

Aurora Highlands

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

AURORA HIGHLANDS CENTENNIAL
1910—2010

AuroraHighlands.org

Inside This Issue:

- ◆ C3RC
- ◆ President's Corner
- ◆ SOC Landscape
Makeover
- ◆ Mormon Open House
- ◆ PenPlace Process
- ◆ Van Goes to Alaska
- ◆ Wakefield Ground
Breaking
- ◆ Activities and Events
- ◆ Open Space in Parks

If you live in the Aurora Highlands area, you are invited and encouraged to come to our monthly meetings where we meet neighbors, discuss topics of interest and share information. All are welcome to attend. Come and meet your neighbors at the Aurora Hills Community Center at 735 18th Street South. Childcare will be provided.

OUR UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING:

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

Agenda

6:30 Social

7:00 AHCA Business Meeting

7:30 Gardening with Native Plants for Wildlife

Crystal City Citizens' Review Council

By Mike Dowell

The C3RC had its second meeting on June 1. The 19-member council is tasked with preparing a set of measures with which to monitor the Crystal City Sector Plan implementation. At this meeting, informational presentations were provided on two of the seven sector plan goals: transportation and open spaces. Dennis Leach, Arlington County Transportation Division Director, provided the transportation overview. There were several points of interest for our neighborhood. First, the Jefferson Davis Highway corridor has the lowest car

usage per household and the highest percentage of walking trips in Arlington County. Second, although the county has very accurate data on public transportation and even bike shares, car traffic measurements have always been relatively thinly sampled because of the cost. However, the biannual 48-hour surveys and the rubber hose traffic counters are finally headed to the museum as the county begins to install continuous traffic monitoring technology. To date, 30 sites have been installed and 200 are planned to be in place by 2015. We will follow up with

traffic in the area still has some jurisdictional challenges though: the county is not allowed to monitor Virginia roads such as Route 1, nor is it allowed to monitor Federal roads, like I-395. The need for traffic data on major non-county roads will be addressed as the measurement plans are developed.

Neal Sigmon and Jim Whittaker provided an overview of the open space plans for Crystal City and the challenges to preserve, let alone expand the existing open space within Crystal City. The term 'open space' is not as prescriptive as one might assume, including areas as disparate as grass median strips, pocket parks, athletic fields and natural areas. In addition, there are no guidelines as to how much open space an urban area like Crystal City should have. Last, the area between Fern Street and Route 1 has —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

the county to learn more about the technology and how it may help us monitor traffic in our area. Getting a complete picture of the

President's Corner

by Michael Dowell

Come join us for the 2nd season of Passport to Summer, with a summer library registration and pizza at the Aurora Hills Community Center and Library on Wednesday, June 22 at 5:30 p.m. Kick off the summer by checking out the latest books for yourself, and introduce your kids to a book you loved when you were their age. Which book do you recall from your childhood? For me it's "The 21 Balloons" by William Penn du Bois, the story of Professor Sherman, whose balloon crashes onto the island of Krakatoa in a marvelous adventure. A few years later, "The Mysterious Island" by

Jules Verne, about another balloon crash onto another island, took me on another adventure that no "Lost" episode could ever come close to matching. And the great books aren't all old: "Haroun and the Sea of Stories" by Salman Rushdie is just as wonderful, and for parents looking for strong girl stories, "The Hunger Games" Trilogy by Suzanne Collins will have you sneaking the books from your kid's nightstand.

See you at the library!

Neighbors, Garden Clubs and Businesses Pitch in to Beautify SOC

On a beautiful day in April and another day in May, AHCA neighbor and SOC Enterprises board member Allison Foster led efforts to revitalize and beautify the landscaping in front of the SOC Enterprises building located at 750 South 23rd Street. Over the two days, more than 20 volunteers participated in this effort, including AHCA neighbors, Virginia Master Gardener Program members and many young people from the Latter Day Saints Service Project Day. The volunteers pulled invasive plants and ivy, planted a wide array of flowering plants, hostas, and bulbs and also prepared soil for SOC's employees with disabilities to plant some flowers. The landscaping project was made possible by donations of plants, bulbs and materials, cash donations and generous greenhouse discounts.

Thanks go to ARCA, Cherrydale Hardware, Marty Cummings, Bonnie Flynn, Green Manor Garden Club, Patty Joyce, Merrifield Garden Center, Elizabeth Mook, Jeff Morin, Master Gardener Tutu Phimviengkham, Becky Reddick,

Master Gardener Susan Hepler and SOC board member Madi Green for their contributions.

Please be sure to stop by and see all the new landscaping. If you would like to make a donation for this effort, please make checks payable to SOC Enterprises with the words 'gardening project' in the notation line and send it to: Kelly Ferris, SOC Enterprises, 750 South 23rd Street, Arlington, VA 22202.

SOC Enterprises is a non-profit workforce development organization that provides jobs, training, job placement and support for people with disabilities. SOC operates a commercial printing business and eleven AbilityOne government contracts throughout the region. SOC's newest program, *Vets Ready2Work*, helps veterans with service-connected disabilities find and retain living-wage employment. For more information about SOC, call 703-521-4441 or visit www.socatwork.org.

