

Aurora Highlands

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011

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, May 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

Agenda

6:30 Social

7:00 AHCA Business Meeting

7:15 Review of draft Aurora Highlands Proposed

Metrics Inputs to Crystal City Citizen Review Council (C3RC)

Free Canopy Trees for Aurora Highlands Civic Association Members

By Cory Giacobbe

This year there are at least three ways for Aurora Highlands Civic Association members to receive trees. Trees enhance the quality of life in a neighborhood by manufacturing oxygen, filtering air pollution, buffering noise, increasing property values, slowing traffic, saving energy costs, reducing soil erosion, increasing privacy, and keeping people happy and healthy.

Tree Canopy Fund

The Tree Canopy Fund gives grants to Arlington community groups to plant and maintain trees on private property.

Its purpose is to increase Arlington's tree cover. The program is administered by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) and the Arlington County Urban Forestry Commission. The grant funds the planting of 2-inch diameter trees that will grow into tall shade canopy trees at maturity. Residents work with their sponsoring group and a tree steward to select an appropriate tree for their site.

The Aurora Highlands Civic Association successfully planted 14 trees in the neighborhood the last time the grant was administered, and we have

already submitted our letter of intent for the 2011 process. Some of the criteria for successful grants are proposals for canopy trees

that will shade public sidewalks and streets in neighborhoods that have planting strips that are too narrow for trees; native trees that were part of the original plant community of Northern Virginia; trees in neighborhoods with low canopy coverage. The grant applications are due July 8.

If you would like to participate in this program, please review the grant criteria at the ACE website <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/treecanopyfund.htm> and then email me with your contact information and address at ahca.news@yahoo.com.

Aurora Highlands Civic Association Tree Program

The AHCA has put aside about \$1,000 to pay for trees on private property this year. It's a matching fund program. We will pay for half the cost of your tree,

—Continued on Page 3—

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

Several activities move into planning this month.

The C3RC members will be submitting candidate measures for consideration as part of the base-lining effort that will start the Crystal City redevelopment process. As an adjacent, 100 year-old community, we'll contribute not only our proposed measures on traffic, libraries, education and open space, but also suggestions on more encompass-

ing measures on other aspects of life we particularly value in this unique area - ones that newcomers will quickly come to cherish.

The 2011 Passport to Summer season is coming up, with the library card registration kickoff scheduled for Wednesday June 15 from 5 to 7 at the Aurora Hills Community Center. Come celebrate the start of summer, the partial restoration of library hours, and the

new improvements to the facility with pizza and books. After a vacation break, the Passport to Summer Wednesdays will start on July 6 and continue weekly through August 24. We'll be planning the activities this month, so please contact me if you have a theme idea that lends itself to an activity, some story time readings and some cool books for kids ages two to ten.

Trees for Peace and Prosperity

By Cheryl Mendonsa

What can a dollar buy these days? For our friends and neighbors Glen Evans and Les Garrison, one dollar can buy a tree that will work toward peace and prosperity in some of world's most poverty stricken and war torn countries.

For Glen and the Leadership University he has been building in Honduras, it can buy a coffee tree to help sustain an educational opportunity in one of the world's poorest countries.

March 1, 2011 was the first day of class after years of fund raising and building. Glen reports on his web site that some students traveled by bus for 16 hours to reach campus for the welcoming ceremony.

"As you know, in addition to providing an education we intend to help students with all of their needs—physical, emotional and spiritual. Even on the first day, needs were apparent. All arrived hungry and some arrived with tooth aches or sore gums," said Glen. More from the Art for Humanity web site:

Coffee Trees

Coffee trees are being planted as part of the organic farm which will sustain the Leadership University. These trees will yield coffee beans for many years to come. The sale of that coffee will make the college self-

sustaining. Please consider sponsoring some trees in the name of a loved one. Tree sponsorships are \$1 per tree – a lovely way to honor your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, or congregation.

Just think, for less than the price of a cup of coffee, you can have the whole tree!

