

Aurora Highlands

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

AURORA HIGHLANDS CENTENNIAL
1910—2010

AuroraHighlands.org

Inside This Issue:

- ◆ Boo Ha Ha photos
- ◆ President's Corner
- ◆ School News
- ◆ AHCA Election
- ◆ Police Meeting Report
- ◆ Columbia Pike Transit
- ◆ Activities and Events
- ◆ Great Books at the Library
- ◆ History of Eads Street
- ◆ Energy Efficient Home
- ◆ How to Join AHCA
- ◆ Tree Talk Column

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, NOV. 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

Agenda

6:30 Social

7:00 Business Meeting and 2011 AHCA Officer Election

7:30 Hayes Street Multi-Modal Update Presentation:

Katherine Youngbluth of County staff took our comments in the spring and will update us on the next design integration

Third Annual Boo Ha Ha a Great Success

by Bruce Cameron

The 3rd Annual Boo Ha Ha on October 29th was once again a ton of fun for the kids in our neighborhood. It could not have happened without the tremendous financial support of many local businesses (see sponsors on p. 7) nor without a few key neighbors who made it all come together. Thanks to Mike Dowell, AHCA President, for pulling the logistics together, to Alice Anders for putting together the colorful flyer with acknowledgements to the Boo supporters, to Cheryl Mendonsa for getting the flyers out to the schools, to Gail Fleming for manning the refreshment stand, and also Bill

Gillen, who after an hour of struggles, finally got the popcorn maker going. Yeah Bill! ...and Also Nick Giacobbe, who came at the end, and who in his business suit, helped carry hay bales over to the truck, way above and beyond the call of neighborhood volunteer duty. And to Mike's friend Tom Boerger, who staffed the event the whole way through. And to Rob and Shannon Hines who ran the sack and egg races and Geva Lester who helped at the tot lot. And thanks to all the kids and families who came to have a little bouncing fun and games, even though we were verging on frost

bite this year. We also send a special thank you to County Board Vice Chairman Chris Zimmerman, our local police team and Sergeant Davidson and our local librarian Frances Coles who all joined and helped judge the costume contest.

Seeing the turn out for the Boo and the tremendous support our local businesses show for our community, and then on Saturday seeing all the kids and families at the 7th annual neighborhood Halloween Parade, it's just great to sense the community spirit in our area.

Looking forward to the 2011 Boo, we will need more adult volunteers to step forward for planning and execution of the event. Also, we'd like to serve hot food, but we'll need a health permit, which is complicated, so if anyone would like to help us tackle this issue, please let us know. This is an ALL VOLUNTEER EVENT. We only need a few hours of your time.

SOC Enterprises

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

"Business and Rehabilitation"

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

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

President's Corner

by Michael Dowell

Halloween was tremendous fun this year with all kinds of events across the neighborhood, and marvelous costumes and decorated houses! Now the leaves are falling and the weather is just right for neighborhood walks, soccer games and an early fire in the hearth. As we move into the end of the year, we'll be discussing Aurora Hills Community Center activities and the newly forming Crystal City Citizen Review Council. For the community center, we've taken the survey results from last year and are starting to formulate neighborhood-based and neighborhood-led programs for the coming year. If you have ideas and interest in participating, please contact someone in our joint ARCA/AHCA community center advisory group to share your thoughts: Elizabeth Cho-Fertikh, Mike Dowell, Miriam Gennari, Bill Gillen, Cheryl Mendonza, and Andrea Walker.

Also, as part of the Crystal City Sector Plan approval in September 2010, a provision was made for a Crystal City Citizen Review Council composed from Crystal City stakeholders, including citizens from the Aurora Highlands, Arlington Ridge and Crystal City neighborhoods. This is a great opportunity to

focus attention on how to accomplish an effective transition zone from the single family community to the dense Crystal City core and maintain quality of life across the entire area. We will need to work with the county staff and developers to ensure that it is a realizable design; one that will be embedded in infrastructure designs, Phased Site Development Plans and Site Plans going forward.

