

# Aurora Highlands

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

AURORA HIGHLANDS CENTENNIAL  
1910—2010

[AuroraHighlands.org](http://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, DEC. 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**  
AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

### Agenda

- 6:30** Social
- 7:00** Spray Park Update
- 7:30** Community Center Winter Activities
- 8:00** Pentagon Centre

## Aurora Highlands Civic Association 2010: Year in Review

by Nick Giacobbe, AHCA Vice President

We celebrated the Aurora Hills neighborhood Centennial in 2010, and what a year it was! Throughout the year we were treated to a series of newsletter articles by various authors on the past 100 years. They drew quite a bit of interest and we were tickled by the number of reprint requests we received.

As we gazed back over the past century, we also looked forward to the next half century. In 2010 we continued our advocacy to secure a bright future for our neighborhood as the 40-year sector plan for Crystal City was

finalized and adopted by the County Board in late September after about five years of discussions. As Crystal City is modernized and becomes denser, the redevelopment will have a significant impact on the future of our neighborhood. If done well, Crystal City will transition to a lively, urban community with a thorough mix of uses, richer transit options, better streets, more functional public open spaces, and community and neighborhood-oriented services. Together with our ARCA and Crystal City neighbors, we worked with the County Board and staff to get a few critical changes into

neighborhood representation, will monitor and advise the county board regarding the redevelopment, the transition to our neighborhoods, and the quality of life for us and our neighbors over the next 40 years. Our neighborhood's long history of effective advocacy is recognized by the county and we look forward to continued engagement over the next few decades.

February brought us the now annual tradition of the Arlington budget review, and once again, we sought to keep our neighborhood branch library open and functioning as the heart of our little corner of Arlington County. This year's fight brought the new dimension of the threatened closure of the Aurora Hills Senior Program at our Community Center, which would have for all practical purposes shuttered the

the plan, including the establishment of a Crystal City Citizens Advisory Council. This council, which will have

—Continued on Page 6—

## SOC Enterprises

750 South 23rd St. Arlington, VA 22202  
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### "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

As we wrap up the year and the neighborhood begins to shine with holiday lights, the community center group is thinking about the cold months that lie ahead. We're planning several Community Center winter activities for the new year to take us through the winter and into the spring. Already up and running, Sid Thurston and Lou Ott are managing a team of inventive 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the annual National Odyssey of the Mind program. Get ready to cheer on our neighborhood team as they design a mouse-trap powered vehicle and prepare for competition in March 2011!

In the new year, Elizabeth Cho-Fertikh will be setting up an introductory science program for 6-7 year olds. For older kids and adults, we'll celebrate Edgar Allan Poe's birthday with a selection of dramatic and fun readings on Saturday

evening, January 22. Bill Gillen is planning a Family Friday Nights program to start in late January. And looking toward the spring, Cory Giacobbe is planning a tree program for March and April. Look for additional information on the list-serves soon. And if you have an activity idea or would like to help out with some of the programs above, please contact me or any of the folks above.

Don't forget, coming right up is the Annual Fire House Potluck on December 11, organized by Bruce Cameron. Last year, the crews took off for a call in mid-meal – in less than a minute, our firefighters got up from their dinners, suited up in their fire gear, started the fire trucks and pulled out to answer the emergency call. Come share the holiday spirit with some local heroes (and maybe even see them in action). See you there!

## Aurora Hills Women's Club Holiday Boutique on Saturday, December 4

**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.

## 2011 AHCA Officers Elected at November Meeting

At the November meeting we held an election for officers for 2011. Next year's executive committee will include the following:

**President** - Michael Dowell  
**Vice President** - Nicholas Giacobbe  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** - Cory Giacobbe  
**Treasurer** - Brent Spence  
**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.

Please join us at our regularly scheduled meetings, the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Aurora Hills Community Center to put your neighborhood passion into action.

The mission of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association is to give our neighborhood a voice in the decisions and actions of Arlington County. Come join us to make sure your interests and ideas are heard. We need your input to represent you!

## Our sponsors support the activities of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association

## 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](mailto:ahca.news@yahoo.com).



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## Cub Scout Pack 164 Says Thank You

Cub Scout Pack 164 would like to thank all of our neighbors who contributed to our most successful Scouting For Food effort ever! On November 13th, based on your generous donations, 31 Scouts and their parents collected 579 bags of donated food (which is approximately 2,895 pounds of food, or six large truckfuls) for the Arlington

Food Assistance Center. Cub Scout Pack 164 was part of a district-wide campaign, and overall, all of the Boy Scouts of America organizations in Arlington and McLean worked together to deliver 74,000 pounds of food to the Center.