Fruit trees as well as other trees can also be sponsored. Fruit trees provide better nutrition for those in the area and certain varieties of shade trees provide much need habitat for birds. Just specify your preference at: <http://www.artforhumanity.org/news/misc-info/investment-opportunities/donate-trees/> (click on sponsorship programs if the link doesn't work)

Trees for Afghanistan

Les Garrison is back in Afghanistan and he too, is seeking funding for trees. His latest email:

"Because Afghanistan has been at war since 1979, the land has been neglected, soil depleted, and trees cut down. Many Afghans have had to sacrifice long-term care of the land for short-term survival. Now, with their newfound hopefulness about the future, it seems very important to them to plant trees. Trees for fruit, wildlife habitat, erosion control, water shed management, building material, water temperature reduction, match-sticks, fuel, cleaning up the air, and more.

For every dollar, two or three (or more!) saplings will be provided to farmers. Some of the money may be used to provide fencing to keep the goats from eating the trees. The farmers put sweat equity into the trees.

We have an agriculture expert with over thirty years experience who is working to make this a success."

Because it is difficult to send Les money, he has asked me to be his collection point, and he will personally front the money for the purchases, bringing home receipts and e-mailing photos. You can send a check to my home address: 629 South 19th Street and in the Memo line write Trees for Afghanistan, or hand me cash at the next AHCA meeting, and I'll give you a receipt.



Super Playgroup Next Friday!

South Arlington MOMS Club Super Playgroup meets on Friday, May 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Come one; come ALL! The SAMC Super Playgroup General Meetings are open to everyone, so get your stay-at-home mommy friends OUT of their homes to join the fun!

Our Super Playgroups offer volunteer-led children's activities for all ages and they are great opportunities to let the kids play and do crafts while we enjoy the company of other great moms. If it's nice weather, we can head over to the park located right beside the church after the meeting.

We hope to see lots of old friends and new faces!

Please note our new room at Our Lady Queen of Peace (2700 19th St S Arlington, VA). We now meet in Father Ray Hall, the one story orange brick building behind the church. Park in the back parking lot. With the Ministry Center (our old location) behind you, walk between the two buildings ahead. Father Ray Hall is on the right.

For more information, find us on Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/MOMS-Club-of-Arlington-South> or email samcmember@yahoo.com.

Canopy Trees for AHCA Members

—continued from first page—

up to \$150. We'll select blocks with low canopy coverage and high resident participation. Send an email to Jim Oliver jamesroli-ver@me.com

Arlington County Trees for Residents Program

For the past few years, Arlington County has been distributing free trees each Spring to residents to plant on their property. Residents sign up to receive their choice of four young trees. There are usually two native canopy trees (e.g. American sycamore, Bur Oak) and two native understory trees (e.g. American hazelnut,

Sweetbay magnolia) to choose from. This year the distribution will take place in the fall instead of mid-May, in order to give the young trees a chance to establish better roots before they have to face the heat and drought conditions that can occur in the summer.

The trees being offered this year will be announced in September and the deadline to sign up for one will be at the end of the month. Distribution will take place during October. Watch this newsletter in September for details.

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You've got a problem?
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Potomac Crescent ★ Waldorf School

SUMMER PROGRAM

For Children 4 to 6 years old
July 11-15 | July 18-22 | July 25-29
Meets Monday through Friday 9am to 1pm

www.PotomacCrescentSchool.org
923 S 23rd Street, Arlington, VA 22202
703.486.1309

Grab a Bike and a Friend and Go for a Ride

by Nick Giacobbe

Spring is in the air and it's a great time to go for a bike ride. One of my favorite features of our neighborhood is our quick and easy connection to some of the country's best dedicated bike trails. Not only is our neighborhood a great place to start a fun ride, but many people commute to work by bike every day because it's so convenient. Each year bike commuting is celebrated on Bike to Work Day, this year it will be Friday, May 20. There are various pit stops, among them is the Water Park in Crystal City (1750 Crystal Drive), where the Crystal City BID is organizing breakfast, bike repairs, and prizes -- not just on Bike to Work Day, but from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. each morning during the week of May 16 to 20. Another major Arlington pit stop is Rosslyn Gateway Park, where there will be lots of activities. More information on Bike to Work Day and registration is available through the Bike Arlington web site, <http://www.bikearlington.com>. The Bike Arlington web site has lots of great information about biking in Arlington and several pre-planned routes, including a pretty flat 5.8 mile tour of Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highlands.

Connecting to Mount Vernon Trail

There are several easy connections to bike trails, the one I use a lot is the tunnel just to the right of the Water Park that connects through to the Mount Vernon trail, a fantastic north-south route along the Potomac (sure beats scrambling down the hillside from the airport access route of the old days!). A fun, short ride for kids is to bike up the Mount Vernon trail just a short distance north to Gravelly Point Park, a great place for plane-spotting, a game of Frisbee or a picnic.

