

Aurora Highlands

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010

AURORA HIGHLANDS CENTENNIAL
1910—2010

AuroraHighlands.org

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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, OCT. 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER
6:30 p.m. Social~~~7:00 pm Meeting

Agenda

- **Candidates' Night**
Arlington County Board and School Board

Candidates' Night at October Joint Meeting

At this month's meeting, we will host a joint Candidates' Night with the Arlington Ridge Civic Association. In past years, this has always been a lively evening and a great opportunity to discuss our neighborhood issues with the candidates. We have confirmations that all of the candidates for the County Board and School Board will be joining us.

County Board Candidates:

J. Kevin Chisholm (G)
Mark D. Kelly (R)
Christopher Zimmerman (D), incumbent

School Board Candidates:

Sally M. Baird (D), incumbent
Miriam A. Gennari (G)

Following is the format for the evening:

- Each candidate will be invited to present a 3-minute opening statement.
 - Following the opening statements, we will have a question and answer period. Questions will be issue-focused, non-partisan, and limited to 30 seconds. Each candidate will have up to 90 seconds to respond to the question.
 - The questions will include a set of prepared questions from AHCA and ARCA, followed by individual member questions, selected at random.
 - For the county board panel, we expect to have time for about 11 questions. For the school board panel, we expect to have time for about 7 questions.
- Each candidate will be invited to present a 1-minute closing statement.

We need your help to compile the list of prepared questions for the candidates. Please forward your questions (with designation for "county board" or "school board") to Nick Giacobbe at candidate.questions@yahoo.com so that we may prepare the list based upon the most frequently requested topics. If your question is not included in the prepared list, you will also have an opportunity to ask it during the open question period.

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President's Corner

by Michael Dowell

We're thrilled to have local residents running for office in this year's Arlington County election. Kevin Chisholm, Miriam Gennari and Mark Kelly are all from the ARCA/AHCA neighborhoods. Regardless of whom you vote for, be proud that our community is being well represented. Come to the **Candidates' Night on October 13** in the Aurora Hills Community Center to hear what all the candidates have to say.

Don't forget that the last shipment is headed to the Garrisons in Iraq and Afghanistan soon. Batteries and foot powder are some of the essentials that help our soldiers out. The dona-

tion box is in the Aurora Hills library.

Note: we've had to reschedule the Boo-Ha-Ha because the Aurora Hills Community Center is booked to support the Marine Corps Marathon on Halloween Day. **So, AHCA will have the 3rd annual Boo-Ha-Ha on Friday, October 29, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the tennis and basketball courts in Virginia Highlands Park!** And we'll have a rain plan this year, so come rain or shine!



Decorations are already under way at our favorite **haunted Halloween house!** Can you guess where?



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.

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Weekly services:

11 a.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Wednesday

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>

Wakefield High School Educator Named 2011 Virginia Region IV Teacher of the Year

Arlington County Public Schools Press Release:
Sept. 15, 2010

The Virginia Department of Education announced that Wakefield High School teacher Colette Fraley has been named 2011 Region IV Teacher of the Year. Fraley learned of the honor when Superintendent Dr. Pat Murphy and other APS officials made a surprise visit to her fourth period U.S. Government class.



educator in Arlington, is the third Arlington Teacher of the Year since 2000 to represent Region IV which includes Arlington, Clarke, Culpepper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock Shenandoah, and Warren Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park and Winchester. Previous Arlington teachers named as Region IV honorees include

Laurie Sullivan (2004) and Robin Liten-Tejada (2002).

Fraley's selection as the Region IV Teacher of the Year was based on a portfolio highlighting her professional accomplishments, educational philosophy and community activities.

The eight teachers were selected from among candidates nominated by their school divisions. A panel, including representatives of professional and educational associations, the business community and the 2010 Virginia Teacher of the Year reviewed the portfolios and selected the eight regional teachers of the year.

The 2011 Virginia Teacher of the Year will be announced at a banquet on Friday, October 15 in Glen Allen, Va. The state honoree will go on to represent the Commonwealth in the National Teacher of the Year selection process.

To read more about Fraley's background, visit www.apsva.us/fraleytoy.

[Click here](#) for video of the announcement.

In addition to the surprise announcement, Fraley received letters from Governor Robert F. McDonnell and Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Patricia I. Wright, and a congratulatory certificate from the Virginia Department of Education.