One of the first activities we will undertake is to consider our current quality of life in the community and how we can baseline and measure that quality of life through regular surveys and measurements. It will be a tough job because the more important aspects of quality of life in our neighborhood are not easy to measure: a plate of cookies on your doorstep, a lawn cut for an elderly neighbor or a volunteer effort for folks who need help, either in our community or on the other side of the world. If you are interested, please jot down your thoughts and send them to the civic association (ahca.news@yahoo.com). We'll use your inputs to organize a forum to address this comprehensively. Thanks!

Afghanistan Shipments Completed for 2010

by Cheryl Mendonza and Gail Fleming

Our final shipment of supplies to Les Garrison and the troops in Afghanistan was mailed October 28—a total of 17 boxes during the past five months. Thank you for your goodwill and thoughtful donations that have touched so many lives. We'll never know just how many soldiers or children have benefited from your generosity, but Les recently sent this message about our care packages:

"Have received a bunch of boxes and have been watching stuff go out with the soldiers, as well as putting things in our MWR hut for them to use. Stuff is flying out fast... Our school opening has been delayed by final fixes the contractor has to do. I have been visiting other schools though and the teachers appreciate small packages of supplies that they can use with their classes, so that is what I take them."

So, your goodwill spreads.

Have a happy holiday season with family and friends. And don't forget to wear a BRIGHT RED SHIRT on Fridays to show support for the troops—especially those who won't be spending the holidays with their families and friends!

www.redshirtfridays.org

AHCA Election at November Meeting

At the November meeting we will hold an election for officers for 2011. The current slate of candidates is:

President - Michael Dowell
Vice President - Nicholas Giacobbe
2nd Vice President - Cara Tenuta
Treasurer - Vacant

Business Secretary - Cory Giacobbe
Corresponding Secretary - Jenny Lawhorn

Remember, there are always opportunities for members of the community to get involved and play a more active role through the various committees.

Mark Your Calendars: Firehouse 105 will co-host our annual holiday potluck at the Firehouse on December 11, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. The date is still tentative, details to follow.

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

School News

Compiled by Kathie Laird of ARCA

Oakridge Elementary Needs Tutors

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

The Oakridge neighborhood volunteer tutoring program, in its 13th year, continues to make a difference in the lives of children in our community. Tutors work with a 3rd-5th grader in reading, math, and homework. Volunteers receive training, are provided with 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, tom_martin542@hotmail.com
- Bob Perkins 571-216-5098, lightman329@yahoo.com or
- Casey Dolan, Oakridge Tutor Coordinator 703-228-5840.

Wakefield High School

Marching Warriors in Concert - November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium

Fall Play "Almost, Maine" - Nov. 12, 13, 19, 20, at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium. Everyone is welcome.

Winter Music Concert - Dec. 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Everyone is welcome, and we especially encourage those who so kindly donated to this year's Tag Day to come and hear the WHS band, orchestra, choral, and jazz band students perform.

Thanks to Arlington voters, who passed the bond referendum to rebuild Wakefield! Construction should start in July 2011.

Cub Scout Pack 164 Call for Tired Flags

If in the course of your fall cleanup you notice that your U.S. flag has become faded, tattered and no longer serviceable, Cub Scout Pack 164 will help you out. The Cub Scouts are collecting flags for a dignified retirement ceremony in the Spring. If you have a flag for pickup, please contact Cubmaster Joe Mazel at cubmaster-pack164@gmail.com.

MT Vernon Baptist Church

You are invited to visit us at:

MT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH

935 South 23rd Street,

Phone: 703.979.1558

WWW.MVBCCC.ORG

EMAIL MVBCCC@MVBCCC.ORG

Weekly services:

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

Quarterly Police Meeting Report

by Louise Garris

The Quarterly Police/Community Meeting was held on October 27, 2010. Our new Second District commander, Captain Andy Penn, introduced himself and Sergeant Charlene Lancaster. They will be heading up our Second District police team. Captain Penn has been with the Arlington County Police Department for 19 years, many of those as a detective. Sergeant Lancaster has served 27 years, primarily in patrol.