Continuing north on the Mount Vernon trail, you have your choice of safe and easy connections to DC, crossing the river at either the 14th Street Bridge or

Memorial Bridge. I often take one across, wander around the District, and then come back on the other. On a good day you can time it just right and take the south-bound ride home with the wind at your back and barely even need to pedal.



Another option on the northern end of the trail is a hike at Roosevelt Island. It's a beautiful natural island with fantastic flora and fauna. It's hard to believe you are in the heart of the city. Also near Roosevelt Island is a connection to Rosslyn and onward to ei-

ther the Key Bridge to Georgetown or the Custis Trail westward along Interstate 66.

Heading south from the Water Park connector, the Mount Vernon Trail passes through the Washington Sailing Marina (a nice lunch spot on the river), before heading through the heart of Old Town Alexandria. If you're up for a good long ride, you can take the trail south along the river about 12 miles to the end at George and Martha Washington's place, Mount Vernon.

Four Mile Run Trail

A major east-west trail that begins in our neighborhood is the Four Mile Run Trail, which is easy to pick up at the southern end of Eads Street. Just beyond the water pollution control plant you can either go left (east) and connect to the Mount Vernon Trail, or to the right (west) and travel to Shirlington. Once in Shirlington, the

Four Mile Run Trail connects to the W&OD Trail, a fantastic rails-to-trails conversion that goes for 45 miles out to Purcellville, Virginia. It's operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority and there's more information available at <http://www.nvrpa.org>.

No Bike?

If you don't have a bike or have visitors who want to join you on a ride, we are also in just the right place. The Washington area and our neighborhood are well served by Capital Bikeshare (<http://www.capitalbikeshare.com>). You've seen the red bikes all over the place and there are racks at 23rd Street



and Eads, the fire station, Metro stations, as well as many other nearby locations. Renting is easy, there's now a \$5 rate for a 24 hour period, and there is no additional charge for rides of 30 minutes or less. The program has been wildly successful and the more than 1,100 bikes at over 110 stations have had lots of use since the fall 2010 rollout. Capital Bikeshare estimates that each bike gets used more than three times every day.



For longer rides (or bike repairs), we have a great bike shop right in Crystal City at 220 20th Street. Revolution Cycles' City Hub shop has an innovative bike sharing and bike rental program. Their rental bikes come with

helmets, locks and a nice ride, so keep that in mind as well.

Happy Trails!

Observations of the Pentagon City PenPlace Process

By Nancy Swain, Arlington Ridge Civic Association

As AHCA readers may know, on September 29, 2010 (the day after the Crystal City decision) a Phased Development Site Plan (PSDP) amendment for the Pentagon City tract was filed by Vornado, who is also a major land owner in Crystal City. Documents show the plan was discussed with staff before February, 2010. Some wonder, could this proposal have been "held back" on purpose until after the Crystal City decision? Although no office space is available in the 116-acre Pentagon City tract, Vornado proposes that four office buildings (over 1.8 million square feet) and a hotel be built on Parcel 1D, along with approximately 2,250 parking spaces. For the first time, the proposal brings in density from off-site with many bonuses. To many neighbors, the proposal effectively dismantles the PDSP and sets the precedent for future changes for the Pentagon City tract.

As previously discussed in AHCA news, the process for looking at the proposal is via the Long Range Planning Committee (LRCP) of the Planning Commission. The first meeting was very "open" with many questions asked and requests for information from the 1976 decision and later legislative decisions. Commissioners seemed to realize they needed the background information to consider the present proposal. Interestingly, at least two requested documents in the first meeting were not mentioned in the staff report for the second meeting.

These are the 1976 Master Development Plan and background changes to the PDSP. Thanks to an AHCA member, the Master Development Plan is now on the County website.