Fraley, in her 10th year as an

Oakridge Elementary School Needs Tutors

Oakridge Elementary School needs more tutors and your help is requested.

Oakridge will begin the neighborhood volunteer tutoring program with an orientation at the school library Tuesday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m.

The tutoring and homework club starts on Tuesday, October 19 at 3:30 p.m.

In its 13th year, the program continues to make a difference in the lives of children in your community.

Tutors work with a 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader in reading, math, and homework Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Volunteers will receive training, be provided with appropriate materials, and enjoy support and access to resources to ensure student and tutor success.

For more information about this most rewarding program please contact:

- **Tom Martin, 703-521-5005, e-mail tom_martin542@hotmail.com**

- **Bob Perkins, 571-216-5098 e-mail lightman329@yahoo.com or**

- **Casey Dolan, Oakridge tutor coordinator, 703-228-5840**



You can order your own Keep Kids Alive yard sign for \$15 plus shipping and handling from <http://www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org/index.html>

AHCA Election at November Meeting

By Nick Giacobbe

We will have an election for AHCA leadership at the November meeting. As we discussed at the September meeting, this would usually be a topic for the October meeting, but it will be consumed by our Candidates' Night program.

Most of the current officers have agreed to stay for another year, and there are always opportunities for members of the community to get involved and play a more active role in the Association through the various committees. Nominations will be accepted from the floor for any of the offices listed below.

The current slate is:

President - Michael Dowell

Vice President - Nicholas Giacobbe

2nd Vice President - Cara Tenuta

Treasurer - Vacant

Business Secretary - Cory Giacobbe

Corresponding Secretary - Jenny Lawhorn

Thanks to Gail Fleming for all her work as Treasurer for the past couple of years. She's done a great job keeping our financial house in order which allowed us to put on many excellent programs.

Helicopter Community Forum

by Brent Spence

My daughter's first word was 'cop-cop.' They rattle our windows and assault our ears. Sharing our skies with planes and birds, helicopters are frequent travelers through the airspace above our homes. At the Helicopter Forum presented by the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG), we were treated to

an onslaught of rules that attempt to keep rotary wing and fixed wing at safe distances from each other, but there was little to keep them at safe distances from our communities down below. AHCA will need to discuss options and actions for dealing with the traffic thru our airspace.

Aurora Hills Playgroup Seeks New Members

The Aurora Hills Playgroup, a cooperative founded more than 20 years ago, has immediate openings for new members. We are a playgroup run by parents – up to 25 families with children from walkers to age 3 ½, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. The playgroup is open to families living in the 22202 zip code. We meet three mornings a week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., with a snack and toys provided – and of course lots of playmates with occasional special guests and crafts.

The playgroup meets at Nelly Custis Park or at Calvary UMC's basement during off-weather days. If you are interested in joining now or would like to hold a spot on the wait list, please contact us for more information.

Jenny Lawhorn Sammis, 703-683-0727

jennylawhorn@comcast.net, president

Jeannie Andress, ohmathome@aol.com, treasurer and membership.

Our sponsors support the activities of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association



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Join Us in the Aurora Highlands Civic Association

By Gail Fleming

Don't we live in a great community?

We can walk to the library, several parks, Metro, restaurants, churches, shopping, post office... and for longer trips, we have bikes and Zipcars available in convenient locations around the neighborhood. We have diversity—ethnic, racial, age. Some neighbors get together for annual block parties or holiday parties. Others form walking groups to keep in shape together. And, as my little cocker spaniel can attest, we're a dog-friendly community.

No community stays great without a little effort. One easy way that you can help to make this an even better place to live is to get involved in the civic association. There are unlimited ways to use your skills and interests to make a difference. Just a few:

- Join neighbors in seasonal tree-planting activities to improve the neighborhood tree canopy;

- Help to organize special programs such as a bike ride or a walk through the neighborhood to identify historical or significant landmarks;
- Help to set up the annual Halloween party in the park (Boo Ha Ha), build a haunted house, judge the costumes;
- Prefer an indoor activity? This past summer, a handful of volunteers developed and conducted "Passport to Summer," a summer reading program, in the Community Center. Want to help plan a follow-up program, maybe monthly potluck and movie nights? Got a better idea?
- Want tai chi classes or a singles social hour in the evening or on the weekend? Maybe a gardening discussion group? The civic association can help get those programs, and any others you have in mind, off the ground;
- Our neighborhood was greatly affected by the response to 9-11. Want to interview residents to get their recollections of what the day meant to

them? We can use their remembrances in a program to commemorate the 10th anniversary in 2011;

- Work with civic association officers and committee chairs to review plans for Crystal City development to try to find ways to mitigate the impact of traffic and construction on our quiet streets. Or help to update our Neighborhood Conservation Plan that is used by the County to implement capital improvements (sidewalks, lights, etc.) that are the priorities of residents.