Joe Mazel  
Cubmaster, Pack 164

## 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](mailto:cubmaster-pack164@gmail.com).

## Whom To Call When Ball Field Lights Are Left On?

If you see that lights are left on in the parks' ball fields when they are not in use, you can report it to the county. After business hours, the contact is the

roving facility monitor at 571-238-0265. This would also be the number to call for other after hours park issues.

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

### 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](mailto:MVBCCC@MVBCCC.ORG)

Weekly services:

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

## SOC Food Drive to Benefit AFAC

In case you missed the Cub Scouts' Scouting For Food effort last month, you have another opportunity to contribute: SOC will be sponsoring a food drive that will benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center. The food drive began on November 1 and will end on December 15.

Donations can be dropped off at the SOC Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Canned or boxed goods are preferred (pasta, peanut butter, breakfast food, tuna, soup, fruit, beans, etc.). The SOC is located at 750 23rd Street South (corner of 23rd and Grant).

## 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.



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

## DES Announces Aurora Hills Library Roof Replacement—And Update



### [A Message from Arlington County Department of Environmental Services](#)

#### **Aurora Hills Center Roof Replacement Update**

The Arlington County Department of Environmental Services (DES) will be [replacing the roof of the Aurora Hills Center](#), which includes the [Aurora Hills Branch Library](#), a Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources community center, and the Fire Department's former Station 5 (now used for storage). Some materials on the existing roof contain a small amount of non-friable asbestos fibers, which is often found in sealants and roofing materials in older buildings. DES has contracted with an asbestos inspection and abatement firm to test and remove the material prior to beginning the roof replacement.

Beginning Sunday, November 28th, the contractor began the process of removing the asbestos containing roof material. This work is expected to last approximately one week. Here is what you need to know:

- The asbestos removal portion of the project will pose NO risk to patrons or people passing by the building.
- The asbestos on the building is non-friable, which means it is encased in a sealant and not airborne.
- The removal and disposal of this material will be handled by licensed, trained professionals.
- The asbestos removal plan developed by DES staff meets all local, state and federal environmental and safety regulations.

Per federal EPA regulations, workers will wear appropriate personal protective equipment when handling the asbestos containing material. Once the asbestos removal and disposal are completed, DES will start the reroofing process.

If you have questions or concerns about this project, please contact the DES Project Manager, Jacob M. Fayad, at (703) 228-4829 or [jfayad@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jfayad@arlingtonva.us).

#### **The Aurora Hills Branch Library is about to get new protection from the elements.**

Work on the roof at the Aurora Hills Center — comprised of the Library, a Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources community center, and the [Fire Department's](#) former Station 5 (now used for storage) — began on Thursday, November 18.

Work will continue for at least two months as the roof is replaced section by section. But Library patrons may not notice the activity literally above their heads because the "demolition" of each section will take place before public hours, and staging for equipment will be behind the building.

The \$240,000 project will be overseen by the Department of Environmental Services. The Aurora Hills Center opened in 1978 and once also housed the County's Visitors' Information Center. This is the first time the County has installed a new roof at the Aurora Hills Center in decades.

- Posted by The Librarians on [Wednesday, November 03, 2010](#)

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# 2010: AHCA Year in Review

by Nick Giacobbe

—Continued from Page 1—

center. The neighborhood banded together and with the County Board's help, we were able to restore the senior program funding. Although we lost a day of library service, we will work with our elected officials to get our library back to its normal schedule as soon as possible.

Snowmageddon - the Blizzard of 2010 – also blew in during February, trapping us all for several days but rewarding us with a rare respite from the traffic, train and plane noise that is part of our daily lives. We got a great opportunity to stay home with friends and family and a good time was had by all.



When spring eventually and suddenly arrived – recall it was 80 degrees less than six weeks after Snowmageddon – we planted the Centennial Grove in Virginia Highlands Park. Teams gathered on two wonderful spring Saturdays to partner with the County staff, first to clear scrub and invasive plants, then to plant 100 new trees. This addition to the tree canopy will be a lasting reminder of our neighborhood's first 100 years.



The spring also brought us discussions of how to improve our environment. The County staff spoke about the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day and how our local recycling program has changed over the years.

Over the summer, we put our Community Center to good use with the Passport to Summer program. Every Wednesday evening, from mid-June to late August, scores of families gathered to read stories, make crafts, play games, and some weeks enjoy a din-

ner from Restaurant Row together.