By the second LRPC meeting, seemingly attended by fewer LRPC members, these requests appeared to be reduced to brief general comments. For example, regarding the PDSP, only brief comments from the PDSP are utilized in the report. By emphasizing looking at the site and other nearby uses, such as the new Crystal City Sector Plan, rather than the past, many crucial elements of the Pentagon City PDSP are being omitted in the study. During the second meeting many matters were not discussed. To some observers, limiting parameters and constraints have been placed on this study. For example, there is no in-depth study of the C-0 2.5 zoning ordinance, no serious review of General Land Use Plan (GLUP) striping, no review of the Pentagon City Metro Station area concept, and very little consideration of the legislative history of the Pentagon City tract. The Transfer of Density ordinance and North Tract/Potomac Yards history and background have not been considered. These latter two items are important because the extra density would come from density claimed to be available on the North Tract. The legislative history is rich material and surely "grist for the mill." For example, one reason Pentagon City has less

density than Crystal City or Rosslyn is the County recognized this was a heavily polluted area and therefore wanted a less dense (less traffic) area for Pentagon City. A state air quality monitoring station was installed in the lobby of the Community Center for that reason. Also, in 1984 hotels were transferred to parcel 1D to focus hotel use on that site. A couple of years ago, 100,000 square feet of commercial space was freely given to provide commercial services for the residential uses in Parcel 3 because in 1984 all planned commercial density to complement residences was put into the shopping center. Finally, in a massing study, a PDSP version consolidated the density so there were seven empty acres on Parcel 1D! The hinted conclusion is how could that be the best use of land?!

The third LRPC meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at the County offices at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. There is still time to effectively and analytically consider the PenPlace proposal on the Pentagon City tract. The present parameters should be changed to include at least the previously discussed items. Will the County do that, or will the information simply hint at a Site Plan Review Committee recommendation as the next step in the process? Keeping the process and questions open is important...can we count on our County for that information?

Smell That?

By Nick Giacobbe

You may have noticed an increased odor from the Water Pollution Control Plant over the past few weeks. Plant managers report that they are diligently working to reduce the excessive odors and steps have been taken to minimize the odors that are released. In order to fully address the reduced capacity and functionality of the odor control system, contractors and plant staff will be cleaning ducts (in the fu-

ture they'll try to do it in winter), performing maintenance activities, modifying equipment for rapid troubleshooting, and refreshing staff on odor control procedures over the next month. Unfortunately, the duct cleaning and maintenance activities will likely cause a temporary increase in odor; however this work is necessary to ensure the best long-term performance of the system.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the plant's shift supervisor at 703-585-6851. Neighbors report that the shift supervisor is able to review the situation quickly through the various monitoring gauges and either remedy or at least diagnose and report the problem.

Highlights of 4/27/11 Quarterly Police Community Meeting

By Louise Garris

The meeting started with a presentation by the County's Office of Emergency Management with reminders on how to be prepared in your home, office, and car with supplies and contact lists should a local emergency arise and you need to shelter in place.

Auxiliary Officer Heather Hurlock spoke on the continuing problem of bicycle thefts and the need to keep bikes locked-up with preferably a "U" lock (most other locks are easily defeated).

"Wood chucks" (door-to-door contractors selling tree services) start to solicit services in our neighborhoods this time of year. Detective Gleason with the Financial Crimes Division warned neighbors to avoid these type of con-

tractors, many are not properly licensed or insured and you can become a victim of a scam. Anyone you may have a concern about call the non-emergency number 703-558-2222 (if possible get the vehicle's license plate number).

Although most crime stats were down, there were 17 burglaries this first quarter. Ten of those being "cluster" burglaries that occurred in groups in buildings. If you see something that seems suspicious call the non-emergency number, 703-558-2222. It's a good idea to enter the non-emergency number into your cell phone so you have it available should you need it.

On March 5, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City during the DMV Music

Awards an incident occurred and was responded to by Arlington and other area police. The incident is still under investigation and they are looking for a suspect who struck a bartender in the head resulting in the loss of his eye. Footage of the suspect may be seen on YOUTUBE: keywords: DMV Awards Fight Victim and Suspect. Anyone with information can contact Detective Donaggio at 703-228-4167.

The next Quarterly Police/Community Meeting will be on Wednesday, July 27 at the usual meeting spot, Our Lady of Lourdes Meeting Hall, 830 S. 23rd Street, at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and watch the community listserv for reminders.

Arlington Public Schools Project Higher Enrollments, Space Shortage

By Jenny Lawhorn Sammis

In 2015, Oakridge Elementary, our "international neighborhood school," is predicted to be the largest elementary school in all of Arlington County.