The good news is that crime rates in our district are down in almost all categories compared to last year's. However, bicycle thefts continue to be a problem.

Captain Penn stressed the importance of calling police

when you notice any suspicious activity. The Arlington County non-emergency number is 703-558-2222. Keep this number handy near your home phone and enter it into your cell phones as well.

Captain Penn can be reached at 703-228-4327 or e-mail him at cpenn@arlingtonva.us, and Sergeant Lancaster at 703-228-4306 or e-mail clancaster@arlingtonva.us.

Also, our sincere thanks to our previous Second District team leaders Captain Berke, Acting Commander Lieutenant Reiten, and Sergeant Rizik. We appreciate all their work with the community over the past few years.



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

Improving your Home's Comfort, Health, and Energy Efficiency

by Scott Donelson

We live in a wonderful community with mature trees and access to many nearby amenities, but most of our homes were built many years ago when gas, oil, and electricity were cheap and energy efficiency was an afterthought during construction. Most homes did not originally have air conditioning either. Do you have a home that is too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer? Would you like to reduce your energy bills 20% or more? Do you have family members with allergies or asthma? Do you have problems with street or other noise? Do you want to live "greener"? These are all issues that can be fixed or reduced with relatively simple means.

Here are some of the more common myths homeowners have about their homes:

1. "Cold or warm spots in a home are inevitable"
2. "Replacing my windows is the best solution to save energy and improve comfort"
3. "I just need to add insulation and it will solve my energy problems"
4. "I don't have a big enough air conditioner to keep the up-stairs cool"
5. "My house is just fine because it needs to 'breathe'"

EPA studies indicate 46% of typical home energy consumption is due to heating and cooling and that half of this is being wasted due to air leaks in the home. (Details on the EPA/DOE energy consumption breakdown can be found at the website at the end of this article). Due to this significant air leakage, most homeowners are paying to heat and cool 2-4 times the amount of air they need to every day! Air leaks result in comfort problems, higher bills, more wear and tear, and can incorrectly affect sizing of new HVAC equipment if replacement is being considered.

Air leaks result from small gaps and cracks in the upper and lower levels of the home and are caused by items such as electrical penetrations in the tops of walls, studs shrinking away from the wallboard, recessed lighting, plumbing vents and exterior penetrations, ductwork problems, bath fans, unsealed band joists, and many more sources. As warm, moist air goes out of the house in the winter, cold dry air comes in, causing humidity levels to drop (see this pictorially at the website listed at the end of this article.)

If you had a plumbing leak, would you just let it leak? Of course not, so why would you let air leak out that you have paid to heat and cool? Air sealing is the number one priority by the EPA/DOE when it comes to home weatherization improvements. Insulation is second, but insulation is far less effective without air sealing. HVAC improvements are ranked third, and then windows. Most homes in this area have 20-30% of insulation recommended by today's standard (R-49 in this region). Air leakage and insulation problems can generally be solved with much less expense than replacing windows. Some air leak problems are very easy and affordable to resolve.

So how do you find out how your home performs and how to address your home's issues? The best place is to start with a home energy audit. A home energy audit is a four-hour in-home analysis using sophisticated diagnostic equipment to qualitatively and quantitatively evaluate the home for comfort issues, energy savings, indoor air quality, and combustion safety issues. The energy audit process consists of the following steps:

1. Diagnose the problem - Find root causes and develop solutions to address cold/hot rooms, reduce energy bills, and fix health and combustion safety issues through exterior and interior visual inspections, air leakage measurements, infrared camera analysis, etc.
2. Write the prescription - Provide a prioritized list of improvements in a detailed report.
Following the audit:
3. Implement the Solutions - A good Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified energy auditor can help guide you through the various materials and methods to conduct the corrective actions.
4. Document the Results - Testing after the work is done to measure the improvements and ensure health and safety standards are upheld.