Folks also visited the library to get new library cards and stock up on reading material for the following week. The program was a great demonstration of our community's soul in the heart of our neighborhood. By the end of the program we had had nearly 900 participants in the Passport to Summer program!



Wow!

The end of the summer saw multitudes of people descend on our own Fire Station 5 when the Fire Department of New York came to present a 1,200 lb. beam from the World Trade Center to Arlington. The new memorial serves as a tribute to those who lost their lives in the tragic events of 9/11 and those who risked their lives to save others. Placing the memorial at Fire Station 5 will serve as a lasting tribute to our neighborhood fire fighters for their dedicated efforts as the first responders at the Pentagon on 9/11.

Our Centennial in 2010 was also an election year, so we co-hosted our traditional candidates' night with our neighbors from Arlington Ridge. All of the candidates for County Board and School Board participated in a lively discussion. Worth noting that of the five candidates for office, three were from the neighborhood. How about that for civic involvement?

The third annual Boo Ha Ha brought out hundreds of children (and their parents) to celebrate a safe Halloween in Virginia Highlands Park. We were joined by many volunteers, as well as police, librarians, and elected officials who helped out as

judges with the contests. As always, the event was made possible by many local sponsors, to whom we are grateful.

Looking forward, our younger children can now expect to attend a new high school. Our thanks to the School Board and County Board for moving the Wakefield High School construction bond forward to this year to take advantage of low interest rates and competitive construction costs and our thanks to Arlington citizens for passing the bond!

Our own Restaurant Row on 23<sup>rd</sup> street is a vital part of the character of our neighborhood and has been a robust supporter of the neighborhood activities, even through these tough economic times. January can be a quiet month on the row, so take the opportunity visit our local restaurants, relax, chat with the owners, and have a meal.

If you are reading this in hard copy, it's come to you through a network of volunteer distributors throughout the neighborhood, and is printed by the folks at SOC. Our thanks go to our volunteer newsletter distributors, many of whom have delivered our newsletters for years. And tremendous thanks go to SOC for their ongoing support of ACHA. Their printing services are fantastic and allow the newsletter to go out every month.

Last, thanks to all the folks who make our neighborhood a great place to live. We'll wrap up our centennial year with a traditional pot luck dinner. Please consider joining us for the dinner on Saturday, December 11 for some holiday cheer at the Fire House. We'd also love to have you join us in 2011 as we begin Aurora Highlands' second century!



## Activities and Events

**Annual Miracle on 23rd Street Tree Lighting Celebration**  
**Friday, December 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**  
SOC Enterprises, 750 23rd Street South (corner of 23rd and Grant).

**Aurora Hills Women's Club 5th Annual Holiday Boutique,**  
**Saturday, December 4, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,** Mount Vernon Baptist Church, 935 23rd Street South. The Boutique will feature a wide variety of artisans selling quality hand-made gift items, jewelry, accessories and art. Proceeds from crafts, bake sale, chili lunch and raffle support the Arlington Historical Society in restoring the beautiful Hume School and other neighborhood charitable causes.

**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.

**Arlington Historical Society Holiday Social**  
**Sunday, December 5, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** The Arlington Historical Society invites neighbors to a Holiday Social at the Arlington Historical Museum (the former Hume School), 1805 South Arlington Ridge Road.

**Annual Firehouse Potluck**  
**December 11, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Fire House 5.** The Holiday Potluck is for all in the broad neighborhood of AHCA/ARCA (friends and extended family welcome as well and really anyone else who wants to come join in). This will be the 3rd year we have had the potluck in partnership with the Firehouse 105 team - last year we got to watch the fire trucks roll out on a call just feet away from the dinner tables.

Bring your favorite dish to share. Please email [brucecameronahca@gmail.com](mailto:brucecameronahca@gmail.com) and/or [cameron.maria@gmail.com](mailto:cameron.maria@gmail.com) or call (703-795-6575) so we make sure we have a good mix of tasty dishes and treats.

**Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Sale**  
**November 27 – December 22**  
**6:00 - 9:00 p.m. weekdays,**  
**9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. weekends**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 800 23<sup>rd</sup> St. South. For more information call John Tieso 703-892-1190

**Synetic Theater presents**  
**The Nutcracker**  
**December 11 - January 16**  
Crystal City Theater, 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. Free Open Rehearsal on Saturday, December 4 at 11:00 a.m. For more information, visit <https://robot.boxofficetickets.com/800-494-TIXS/WebObjects/BOTx2005.woa/wa/inspectProgram?id=122625&passKey=d6318e6d19>

**Courthouse Farmers' Market**  
**Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – noon**  
**Note:** *the market will be closed on Saturday, December 25th, but will be open Saturday January 1.*  
Located 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. Winter Market hours (8:00 a.m. to noon) begin on January 1. During Winter Market, the location of the market will shift onto 14th Street, leaving the two parking lots available for parking. Free parking is available in the parking garage under the County Administrative Offices. 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.** **Note:** *the market will be closed on Saturday, December 25th.* Our closest neighborhood farmers' markets have closed for the season, but the nearby Del Ray market is open year round. 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.

### Great Books on the Suggestion Shelf at the Aurora Hills Library

by Cory Giacobbe

The books on the suggestion shelf this month have to do with winter, Christmas, Hanukkah and cooking. Among the picture books are two based on the gingerbread man theme: [The Runaway Latkes](#) by Leslie Kimmelman, which briefly explains the tradition of Hanukkah and includes a recipe for potato pancakes; and [Gingerbread Baby](#) by Jan Brett. I've been a fan of Brett's picture books for years. The sweet comforting old world themes are lushly illustrated with intricate drawings that hold scenes within scenes, often telling a parallel story in the borders around

the pictures. I was delighted to see in the middle of the story, that the runaway gingerbread baby came upon a gingerbread house in a clearing in the woods, and it looked exactly like the ones we made at my sister's house last year. This gingerbread story has a surprise ending.

If you need ideas for holiday baking, you'll find Good Housekeeping's [Cookies!](#) as well as the gorgeously illustrated [Christmas Gifts from the Kitchen](#) by Georgeann Brennan.

Lastly, a cookbook not just for the winter holidays, there is [Moosewood Res-](#)

[taurant Celebrates: Festive Meals for Holidays and Special Occasions.](#) This book is a collection of menus and recipes for holiday parties. Organized by season and its holidays, the book has an international and multicultural orientation. In Summer, for example, you'll find the 4th of July (Portobello mushroom burgers and blue cheese potato salad) and Juneteenth (shrimp jambalaya and black-eyed pea salad). Each holiday includes an introduction to the holiday and its meaning, illuminating how the menu was chosen. Check these books out at Aurora Hills Library!

## Dominion Power Prunes Trees to Protect Power Lines from Falling Tree Limbs

by Cory Giacobbe

The power company has been in the neighborhood over the last few weeks pruning trees to protect power lines from falling tree limbs. Our neighborhood experienced a couple of power outages this year due to a whole tree falling during the snow storm, and a massive limb falling unexpectedly on a fine afternoon.

Dominion Virginia Power does its best to maintain uninterrupted service, and to do that, they have to go through tree-lined neighborhoods and prune the trees that are touching the power lines or hanging above them. As we know, heavy snow, lightning or wind can bring down trees or limbs, even if the trees are healthy.

The best way to prevent unsightly and unshapely pruning of trees near power lines is of course not to plant them under power lines in the first place. Planting trees is great for your property value, energy efficiency and aesthetics, but a little research and proper planning will help you put the right tree in the right place.

Before you plant a tree, check with your nursery or online sources to determine the expected height and spread of a tree's canopy at maturity. Then look up and around your property to make

sure there is plenty of sky space for the tree as it grows.

If you determine that you want to plant a white oak (a wonderful choice!) check a source such as the Arbor Day Foundation's tree guide <http://www.arborday.org/treeguide/index.cfm>. This is a searchable index that will give details about trees and shrubs. This website lists the white oak, *Quercus alba*, as having a height of 50' - 80' and a spread of about the same. So, starting from the proposed location of the tree, pace out half the spread, or 40'. Look up above and make sure that there will be no obstructions as the tree matures, such



as buildings, power lines or other trees.



Find links to more information on tree selection and planting, such as the Tree Owners Manual, at the website of the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria, <http://treestewards.org/>

## AHCA: Our Logo, Ourselves

By Janet Dunkelberger

After 100 years, our community still stands strong. Aurora Highlands combines the names of two subdivisions, Aurora Hills and Virginia Highlands, and includes initials from a third, Addison Heights. The name of our civic association reflects our unity. Our logo, a house crafted from the A and H, represents our shelter, symbol of our shared strength, and vulnerability, our haven, our refuge. This is where we live and raise our families. As neighbors, we come together understanding our mutual needs and respecting our individual preferences.