The possibilities are endless. Your contribution to keeping our community great can be as creative as you are. But start now. Join AHCA - an envelope is in this newsletter or online at www.aurorahighlands.org.

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Arlington County Press Release on Crystal City Plan: County Board Adopts Long Range Vision, Actions for Remaking Crystal City's Public Realm

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, September 29, 2010

- *Preserving the best of Crystal City*
- *Preparing for BRAC impact*
- *Committing to construction of a streetcar line*
- *Transforming streets, public open spaces*
- *Public open space within three-minute walk of every building*
- *Citizen Review Council established to monitor progress on plan goals*

ARLINGTON, VA – The Arlington County Board today approved the Crystal City Sector Plan, a blueprint for revitalizing Crystal City in the post-BRAC era. The vote followed extensive work with the community and other stakeholders in the area. The plan will transition the area to a more lively, complete, urban community with a thorough mix of uses, richer transit options, better streets, more functional public open spaces, and community and neighborhood-oriented services.

"Adoption of this plan reflects the extraordinary capacity and spirit of Arlington," said Board Chairman Jay Fiset. "BRAC could have devastated this neighborhood. Instead, we are using it as an opportunity to re-imagine a thriving community. This plan came together after extensive staff outreach and direct engagement between the Board and the local residents and businesses. This is a landmark achievement that provides the vision and the roadmap to ensure an exciting future for Crystal City." The 40-year, long-range plan is based on the recommendations developed with the Board-appointed Crystal City Planning Task Force. The County initiated the planning effort in response to the anticipated impact of the Base Realignment and Closure process, which will hit Crystal City harder than any place in the nation -- producing 3.2 million square feet of office vacancies, and costing 13,000 jobs. The proposal envisions Crystal City as a world-class place for people to live, work and play in a neighborhood bustling with activity 18 hours a day. The plan calls for a better balance of residents and workers in Crystal City -- with 26,000 residents and 56,000 jobs by 2050. Residents will have access to more and better open space linked by a more pedestrian-friendly, complete urban street network.

Work with the Community:
Board members worked with community

leadership in Crystal City and the nearby neighborhoods of Aurora Highlands and Arlington Ridge to craft adjustments before adopting the plan late on September 28. A new Crystal City Citizen Review Council was created to monitor the implementation of the plan, including potential traffic impacts.

Along with the plan, the Board adopted a separate "guidance" document, which establishes the Citizen Review Council and clarifies key priorities, including:

- Boosting the goals for open space within Crystal City
- Enhancing the commitment to affordable housing, calling for 2000 units within the sector (800 units beyond the proposed plan)
- Committing to an aggressive timetable for the transportation infrastructure program and construction of the streetcar line

Highlights of the Crystal City Sector Plan include:

- Affirmation of a **Route 1 Corridor Streetcar** line, initially approved by the Board in 2008, to provide frequent, high-capacity transit service. The line will run from the Pentagon City Metrorail station through Crystal City to Potomac Yards - connecting to the planned Columbia Pike line at Pentagon City, and potentially extending into Alexandria - with a target for operation in 2017.
- Adding density by **constructing taller buildings in strategic areas**, particularly east of Jefferson Davis Highway; the tallest buildings could top out around 300 feet. Nearly 65 new or redeveloped buildings are envisioned by 2050.
- Building up to **7,500 new homes**, including significantly more affordable housing than exists today, to ensure a better balance of commercial and residential development and economic diversity.
- **Transforming Jefferson Davis Highway into an urban boulevard** that links Crystal City's east and west neighborhoods
- Creating **ground level retail stores** that support vibrant streetscape environments, while maintaining the underground network of pedestrian corridors to extend the reach of transit.
- **Improving the design and quality of open space**, distributing parks and plazas throughout the neighborhood and making them more accessible and functional.
- Creating a **center park** to help define Crystal City's civic identity.