Here are the attributes of a quality audit/auditor:

1. Auditor is BPI certified both as building analyst and envelope professional - ask or check with BPI
 2. Includes combustion safety testing, Infrared imagery, energy bill analysis, and other mechanical systems assessment per BPI protocols
-Get a written list of the services provided - can't just compare by price
 3. Includes comprehensive report tailored to home with pictures and a prioritized list of recommendations
-To include blower door, combustion safety, major appliances, and other assessments
-Ask for a report example- report quality varies wildly
 4. Post improvement validation included
 5. Cost: about \$400, 4 hours in-home
- The benefits of an audit and doing the prescribed work are clear: greater home comfort, lower utility bills, better health, reduced carbon footprint, improved home durability, and a quieter home inside!

The following web sites contain more information on the topics discussed:

<http://www.myenergymedics.com> (links to many sites and answers to frequently asked questions)
<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DE/ARRA-Public/EnergyAuditInfo.shtml> (about VA energy audit and auditors)
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products_pr_where_money (the details on the home energy consumption breakdown)

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_sealing (how and where a home leaks air pictorially, duct sealing and air sealing information)

http://www.ornl.gov/sci/roofs+walls/insulation/ins_02.html
(Description of many insulation types- note blown cellulose is widely accepted in this area as the best for most renovation situations)

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index
(Federal 2010 Tax credits for energy efficient improvements)

About the author: Scott Donelson is a local resident, a BPI certified building analyst and envelope professional, and president of Home Energy Medics.

Safe and secure. And a whole lot more.

Get a real street address, plus:

- We sign for packages from any carrier
- We'll send you a text or e-mail when you have a package to pick up*
- When you're out of town, we'll hold on to your mail and packages so they're secure

**Additional fees, including carrier message and data rates, may apply.*

Pentagon City

(Across from Costco)

1405 S Fern St., Arlington, VA 22202

703.920.6199 Tel

theupsstorelocal.com/6199

Hours of operation:

Mon-Fri 9:00am to 7:00pm

Sat 9:00am to 5:00pm

Mail Boxes Etc., Inc. is a UPS® company. The UPS Store® locations are independently owned and operated by franchisees of Mail Boxes Etc., Inc. in the USA and by its master licensee and its franchisees in Canada. Services and hours of operation may vary by location. Copyright © 2010 Mail Boxes Etc., Inc. A9HD1415A5 09.10



The UPS Store®



FREE

TEXT/E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS (with a signed mailbox services agreement)

Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Restrictions apply. Valid and redeemable only when presented at a participating location. The UPS Store centers are independently owned and operated. © 2010 Mail Boxes Etc., Inc.

The UPS Store® 

\$2 OFF PACKING
when we pack 1 package

\$5 OFF PACKING
when we pack 2 packages

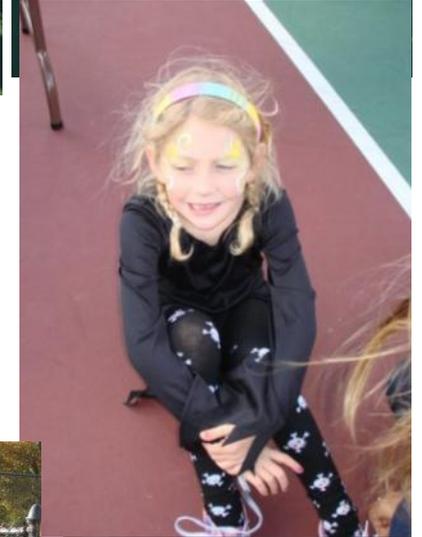
\$10 OFF PACKING
when we pack 3 packages

Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Restrictions apply. Valid and redeemable only when presented at a participating location. The UPS Store centers are independently owned and operated. © 2010 Mail Boxes Etc., Inc.