Arlington Public Schools Superintendent Patrick Murphy met with PTA members at Oakridge Elementary in April to give a presentation on the projected growth of the student population in Arlington, the likely space shortage, and what Arlington Public Schools (APS) may do to accommodate the increased enrollment.

Superintendent Murphy says enrollment is expected to increase 4% per year through 2016. APS officials anticipating needing about 3,400 additional seats across all schools to serve the growing student population, expected to increase from under 22,000 today to 26,500 by 2016.

If the projections prove true, this would bring the student population in Arlington to the highest levels since the 1960s.

The growth is coming from more people moving into Arlington (and being born into families already here), some

to take advantage of the high quality of our schools. New residents include families moving into new developments and existing high-rise apartments in Crystal City. APS studies show that as of this year Oakridge Elementary has more students from high-rise apartments—37% of all children enrolled—than any other school in the APS system.

Under current projections, Oakridge Elementary School would be at more than 140% of capacity by 2015 – a projected enrollment of 827 students. In 2011, Oakridge is already at 110% capacity, with 624 students. (Middle and high schools in North Arlington would experience the most overcrowding, according to the same projections.)

APS is currently managing space shortages by increasing class sizes at the high school level, converting computer rooms to mobile computer labs freeing up classroom space and installing classroom trailers on school grounds. APS is considering various solutions for the future, including building additions to elementary and middle schools, building a new elementary

school, and converting non-school buildings to schools. Brainstorming on how to manage and fund the increased enrollment will continue throughout 2011 as APS officials continue to meet with individual school PTAs and present solutions to the County Board.

At this point, APS is not planning to add trailers as extra classrooms to Oakridge for the 2011-2012 school year.

Molly Watson, President of Oakridge Elementary's PTA, said Oakridge parents are getting involved in working with APS on solutions and advocating for Oakridge. "Our main goals are to advocate for fairness and parity so that any changes to accommodate the growth that affect Oakridge are also shared at other schools, and, importantly, we want to preserve and protect Oakridge's successful formula as a true neighborhood school."

Parents interested in working with the PTA on this issue can join the Oakridge PTA's Capacity Committee. To join the committee, contact Molly Watson at oakridgepta@gmail.com.

Activities and Events

Courthouse Farmers' Market

Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – noon.

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. 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.

The nearby Del Ray market is open year round, offering producer-grown 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.

Bread of Life Cooking Classes, 3rd Saturday of each month. 1:00-3:30pm at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 935 S. 23rd Street.

For young chefs: come sharpen your culinary skills, dress up in chef uniform and have fun. Call (703) 979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org.

Four Mile Run Farmers and Artisans Market, Every Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., just across the bridge on Mount Vernon Avenue.

Last year was a great success for this new market and the community successfully supporting the market week in and week out despite 100+ degree days and lots of rain.

Crystal City Farm Fresh Market, Every Tuesday through November 22, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on the Sidewalk Along Crystal Drive between 18th and 20th Street.

Over 20 local farmers and producers bring together seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh-cut flowers, container plants and herbs, farm-raised eggs, all-natural meats, artisan baked goods, specialty foods and much more.

YogaFit for Seniors, Tuesdays and Thursdays - 11:00 a.m. to noon at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 935 S. 23rd Street.

Sit & Be Fit. This Yoga class is gentle and fun. First two classes are free. Small fee. Call 703-979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org for more information.

YogaFit every Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 935 S. 23rd Street.

Come experience the health benefits of Hatha Yoga. First two classes are free. Small fee. Call 703-979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org for more information.

Outdoor Zumba. Every Wednesday at noon, 2121 Crystal Drive.

The Latin beat returns with lunchtime Zumba, now in the larger courtyard area of 2121 Crystal Drive. This free weekly class provides participants a fast-dancing class led by Sport & Health instructors and runs through the end of September. Participants can even grab a quick, complimentary shower at the Sport & Health Club after the class.

Readings and Story Telling Time, 2nd Friday of each Month 7:00pm - 9:00 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 935 23rd Street South.

Call 703-979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org for more information.

Neighborhood Service Projects, Saturday, May 7th, 9:00 a.m. – noon.