- **Realigning segments of Clark/Bell Street** and establishing two-way travel on nearly all Crystal City streets.
- **Encouraging sustainable design** and high-quality architecture.
- Creating a **more pedestrian-friendly and complete urban street network**.
- Improving **public transportation**.
- **Leaving options open to incorporate future recommendations from the developing Community Energy Plan specific to Crystal City**

Today, Crystal City has about 25 million square feet of mixed use development, much of which was designed for automobiles, not people. The Sector Plan envisions continuing some of the more recent improvements to cater to the needs and interests of people, with attractive streetscape environments, attractive and inviting ground floor retail, and accessible public open spaces that are programmed to accommodate a variety of activities.

For more information, read the Board report, Item # 58 on the [agenda](#) for the September 28 Board meeting.

Financing

The proposed plan envisions about \$207 million in public infrastructure improvements in streets, transit and public open spaces over the next 20 years. These improvements will benefit the Crystal City, Potomac Yard and Pentagon City areas. The County's recently adopted FY 2011 – 2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes approximately \$91 million toward these investments, using a combination of existing and new funding sources. At its September 2010 meeting, the County Board approved advertising the establishment of a tax increment financing (TIF) fund to provide funding for infrastructure. TIF is a mechanism frequently used to support development / redevelopment projects by capturing the projected increase in property tax revenues to be created by the development or development area and investing those funds in improvements associated with the project. The County Board will consider adoption of the TIF at their October 2010 meeting. [Click here](#) and scroll down to Item #58 D to read the Board report.

The Board vote on the plan was unanimous.

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Communications/PressReleases/page78384.aspx>

Activities and Events

Home Maintenance Workshop
Saturday, October 16, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 816 S. Walter Reed Drive
(Next to the library)

Come get great tips on how to make minor home repairs and your home more energy efficient! Admission is FREE! Four FREE Classes: (Limited space - You may choose only one class, first-come, first-served)

- Plumbing – Electric – Heating & A/C – Home Energy Saving Workshop
- Free Home Maintenance information
- Free Raffle Prizes

For more Information, call
 703-228-3765

Four Mile Run Farmers and Artisans Market

Sundays, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. through October

Just across the bridge at 4109 Mount Vernon Avenue in Arlandria, a nice market for fruit, vegetables, meats, cheeses, tamales, salteñas and crafts. See: <http://www.4mrmarket.org/>

Morning Meditation in the Water Park,
1750 Crystal Drive
Mondays at 7:00 a.m.

Every Monday morning at 7:00 a.m. Sport & Health leads a 1-hour workout involving easy stretching and meditation. Classes take place in the Crystal City Water Park located near 1750 Crystal Drive. The class is cancelled on Oct. 11 due to the holiday but continues on Oct. 18 (canceled in the event of inclement weather).

Crystal Farms Farmers Market
Tuesdays, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Crystal Drive from 18th to 20th Sts.

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.

Outdoor Zumba in the Courtyard at 2345 Crystal Drive

Wednesdays, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Join the Crystal City BID, Sport and Health fitness club, and Vornado/Charles E. Smith for free Zumba in the courtyard of 2345 Crystal Drive. Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program that will blow you away. Come out and join the party! Classes continue in October (canceled in the case of inclement weather).



Pumpkins and Halloween decorations for sale in front of Hume school! Photo by Maya Giacobbe

King Arthur at Synetic Theater
Sept. 30 to October 31

Synetic's inaugural season in Crystal City will kickoff at the end of September 2010 with a new, wordless epic – *King Arthur*, Directed by Paata Tsikurishvili. Drawing from a rich pool of centuries-old myths and legends and starring Ben Cunis (most recently seen as Antony in *Antony and Cleopatra*) in the title role, *King Arthur* will weave together mystery, magic, heroes, and romance in a new adaptation that will see the legend reborn in Synetic's signature mixture of movement, music, combat and drama.

Fire Department Open House

Saturday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Annual Arlington Fire Department Open House, including our own Fire Station Number 5.

Artisphere Grand Opening

Sunday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington

10/10/10 at 10:00 a.m. is the date of the Grand Opening of the Artisphere, Arlington County's new cultural center in Rosslyn, which combines the newly renovated former Newseum space with the existing Spectrum Theatre next door. There will be an open house of the new 62,000-square-foot cultural campus with free events all day. For details visit <http://www.arlingtonarts.org/venues/Artisphere.aspx>.

Joint AHCA/ARCA

Candidates' Night

Wednesday October 13 at 7:00 p.m. See page 1.