The UPS Store® 

Scenes from the 2010 Boo Ha Ha

Photos by Cheryl Mendonsa



Columbia Pike Transit Initiative Update

by James Harrison

Arlington and Fairfax Counties hosted a meeting on October 7 with the stakeholders in the Columbia Pike Region (developers, community associations, businesses and transit groups). The proposal being considered would provide a streetcar line from 12th & Hayes, to Army Navy Drive, to Joyce St, to Columbia Pike, to Jefferson Street and ultimately to Skyline. This update covers the discussions during the meeting, but not the presentation or discussion materials that were provided. Currently the county and its consultants are doing the Environmental Study that is required to apply for federal funding.

Two public meetings are planned this month, November 15 and 18; for more information visit www.piketransit.com.

Alignment:

- The general alignment is pretty well set for most of the route, but there are still some questions.
- The alignment near the Columbia Pike /Joyce Street intersection is tied to potential land swaps both within

DoD and between DoD and Arlington.

- A location (or locations) must be selected for maintenance and storage facilities. The current options are either the North Tract (north of Crystal City) or on the NOVA Alexandria campus.
- If the North Tract site is selected, there is the possibility of an additional stop at the new park. This would be even more likely if the aquatic facility is funded and built.

Operations:

- A 6-minute gap between trains (headway) is planned for peak hours.
- A travel time of 20 - 25 minutes is estimated for the full length (compared to 30 minutes on current bus service).
- The streetcar would operate in the traffic lanes (generally in the curb lane).
- Queue jumper lanes at Glebe / George Mason / Walter Reed intersections have been considered, but are unlikely. It is more likely that signal priority options would be used to keep streetcars moving.

Business:

- For the application for federal funds, the project needs to define a sponsor (most likely either Arlington or Fairfax County). In any case, coordination between Arlington and Fairfax Counties will be required.
- If the service yard goes on NOVA property, then NOVA becomes another partner and Alexandria would also need to be brought on board.
- Current cost estimate is \$160M. Approximately \$138M would be spent in Arlington and \$22M in Fairfax. This cost does not include the maintenance & storage facilities or the track to them. The project is seeking \$50M in federal funding and would try to get about 30% of the remaining costs from the state funding. Arlington and Fairfax Counties would bear the majority of the cost.
- This project ties into the Multi Modal transport study for Crystal City and Route 1. The two projects would share an end point on 12th Street.
- This project also needs to be coordinated with housing redevelopment along the Columbia Pike Corridor.

Special thanks to these generous sponsors of this year's Boo Ha Ha



Activities and Events

Courthouse Farmers' Market, Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – noon, adjacent to the Arlington County Courthouse Parking Lot, at the intersection of North Courthouse Road and North 14th Street. Arlington's largest market, it continues year round and averages about 30 vendors, all of whom are required to produce their items within 125 miles of Arlington. But remember, no dogs are allowed at the market.

Del Ray Farmers' Market, Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – noon, corner of East Oxford & Mount Vernon Avenues. Our neighborhood markets may have closed for the season, but the nearby Del Ray market is still open. It is producer grown, with fresh vegetables and fruits in season. All year round, this market offers meats, eggs, fresh pasta and sauces, Amish cheese, yogurt, bakery goods, eggs, jams and jellies, fancy nuts, and bakery goods.

Scouting for Food, on Saturday, November 6th and 13th, neighborhood Cub Scout Pack 164 will conduct their annual "Scouting for Food" community service project to collect donations of non-perishable food to benefit the needy. **On Saturday, November 6th, Scouts will deliver "Scouting for Food" bags** throughout the neighborhood. The Scouts ask that you place whatever goods you're willing to donate in the provided bag. Canned or boxed goods are preferred (pasta, peanut butter, breakfast food, tuna, soup, fruit, beans, etc.). **On Saturday, November 13th, Scouts will return**

to collect the bags that residents have filled with food donations. Please have the bags out by 9:00 a.m. in a conspicuous location. "Scouting for Food" is the largest food collection drive in the Washington area and contributions are vital for the success of numerous helping organizations such as the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). For more information, contact the project coordinator, Bobby.Franklin@gmail.com.