We gather to celebrate good fortune and to resolve troubling concerns.

The history of this neighborhood is rich with hard-won victories, but also disappointing defeats. We stand together to face threats to our peace and security. Others may see only shopping centers, offices, ball fields and highways. Thousands pass this way each day. For us, this area holds all our hopes and dreams, our home. Our logo, ourselves.

## Water Line Work—What to Look Out For

by Cara Tenuta

Water lines don't tend to improve with age and Arlington County has several projects underway and in planning stages to replace our aging pipes. If work will be taking place near your home, here are some tips on how to make it a bit smoother.

1) Save and keep handy any written communication from Arlington County concerning the project. You may need to know the name and the phone number of the project manager responsible for your construction project.

2) Look for the name and phone numbers of any contractors who might be doing work for Arlington County. Write the company name and phone number down and keep it handy. If you need to call and report a water problem, having this information may speed the process of resolving it.

3) Check to insure your water is working each and every day. If you are home in the daytime check the water frequently. If you are away in the daytime, you should check your water before you leave and as soon as you return home.

4) Ask lots of questions of any construction workers or the manager you see on your street:

- What are you doing today?
- Will my water service be affected?
- Will access to my home be impacted?
- Will my street be closed?
- Will equipment be left in front of my home blocking access to my home/driveway, during the week or over the weekend?
- Do you need me to move my car from the street to allow you to work on the lines or the street?

5) Should you have any water problems, call and report them immediately and frequently:

**703-228-6555.** In other words, if someone tells

you that you will get a call back and you don't, call again. If no one shows up to address your problem, call again. Keep calling until your problem is resolved. If the person helping you can't resolve your problem, ask for the name and number of someone who can. Be nice, but be persistent.



6) Your home may suffer damage from repeated digging, compacting, paving and heavy equipment. If you have plaster walls, old cracks that have been repaired may resurface and new cracks may develop.

7) Expect that your patience may be tried. Pipes or heavy equipment may block access to your home for days--during the week and over weekends. Large sections of pavement may be left in front of your home. Loads of sand and gravel may be dumped next to your storm drain. Parking may be restricted on your street, but no work is done. Construction crews may come off parking, but not come and do any work in the area.

8) Never assume since you see people working on the street that they will not leave until they have any problems fixed and you have clean water to your home. Always check and always ask questions.

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# Saturday Breakfast Buffet \$9.99

Mrs. Trumbull ...  
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# 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

### Winter Almanac

Just because it's winter doesn't mean you can't work in the garden. Winter is a great time to plant trees and shrubs while they are dormant, as long as the ground isn't too frozen to dig. It's also a good time to prune. Use a good pruning guide such as the US Forest Service's Tree Owner's Manual which can be found and downloaded for free on the website of the Arlington and Alexandria Tree Steward website, <http://treestewards.org/>

Winter is also a good time to remove English ivy from tree trunks. English ivy is pretty but it damages tree bark, exposing it to disease. If allowed to advance up the trunk and branches, the ivy competes with the tree leaves and their ability to nourish the tree through photosynthesis. The tree is weakened and much more likely to fall in a storm event.



### Winter Garden

If you notice that your garden lacks color and interest in the winter, this is a good time to plan and acquire trees and shrubs that provide visual appeal for you and survival material for the suburban wildlife.

Consider planting a few native evergreen trees and shrubs. They are not only beautiful in winter but if placed properly, can provide a windbreak that can keep your home warmer in winter.

Another way to add winter interest to your garden is to choose trees and shrubs with interesting bark, such as river birch and crape myrtle. Shrubs with colorful stems or with nice structure add something nice to look at even when they've lost their leaves. Planting trees and shrubs that provide winter sustenance for birds and mam-

mals helps sustain the ecosystem and gives you a dramatic display as wildlife forages for food in your yard. For ideas, browse the online version of US Fish and Wildlife Service's Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. It is organized by tree and shrub, by evergreen and deciduous, and by wildlife value. <http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/toc.htm>

### 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 at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/>

[environmentalservices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdLeafCollection.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/environmentalservices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdLeafCollection.aspx)

Here is the link to the schedule for each Civic Association. AHCA is in Zone 2, and currently is scheduled to get a second pass on December 8:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdLeafCollectionSched.aspx>

Call (703) 228-6565 for a recorded schedule by civic association.

### Tree Steward Class

Apply now for the next Tree Steward 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

[AuroraHighlands.org](http://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.