AHCA's 3rd annual Boo-Ha-Ha, Friday, October 29, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the tennis and basketball courts in Virginia Highlands Park.

Marine Corps Marathon

Sunday, Oct. 31

The 35th Annual Marine Corps Marathon will once again run through Crystal City. As part of the festivities, the Crystal City BID is having another kid-tacular street festival featuring activities

from the National Children's Museum, moon bounces, face painters, henna, great music, and a special visit from the Cookie Monster and Elmo from Sesame Street. The festival runs from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the intersection of 18th and Crystal Drive.

Host a Block Party!

Choose a date, send flyers to your neighbors and start planning the menu and activities for all ages. You'll need to go to the County at least 3 days in advance for a permit and those orange cones to block the street. The cost will vary depending on how many cones you need, but it will be around \$60. There are a few rules but it's worth it. Start by visiting <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/parking/EnvironmentalServicesHb2.aspx>

Service and Worship Unites Local Church Faithful

By Emily Hellewell

If you happen to be driving by the old Hume School/Arlington Historical Society Museum on Saturday, October 16, you might notice a group of 20-somethings busy pulling weeds and cleaning the grounds. You might also notice that for doing yard work, they sure look like they are having a good time.

Between the manual labor of laying mulch and planting, they are probably catching up on each other's lives, joking around and meeting new friends. These are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints living in Aurora Highlands who can often be seen contributing to neighborhood service projects—including the centennial tree planting last Spring in Aurora Highlands Park—and, since 2006, they have been gathering with their friends and neighbors twice a year to pitch in and beautify the space

degrees or starting in their first job out of college. Even after they marry and have families, the quality of life afforded by this neighborhood dotted with parks, accessible by trails, and

designed for Sunday School and weekday-evening Bible study classes.

This building will be the primary meetinghouse for three local congregations of single members to worship and associate with friends living in their own neighborhood. Currently, Mormons living in Aurora Highlands have to drive up to 12 miles away to attend services in a meetinghouse on the George Washington Parkway near Mount Vernon.

Meetinghouses like this one are different from the Mormon Temple located just off the 495 Beltway in Kensington, MD. Mormon Temples are for members of the Church in good standing to enter for worship and to practice their faith. Church meetinghouses are open to anyone—member or not—to come in and attend weekly Sunday services.

Next spring, after the building is complete, the Church is planning to hold a Saturday open house so everyone in the neighborhood can come and take a glimpse inside. Church members will be working with community leaders to plan a service project in the neighborhood as part of the open house festivities.



Aurora Highlands residents--and members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints--Joni Renick, Andrew Dale and Kellee Koenig gather to catch up, share a funny story and enjoy each other's company.

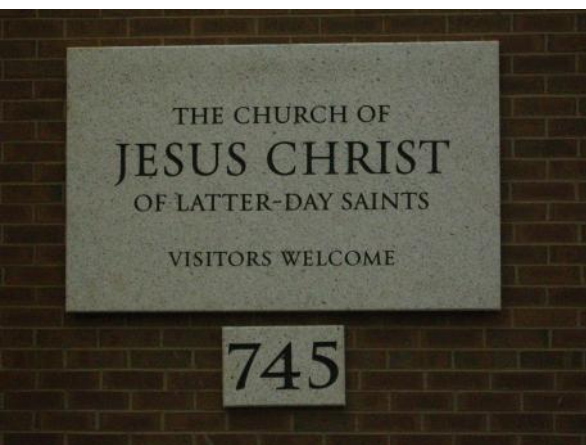
convenient shopping and restaurants keeps these Latter-day Saints, also known as Mormons, living in this community.

Members of the Church in the neighborhood attend one of three congregations, called wards: two wards minister to single Church members and the other congregation is for anyone, especially families.

Approximately two years ago the Church purchased an office building located on 23rd Street between Grant and Hayes and currently undergoing a complete

interior renovation.

When the remodeling of the three-story building is complete, expected sometime in February 2011, it will consist of a chapel, offices for bishops (the leader of a ward), and two levels of classrooms



New sign at the soon-to-be meetinghouse on 23rd St. welcomes visitors. Photo by Maya Giacobbe

around the historic Hume School.