Calvary UMC Bazaar, Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Calvary United Methodist Church, corner of 23rd & Grant Streets (2315 S Grant St.). The annual bazaar will feature an eclectic assortment for sale including Christmas items, kitchen wares, tools, books, CDs/DVDs, and various household needs. There will also be delicious baked goods, a silent auction and a great lunch menu at the Calvary Café featuring Calvary's famous chili, hamburgers, hotdogs and chicken salad sandwiches.

Holiday Festival to Benefit Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Saturday, November 13, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Pentagon Row. Enjoy holiday horse-drawn wagon rides, live music by Karen Lovejoy, strolling entertainment, visits by Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman, giveaways and merchant specials.

National Recycling Day, November 15, for more information visit www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org.

Neighborhood Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship Service, Sunday, November 21, 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 830 23rd Street South.

Pancake Breakfast with Special Guest - Santa Claus, Saturday, December 4, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at Calvary UMC, corner of 23rd & Grant Streets (2315 S Grant St.). Still the best buy in town and children will be able to meet and get photos with Santa Claus.

Annual Miracle on 23rd Street Tree Lighting Celebration, Friday, December 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., SOC Enterprises, 750 23rd Street South.

Aurora Hills Women's Club 5th Annual Holiday Boutique, Saturday, December 4, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Mount Vernon Baptist Church, 935 23rd Street South. The Boutique will again feature a wide variety of artisans selling quality hand-made gift items, jewelry, accessories and art, and the bake sale will have many tasty treats to take home or enjoy on site. Even if you don't shop, be sure to stop in for a chili lunch. There will be many raffle items and raffle baskets available, so take a chance and you may be the lucky winner of local restaurant gift certificates, personal pampering, sports tickets and more. By shopping at the Boutique, neighbors can pick up one-of-a-kind gift items and support the Arlington Historical Society in restoring the beautiful Hume School and other neighborhood charitable causes.

Great Books on the Suggestion Shelf

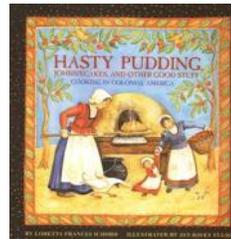
by Cory Giacobbe

This month, the books on the suggestion shelf at the Aurora Hills Library are all about food and Thanksgiving. If you need ideas for a new Thanksgiving dish, you'll find what you need in these classic and new cookbooks such as [America's Test Kitchen Family Baking Book](#), [The Martha Stewart Living Cookbook](#), and [The Vegetable Dishes I Can't Live Without](#) by Molly Katzen, author of the [Moosewood Cookbook](#).

There's also a variety of children's books about Thanksgiving. Most inter-

esting to me was the [Magic Tree House Thanksgiving on Thursday](#) by Mary Pope Osborne. Jake and Annie are sent back in time to 1621 to witness the first Thanksgiving. They're asked to help get dinner ready, but they have to learn a whole new (old?) way to do everything.

If you like to learn how things were done in the home a really long time ago, you should read [Hasty Pudding](#),



[Johnnycakes, and Other Good Stuff: Cooking in Colonial America](#) by Frances Ichord. Written for an elementary school audience, this history of food preparation is informative and beautifully illustrated by Jan Davey Ellis. It explains what people ate in America in the 17th and 18th centuries, why they ate it, and how they prepared it. It contains recipes too so you can try it too. Great books! Check them out at the Aurora Hills Library.

A Stroll Through Transit History on Eads Street

by Michael Dowell

Aurora Highlands Neighborhood Centennial A Look Back Over the Last 100 Years

With the proposed streetcar system, bike share stations around the neighborhood, slug lines, metro, buses, and our new sidewalks, there are all manner of alternatives to cars in our area. Indeed, if you walk along Eads Street, try to imagine what it looked like 150 years ago, or even 90 years ago. Because it wasn't always called Eads Street; in fact, it wasn't even a street.