Join your neighbors in a variety of outdoor beautification projects as the Church of Latter-day Saints open the new chapel. Service projects are taking place at several sites in our neighborhood: Hume School, Arlington County Parks and Recreation, Gunston Middle School, SOC Enterprises, and Arlington Food Assistance Center. School Supplies for Gunston Middle School Students can be dropped off at The Church of Jesus Christ Chapel (745 S 23rd Street) from 9:00 a.m. — 6 p.m. Drop-ins are encouraged or more information: <http://tinyurl.com/3qpeg6x>

Open House, Saturday, May 7th, 3:00 p.m.— 6:00 p.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will host an Open House at its recently renovated chapel on 23rd Street South in Aurora Highlands. Tours will be provided and all are welcome to attend. Enjoy special musical performances and refreshments, and find out more about the chapel's community involvement and faith, including: family history, family home evening, employment services, emergency preparedness, chapels and temples, and what Mormons believe. The Chapel is located at 745 S 23rd Street (between Grant and Hayes).

Community Yard Sale, Saturday, May 14, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Calvary UMC, 2315 South Grant Street.

Thinking of having a yard sale this spring, have items to sell, or just looking for a bargain? Join the third annual Calvary Yard Sale. It's only \$10 for a spot (vendors will be in the church parking lot), table, and chairs (2). The vendors get to keep the proceeds from all of their respective sales and are responsible for taking all unsold items back with them. There will also be a bake sale and a grill fired up to so you can enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and sodas for lunch. Proceeds from this year's yard sale will support the Calvary Youth Groups' Project Spy mission trip this summer. For more information email yard-sale@calmeth.org or call 703-892-5185.

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment's Ninth Annual Green Home and Garden Tour. Sunday, June 5, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Featuring a variety of the best green homes and environmentally-friendly gardens in Arlington. The tour will include Arlington homes with green renovations, green roofs, solar panels, rain barrels, wildlife habitats, rain gardens and more. A \$5 per person donation is suggested to support ACE's conservation programs, payable online or at the first place you visit. The self-guided tour booklet will be available on the ACE website, <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org>, beginning May 15.

Arlington Ridge
 —
 Aurora Highlands
 —
 Pentagon City
 —
 Crystal City

Please join us!

MAY 7 2011

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Church of
 Jesus Christ
 of Latter-day Saints

745 S. 23rd Street
 between Grant and Hayes
 Arlington, VA



SERVICE

IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Join in a variety of outdoor beautification projects.

Please meet at one of these locations:

- The Hume School
- Gunston Middle School
- SOC Enterprises
- Fort Scott Park
- Oakridge Elementary School

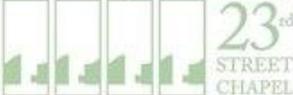
We are also gathering school supplies for students in need at Gunston Middle School. School supplies can be donated at the Chapel on May 7 from 9am-6pm.

The Church of
 Jesus Christ
 of Latter-day Saints
 745 S. 23rd Street
 between Grant and Hayes
 Arlington, VA

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Large & small glue sticks | Poster boards |
| 3x5 lined index cards | Five subject notebooks |
| Pencils, pencils, pencils | One subject notebooks |
| Hand pencil sharpeners | Three subject notebooks |
| Lined notebook paper | Pocket folder with fasteners |
| Graph paper | Overhead pens |
| Card stock | White board markers |
| Construction paper | Colored pencils |
| (all colors, all sizes) | Student scissors |

See list at right for needed supplies.

The Church of
 Jesus Christ
 of Latter-day Saints
 745 S. 23rd Street
 between Grant and Hayes
 Arlington, VA



Please visit!

MAY 7 2011

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

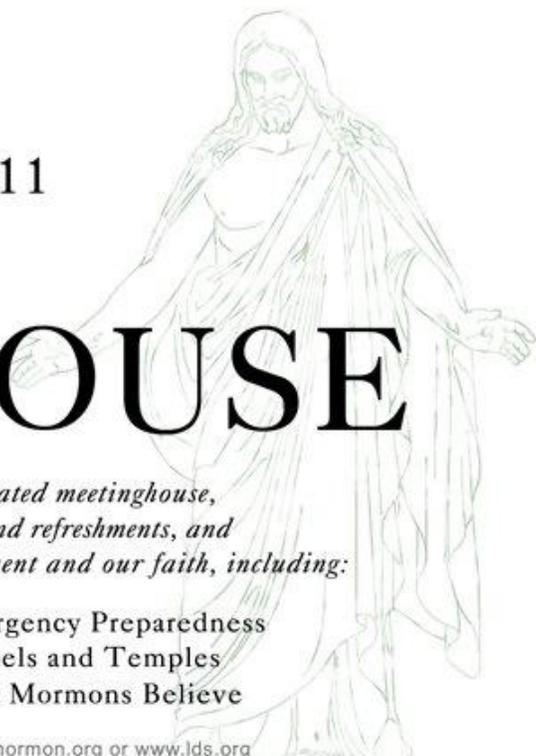
OPEN HOUSE

Come meet us, see our newly renovated meetinghouse, enjoy special musical performances and refreshments, and find out more about our community involvement and our faith, including:

- Family History
- Emergency Preparedness
- Family Home Evening
- Chapels and Temples
- Employment Services
- What Mormons Believe

For more information on the LDS Church: www.mormon.org or www.lds.org

Find more information about the service projects on  [facebook:"23rd St. Chapel Open House"](https://www.facebook.com/23rdStChapelOpenHouse)



Attention New and Experienced Sailors!

By Janice Rathjen

The Potomac River Albacore Fleet (PRAF) has been sailing Albacores on the Potomac River for more than 30 years. We are one of the largest fleets in the Potomac River Sailing Association (PRSA), which sails from the



Washington Sailing Marina (WSM) located in Alexandria, VA.

Wednesday Night Sailing ~ 6:00 p.m. to Sunset

Informal short course racing is held by the Albacore fleet Wednesday evenings from the first week of May through the last week of August right off the WSM

docks. Wednesday night races are not scored, and all about having fun and getting some sailing in. Skippers pick up crew off the dock, and will often change crew every other race. This way, everybody who wants to gets to go for a ride. Even if you've never sailed before, stop by and give it a try! After sailing we head over to a restaurant on 23rd Street for food, drinks and more socializing.

Sunday Racing

During the spring and fall, more formal racing is held by the Potomac River Sailing Association (PRSA) on the river.

Feel free to hang out with us for a while, with no obligation.... however, if you like us and want to be a regular PRAF "groupie", you will probably be asked to pay a \$10 annual membership fee. (Yes, that's right, just 10 bucks!)

Find out more by joining us for free on Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/Potomac-River-Albacore-Fleet/>

Women on the Water

by Janice Rathjen

Neighbor Diane Goebes is co-leading a canoe trip at the park where she serves as a volunteer. This trip is just for women, on Saturday, May 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We'll take a leisurely canoe trip through the wetlands of Jug Bay to see wildlife and spring flowers, have a lunch break, paddle a bit more, and then return to the visitor center for a session of yoga. No prior experience with canoes or yoga is necessary. This is very low-key. Cost is \$25, including canoes and yoga session (led by a yoga instructor). Bring your own lunch. The wetlands are very beautiful in the spring.

If interested, go to www.jugbay.org/education and download the registration form. For more information, go to the website www.jugbay.org and click on upcoming events on the right of the page, then go to May and click on May 21. The event is WOW (Women On the Water).

Makes a nice Mother's Day gift!

Have Fun, Help Yourself, Help Oakridge: Spring Fling Carnival and Silent Auction is May 22

By Jenny Lawhorn Sammis

Oakridge Elementary (1414 24th St S) is prepping to host the biggest bash in our community: the Spring Fling, an afternoon of fun for everyone, with carnival games, pony rides, raffles, great food and sweet treats, prizes, and the legendary deluxe Silent Auction. Spring Fling will be here, rain or shine, on Sunday, May 22 from 2:00—6:00 p.m.

Attractions for children include a bunch of newfangled carnival rides such as the Whirly Bird, Climbing Wall and Froggy Fly Fling to moon bounces and old-fashioned favorites--the ring toss and corn hole, the traditional cake walk, a petting zoo, face painting, henna tattoos, and pony rides. Hungry folks should make way for plenty of Crystal City Sports Pub fare, starting with a hearty lunch of burgers, hotdogs

and BBQ pork sandwiches, salads and veg options, followed by your choice of snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn, and assorted carnival delicacies.

For adults, this year's Silent Auction is bursting with irresistible goods, services, and entertainment—100 items are up for grabs. Bidders will help Oakridge by helping themselves to a whole lotta luxury and fun: facials from the Mandarin Spa; theater tickets to Arena Stage (including their award-winning production of Oklahoma!), Synetic Theater, Capitol Fringe Festival, and Woolly Mammoth, sports events, a new iPad, a custom-made table by a local artisan woodworker, dinner for ten from Windows Catering, limousine services, music, soccer lessons, and dozens of generous gift certificates to area restaurants on 23rd

Street, Crystal Drive and beyond. Check it, people: a new iPad is among the prizes on the block for this year's raffle.