Like many residents of the Aurora Highlands neighborhood, Church members are drawn here for the convenient location within the greater DC area and its quiet streets with apartments and houses with rent affordable enough for those finishing up graduate



Remodeling under way at the new meetinghouse on 23rd street. Photo by Maya Giacobbe

Traffic Improvements Coming to 23rd Street South

As the "Main Street" of our neighborhood, 23rd Street South sees lots of traffic, especially at rush hour. The Association has been working with the County to put some measures in place to slow down the traffic and make it safer for folks walking to Metro, heading to our neighborhood businesses, or dropping off toddlers at the various day care centers on 23rd Street South.

Some of the changes that you'll be seeing in the very near future:

Crosswalks:

Laddering the existing crosswalks at South Hayes and South Ives Streets is on the County's list and the intent is to have them completed prior to Winter weather.

During a planning visit, County staff noticed a large amount of water ponding at the northeast corner of South Grant Street, a handicap ramp in need of need of upgrading, and the bus stop area was full of mud. Therefore, the laddered crosswalk for South Grant

Street is on hold until the Water, Sewer & Streets Bureau finishes the design to address these issues. The design will include new catch basins, upgraded handicap ramps, paving the intersection and a bus pad area, but no bus shelter. Weather permitting, the plan is to have the construction done in the Winter/Spring timeframe followed by the installation of a new laddered crosswalk and bollards. (Note: The existing bus shelter on the southwest corner will remain; the new bus pad will be on the northeast corner.)

Speed Displays:

The equipment has been delivered to the warehouse. County staff is coordinating the installation with Dominion Virginia Power and anticipates an October/November timeframe for

installation and operation, weather permitting.

For more information on traffic planning, the County staff will be at our November meeting to discuss the Hayes Street Multi-Modal Improvement Plan.



As frequent pedestrian crossers of 23rd St., we love the new neon crosswalk yield signs that cropped up today at crosswalks on 23rd between Grant and Ridge Rd.
-Photo by Maya Giacobbe



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Last Call for Donations for the Troops in Afghanistan

By Gail Fleming and Cheryl Mendonsa

Thank you to all the generous folks who've donated items to send to Les Garrison these past few months. So far, we've sent batteries, razors, foot powder, etc. to him to distribute among the troops, especially those stationed in the more isolated areas. Some of the boxes we've sent have been packed with supplies for the new local school, as well as pens and stuffed toys for the troops to give to Afghan children they meet.

If you're wondering what to send, the most in-demand item now is FOOT POWDER. Other useful items are batteries, inexpensive disposable razors, duct tape, and packing tape. Crossword puzzle books and other entertaining mind games, playing cards, paperback books, magazines, and DVDs would also be appreciated.

Shipments seem to be taking as long as 2 months to arrive, so we'll be sending our last packages on or about October 22 in order to try to get them there before the holidays.

If you would like to send holiday greetings or cards, you can put them in a Ziploc bag and drop them in the donation box in Aurora Hills Library or bring them to the civic association meeting on October 13. Any words of support or encouragement you can give to the troops will be appreciated.

If you want to get a picture of life in Les's area of Afghanistan, check out the "Colonel Campbell's War" video on YouTube.

AND DON'T FORGET TO WEAR A BRIGHT RED SHIRT ON FRIDAYS TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE TROOPS!

www.redshirtfridays.org

Home Security Surveys - FREE

Security surveys are provided at no cost to residents of Arlington County by the Arlington County Police Department. Your residence will be assessed for security purposes and recommendations suggested where improvements could be made. Also provided, if requested, is information regarding Crime Prevention for the Elderly, Construction Fraud, Hiring Home Health Care, and Safeguarding Valuables. The survey takes about one hour, daytime, evening or weekend.

Heather Hurlock, Lt. APO
Special Operations Section
Arlington County Police Department
703-228-4057
hhurlock@arlingtonva.us

Calling all writers!

Do you have knowledge or expertise in a field that would interest or help your neighbors? Do you 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 tips that would interest or benefit your neighbors. Pitch your idea to the newsletter editor at ahca.news@yahoo.com.

Remodeling by Raul

**PORCHES, DECKS, RAILINGS, STAIRS
FRAMING AND FINISH CARPENTRY**

Raul Armaza, Pres.

702 282-8790 or 703 391-5656

Advent Lutheran Embarks on Major Building Project

From Marianne Hetzer, Advent LC Congregation Council President

Beginning in October, Advent Lutheran Church will transform before your eyes! Fifty years ago, a building was erected that was meant to be part of a much larger facility. We're not getting *much* larger, but definitely more efficient, accessible, environmentally-friendly and beautiful -- which we hope will take us to our 100th anniversary and beyond!