In 1830, Alexandria businesses proposed to link their city to the new C&O canal that terminated in Georgetown. Congress subsequently granted a charter to the new Alexandria Canal Company and construction began three years later. The most complex part of the canal was the Aqueduct Bridge, which carried the canal across the Potomac River from just north of the present Key Bridge over to present day Rosslyn. Then the canal was dug through Arlington to Alexandria. Construction of the canal was completed in 1843.

The Arlington section of the canal ran right down the path of present-day Eads Street, crossing Four Mile run via a short aqueduct. The canal was arranged much like the C&O canal with a towpath for the horses on the west side of the canal. From its commissioning in 1843 to its abandonment in 1896, canal boats could start in Cumberland Maryland, nearly 200 miles west of Alexandria and deliver a load to the Alexandria city docks in about a week.

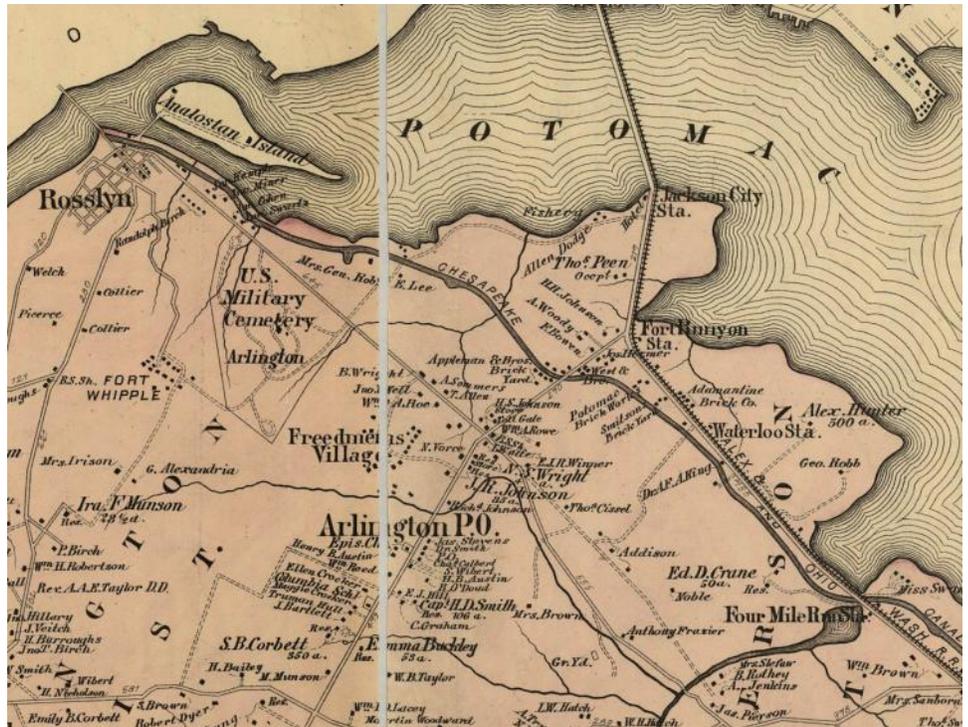
By the late 1800's the railroads had conquered canals almost nationwide as a means of transport for both cargo and people. So it was with the Alexandria Canal (and the C&O as well). In 1896, an electric trolley line was constructed along the former canal towpath. The new Arlington trolley line allowed the Mount Vernon Railway to offer continuous service between Washington DC, near Federal Triangle, all the way to Mount Vernon.

"...The most complex part of the canal was the Aqueduct Bridge, which carried the canal across the Potomac River ..."

The new rail line was instrumental in enabling the development of our Aurora Hills neighborhood in 1910, as the trolley offered quick access for commuters headed into Washington DC. Our neighborhood had four stops along what was then called Jefferson Avenue: Four Mile Run, the Car Barn, 22nd Street, and 18th Street.

By the 1920s, bus transportation had become preferable to the trolley line and the last trolley rolled down Jefferson Avenue in early 1932. In 1934, Arlington County changed the street name to Eads Street (there were too many Jefferson Streets in Arlington County).