Spring Fling, now in its ninth year, is made possible by generous donations of time, money and silent auction items from Oakridge parents and teachers, local businesses, Realtors, restaurants and corporations. Funds from the event are used to invest in the school, providing classroom technology, playground equipment, and enrichment programs that benefit all the children of Oakridge.

Want to volunteer? There's room for more talent, energy and helping hands. Please e-mail oakridgepta@gmail.com.

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

Au-

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

***Quercus alba*, VNPS**

Wildflower of the Year

I was examining the wild ginger that neighbor Natasha gave me last fall, and saw that the small elusive brown flowers that hide at the base of the plant were finally visible. I had read about the plant on the Virginia Native Plant Society website last year. It was their 2010 Wildflower of the Year, and that's how I knew to accept the plant from Natasha in the first place, and to look for the flower in the spring. I was curious about the 2011 VNPS Wildflower of the Year, and was surprised to see the headline on the website: **White Oak, VNPS 2011 Wildflower of the Year**. I was expecting a small, delicate plant, not a massive tree that grows to nearly 100 feet tall and can live as long as 500 years.

The choice does make sense though, given that the native white oak plays a major role in the ecology of our region. In fact, most of Arlington was originally an oak-hickory forest. These plant communities include white oak, black oak, scarlet oak, Southern red oak, chestnut oak, hickories, flowering dogwood, white ash, tulip poplar, redbud and eastern hophornbeam. Closer to the river and stream areas in the floodplain, you're more likely to find sycamores, river birch, hackberry and cottonwood. In spring, the herbaceous ground layer can include cut-leaved toothwort, rue-anemone, and star chickweed. You could also find lowbush blueberry, asters and goldenrod.

The success of the white oak in the forest

is attributed to its ability to survive for a long time as an understory tree, and then taking off, growing like a wildflower after it reaches above the surrounding canopy. Many local Tree Stewards and Master

Naturalists claim the *Quercus alba* as their



favorite tree for its qualities as a long-lived, sturdy, drought-tolerant tree that supports biodiversity. It provides food and habitat for birds, mammals and insects. The copious large acorns provide protein and fat for squirrels and raccoons. The white oak acorns taste better than those of the red oak. "The white oaks support 543 species of Lepidoptera alone", says naturalist Elizabeth Rives, referring to the butterflies and moths that depend on the tree as a larval food source. "It's the food pantry of nature!" claims local Tree Steward President Nora Palmatier, "and they have really pretty bark."

Arlington Notable Tree on Inge

In conjunction with the celebration of Earth Day 2011, Arlington County honored eight "Notable Trees" for their historic value,



Arlington began the program to identify and register outstanding trees in 1987.

Tree Planting Volunteers Honored by County Board

On April 26, the County Board presented the Bill Thomas Park Service Volunteer Award to a diverse group of volunteers from our neighborhood who blend conservation with historical preservation and to a passionate tree advocate. The Friends of Hume School and Tree Steward Nora Palmatier were awarded the County's highest honors for their outstanding contributions to the County's natural resources and public spaces. The Friends of Hume School award was accepted by project coordinator Chick Walters of ARCA. Nora Palmatier is a graduate of the first class of Arlington Tree Stewards and heads the group as president. Congratulations!

magnificent size, beautiful shape, and rare species type. One of the eight is right in our neighborhood, a magnificent American beech (pictured at left) located at 2400 South Inge Street. These eight trees bring the total number of Notable Trees to 237 since

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

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& Committee Chairs

President – Michael Dowell

703-521-7739

Vice President – Nick Giacobbe

703-842-5441

2nd Vice President – Cory Giacobbe

703-842-5441

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Improvement District (CCBID) –

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Crystal City Long-Term Plan –

Bruce Cameron & Mike Dowell

Aircraft Noise – Denis O'Sullivan

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Items for the Newsletter: Send items in e-mail messages (not attachments) to the newsletter editor, Cory Giacobbe:

AHCA.news@yahoo.com

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

AuroraHighlands.org

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.