Our contractor, Gregory Construction, will begin by demolishing the administrative/education part of the build-

ing. The pitched-roof sanctuary will remain. After demolition, Gregory will extend the enclosed entry area (churches often call this the narthex) out to the driveway and replace the existing block building with a one-story, pitched roof structure that will extend about 25 feet closer to 22nd Street than the current building does. The project is expected to take six months to complete.

We hope that this project does not inconvenience you, our

neighbors. Please contact us at adventlc@hotmail.com if you have any questions or concerns during the construction process. During this period, we will be worshipping down the hill at Calvary United Methodist Church (2315 S Grant Street) at 5:30 p.m. every Sunday. You are always welcome to join us . . . for an hour or a lifetime. You can also follow our progress at www.adventlc.us.

Crowded Sky: Make Room for Santa?

By Brent Spence

Last month, the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee chairman (Jay Rockefeller, D-WV) called for expanding the number of long-distance flights at National Airport, a proposal that is a sticking point in talks on a broader aviation bill. The latest proposal to amend the bill would add five new daily flights to destinations outside the existing perimeter, and would also allow up to 16 daily flights to be changed to go beyond the perimeter. New long-haul flights would most likely be scheduled at night.

These proposed changes threaten our neighborhood with increases in noise, as well as pollution from jet fuel, and danger of aircraft accidents. We are very fortunate

to have succeeded in keeping our nighttimes relatively quiet. This has not been an easy task because in spite of safety and national security considerations, plus the proximity of two other major airports, there has been constant pressure from Congress to expand what many feel is their personal airport. Long-haul flights are more likely to go at late or early hours, longer haul planes are more heavily laden with fuel, and the runway and taxi space are very short. National has basically one runway at 6,869 feet long while Dulles has 3 runways over 10,000 feet and BWI has 2 over 9,000 feet. Wave-offs routinely zoom directly over our rooftops.

Our neighborhood airport, familiarly called National or more formally, Reagan Washington National is tiny, crowded along the edge of the Potomac River, right up against restricted DC air space. It is also totally surrounded by residential communities. Its growth has therefore been the subject of a great deal of necessary deliberation and compromise. The Citizens for the Abatement of Aircraft Noise formed to try to bring the community perspective into the decision-making process.

Much of the tinkering with flight length, times and aircraft size has come from Congress, whose members even included a special hidden parking lot for themselves when the airport was modernized. In 1986, Congress passed the Metropolitan Washington Airports Act creating the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The governing board was empowered to manage National and Dulles and keep Congress from interfering with decisions about both airports.

A little history: in 1966, the FAA opened National to jet operations for the first time. FAA asserted that jet

noise levels around National would be "about the same" as before, and that

"... there has been constant pressure from Congress to expand what many feel is their personal airport."

short haul jet operations at National would not prevent the continued growth at Dulles. To assure that Dulles continued to serve the long haul domestic and international markets and to keep traffic at National under control, air carriers "voluntarily" agreed to limit the first nonstop flight segment of any flight to or from National to 650 miles (the FAA proposed a limit of 500 miles but backed down after protests from Congress). There were, however, seven grandfathered cities within 650 to 1000 miles of National that had nonstop service as of 1 December 1965. To reduce the effects of jet noise in the vicinity of National, the airlines also "voluntarily" agreed not to schedule turbojet flights after 10:00 p.m. or before 7:00 a.m. or to operate jets after 11:00 p.m. However, airlines used a loophole in the rule to provide long-

haul service. Planes took off from National, landed at a city within the 650 mile perimeter or at one of the grandfathered cities, then took off again for as far away as the West Coast with passengers from National still on board.

In 1981 regulations were adopted that included a nonstop perimeter of 1000 miles with no exceptions; an allocation of slots (takeoffs and landings) of 37 scheduled operations per hour for air carriers using aircraft with 56 or more passenger seats, 11 per hour for commuter air carriers with fewer than 56 passenger seats, and 12 per hour for general aviation; a nighttime noise limitation on aircraft operated after 9:59 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m., (over 72 dBA on takeoff or 85 dBA on landing). The government asserted that with these noise restrictions, no planes would meet them for quite a while. A couple of months later, 757s and MD-80s were approved to use nighttime hour schedules.