What's left today of the canal and trolley in addition to Eads Street? Plenty if you know where to look: the remains of the Aqueduct pier are still visible on the Georgetown side of the Potomac, the Metro Blue Line runs along a stretch of the old canal, the trolley car barn is now the bus barn, the Alexandria terminus of the canal is restored and on display at Canal Place in Alexandria, and the



1878 Map of Alexandria County (from Wikipedia)

trolley turning circle at Mount Vernon is now the roundabout at the end of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. That's a lot of history for a stroll along Eads Street.

Saturday Breakfast Buffet \$9.99

Mrs. Trumbull ...
I know it's Saturday but ..
could you watch little Ricky this morning?
Big Ricky and Fred went Golfing and...
Ethel and I just have to go to
Freddie's Beach Bar for that
Neighborhood Breakfast Buffet!



**Every Saturday
10am - 3pm**

555 South 23rd Street Arlington, Va 22202 | 703.685.0555



WASHINGTON, DC 202.944.5000
GEORGETOWN 202.333.3320
BETHESDA/CHEVY CHASE 301.222.0050
POTOMAC 301.983.6400
NORTHERN VIRGINIA 703.317.7000

*Put Susan's record of success and the power
of the brand to work for you!*



Susan Hand
703-608-5056
susan.hand@wfp.com

*Your neighborhood
real estate expert!*



WFP.COM



Printing



Mail



Warehouse

SOC
ENTERPRISES



Data



Assembly



Service

Call SOC today to see how we can save you time and money!

SOC Offers a full range of services:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Printing | Copying |
| Mailing | Warehousing |
| Hand Assembly | Distribution |
| Fulfillment | Conference Support |

Save 15% on your first order!

703-521-4441 • www.socatwork.org

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.

Tree Talk: Restoring Our Community's Native Tree Canopy

by Cory Giacobbe

Autumn Almanac

Casey Trees in Washington, DC says it's time to prepare trees for winter. Remove slow-release watering bags from the trees. The trunks and root flare need to be exposed to the air. Bags only need to be used on trees for the first two years after planting.

Freshen the mulch by adding 2-3 inches deep of mulch in a ring around the trunk, but keep it 3-6 inches away from the trunk.

If the days heat up, give the trees a drink, but don't water them after the ground freezes.

Leave the Leaves

Grass, who needs it? Not the trees! Trees like leaves, not grass. In the natural deciduous forest setting, leaves fall and nobody's there to rake them. They act as natural weed blockers, moisture holders and as they decompose, nutrient providers. Leaves are mulch that becomes an essential ingredient in healthy soil. This year, consider leaving some leaves for your trees. Tree roots spread out in the soil, very close to the surface, and out at least as far as the widest reach of the canopy of leaves and branches overhead. When raking, leave a circle of leaves around the base of your trees, a few feet in diameter and a couple of inches deep. Each year, make the circle a little bit wider.

Tree Steward Alison Willocks recommends chopping up the leaves and leaving them in place: "I just run the lawn mower over them so they disintegrate much faster into organic matter. It also makes them 'blend' into the lawn and they don't blow everywhere like complete leaves do."



According to Madeline Bodin of the National Wildlife Federation, if you let leaves accumulate in an out-of-the-way portion of your yard, you help build healthy soil and provide wildlife habitat as well. The leaf pile will be inhabited by earthworms, pill bugs and millipedes which will both break down the leaves into good soil but also attract birds and other wildlife. Even in the city, an undisturbed leaf pile can support a whole web of life. Get the whole story at <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Gardening/Archives/2005/Tree-Leaves-for-Backyard-Wildlife.aspx>

What to do with the rest of the leaves that you do rake up?

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. Find out more about this year's leaf collection process and schedule at

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/environmentalservices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdLeafCollection.aspx>

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, February 8 to April 9, 2011. For details and application, visit <http://treestewards.org/>.

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

703-979-3410 martinch@erols.com

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

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.