O. Box 25201 - Arlington, VA 22202

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"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.