The 1986 Metropolitan Washington Airports Act increased the perimeter from 1000 miles to 1250 miles, the distance from National to Houston, Texas (home of Jim Wright, then-Speaker of the House). Also, the Airports Authority was given the authority to change the nighttime noise restrictions.

In 2000, Congress, under pressure from low cost airlines, added 24 slots per day to National's authorized 37 slots for commercial jets. Twelve of these slots were established to exceed the perimeter rule distance of 1250 miles, thus allowing airlines to fly to the West Coast.

A much more detailed historical account can be found at the CAAN website (<http://caan.org/>). CAAN accepts tax-deductible contributions. Congressional representatives, especially those of your friends in faraway cities, will certainly want to hear from their constituents about the proposed increases and the effects they would have on our communities. We all value our sleep, health and safety.

Advertise in the AHCA Newsletter

Give your business a boost!

Contact Marty King for rates:

martinch@erols.com

Tree Talk: Restoring Our Community's Native Tree Canopy

by Cory Giacobbe

Tree Steward Class

Apply now for the next Tree Steward Volunteer class. Tree Stewards are volunteers dedicated to improving the health of our urban trees through educational programs, tree planting and care, demonstrations and tree maintenance throughout the community. Tuesday evenings, Feb. 8 to Apr. 9, 2011. For details and application, visit <http://treestewards.org/>

Master Gardener Class

Apply now for the 2011 Master Gardener class. Tuesday and Thursday evenings, January 11 to Apr. 11.

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

Fall tree maintenance—pruning

Late fall and early winter are the best times to prune a tree. Read about best practices for pruning on the Virginia Department of Forestry website: <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/mgt/how-to-prune.htm>

Fall is Perfect for Planting Trees

There's a ton of information on planting trees at Treelink. Here's the link, check it out:

<http://www.treelink.org/linx/?navSubCatRef=33>

Dominion Power Planning Tree Pruning

I got a letter in the mail this week from Dominion Virginia Power stating that trees are a major cause of service interruptions in our area, and that fallen trees and limbs were the major cause of outages. They're coming to our neighborhood to prune trees during the last quarter of 2010.

For the sake of safety, uninterrupted power and tree health, please consider the location of overhead power lines when you make tree planting deci-

sions. Planting the right tree in the right place saves trees and money.

A Tree Owners Manual

Download a copy of the US Forest Service's Tree Owner's Manual. It contains extremely useful and clear information on tree planting and care for the Northeastern region.

<http://na.fs.fed.us/urban/treewownersmanual/>



Tree care resources are available on the Arlington County Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources website:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/parks/ParksRecreationScriptsParksTrees.aspx>

Arlington Fall Leaf Collection

During the months of November and December, Arlington County collects leaves from residents who receive county curbside trash and recycling services. Residents can rake their leaves in loose piles to the curbside for vacuum leaf collection, or put their leaves in biodegradable leaf bags for collection. In a classic recycling effort, the County mulches the leaves and brush it collects from residents, and grinds them to create mulch that is available to residents. This year Arlington County is taking a proactive approach to enhance the leaf collection program based on citizens concerns raised last year with thorough research and planning. Find out more about this year's leaf collection process at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/environmentalservices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdLeafCollection.aspx>

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

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

Corresponding Secretary –
Jenny Lawhorn

Web Master – Jason Roberts
AHCAWebmaster@gmail.com

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
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Newsletter Editor – Cory Giacobbe
703-842-5441

Police and Waste Water Treatment
Plant Liaison -Brad & Louise Garriss -
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

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

AuroraHighlands.org

P.O. Box 25201 - Arlington, VA 22202

AuroraHighlands.org

"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.

Yes! I want to join the Aurora Highlands Civic Association!

Please complete the following information and enclose the form with your check payable to **Aurora Highlands Civic Association**. Annual dues are **\$20.00** per household. Bring it to the next Civic Association meeting or mail to:

Membership Chair
Aurora Highlands Civic Association
P.O. Box 25201
Arlington, VA 22202

Member information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐

Check here to receive Civic Association announcements by email.

I'm ready to get involved!

I am interested in:

___ Library ___ Schools ___ Parks and Rec. ___ Streets & Lights

___ Zoning/Planning ___ Other _____

___ Serving on an AHCA committee

Note: Your address, phone number and e-mail address will not be released outside the civic association. The dues year runs November 1 to October 31.