How to Join the Neighborhood Listserv:

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

How to Join Arlington Alert:

Arlington Alert is an alert system that allows the County to contact you during an emergency by sending text messages to your e-mail or cell phone. Copy the address below into your browser. Once at the page, click on the blue rectangle marked "Click here to register!"
<http://www.arlingtonalert.com/index.php?CCheck=1>

Oakridge Wins Math Competition

The Oakridge Math Dice Team, "The Dice Dominators," lived up to their name and won the APS Math Dice team competition, the individual competition, and two of the team's members tied for the individual runners up at the competition at Drew Model School. Oakridge not only won the countywide team competition but the top individual player was from Oakridge.

Advertise in the AHCA Newsletter

Give your business a boost!

Contact Marty King for rates:

martinch@erols.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

Crystal City Citizens' Review Council

—continued from first page—


almost no open space; suggesting that this west side of Crystal City, the one closest to our neighborhood should be a focus for identifying additional opportunities for open space. Looking across the Crystal City Sector Plan goals, the open space goals are probably the most ambiguous, and yet are hugely important to achieving a denser yet still livable Crystal City.

During the summer, candidate metrics for all goals will be assessed. AHCA has submitted inputs, and more are welcome for another few weeks. Please contact Mike Dowell or Cory Giacobbe if you have a particular area of interest or concern. Our contact information is on the back page of this newsletter, or email us at ahca.news@yahoo.com. The C3RC will next meet in September.



Well Being

A primary care doctor's office and wellness center – combined to empower healthy living.



Commonwealth MEDICAL CENTER

3535A South Ball St. just off Rt. 1
703-558-4922

commonwealthMC.net

We're here for you. Call or stop by!



Neighborhood

703-979-2300 Real Estate, LLC

2219 S. Arlington Ridge Road
Arlington, Virginia 22202
www.neighborhoodrealestatellc.com



Tracy Shively
(703) 930-0268



Tonya McKee Finlay
(571) 221-1960

SPECIALIZING IN PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES. WE MAKE IT OUR FIRST PRIORITY TO ASSIST YOU IN MAKING SOUND REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT DECISIONS. CALL US FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!

Home uncomfortably warm?
Is your A/C on **ALREADY?**
Let us help solve the issues!
You've got a problem?
We've got the prescription!



Home Energy Medics, LLC

"Prescriptions for Home Comfort, Health & Energy Savings"

703.447.5379

www.MyEnergyMedics.com

High Quality Energy Audits, Insulation, Air Sealing & more.

Mormons Hold Open House and Day of Service to Celebrate New Chapel in Crystal City

Arlington members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ("Mormon" or "LDS") welcomed neighbors, friends, and members of the media to an open house for their new chapel at **745 23rd Street S. in Crystal City** on Saturday **May 7**. About 700 community civic and religious leaders and neighbors toured the new house of worship and viewed exhibits about basic Church beliefs and practices, including Christ-centered living, family history, and emergency preparedness.

"Preparations for this meeting house have been a long time in the making, and I can't tell you how excited I am to finally cut the ribbon, so to speak," said **William Nixon**, lay president of the local Latter-day Saint "stake" (comparable in size to a Catholic diocese). "We are particularly delighted that this building is on 23rd Street, which already features many respected faith communities. We know the members of our faith will be in good company with the members of other faiths who meet and worship in this great neighborhood every Sunday, and look forward to many years of fellowship with them."

The open house coincided with several **service projects** throughout the Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highlands neighborhoods earlier on May 7. Church members partnered with community volunteers to do clean-up work at Barcroft Park, Virginia Highlands Park, the Hume School, Fort Scott Park, Haley Park/Oakridge Elementary/Gunston Middle School, Arlington Food Assistance Center, and SOC

Enterprises.

"The local Mormon congregations provided about 300 volunteers throughout the community Saturday morning," said Charles Walter, president of the Arlington



Ridge Civic Association. "County Parks Department continued to provide support with tools and mulch, and was as thrilled as we were at the opportunity to take on invasives

removal in two large ARCA parks, so sent staff to supervise and guide the efforts."



The 23rd Street chapel is unique in that it is a renovated office building, rather than a traditional LDS meeting house built from the ground up. Situated on a



half-acre site, this design is expected to work better for the community and the local members who will worship there, given the space constraints of a densely populated area like Northern Virginia.

The chapel is serving three local congregations (called "wards") of about 775 total members, composed

entirely of single members of the faith. Many of those who will meet there every Sunday live within walking distance of the building. Moreover, up to 2,000 from the greater D.C. Capitol region are expected to frequent the meeting house for periodic social events.

Church member and AHCA resident Eric Cragun summed up his feelings about the new building: "It helps us feel more closely connected to the community in which we live. I'm really excited we have a place on 23rd Street, the center of one of the great neighborhoods in the D.C. area."



Special Planning Process for the PenPlace Site

By Nancy Swain, Arlington Ridge Civic Association

The 3rd Long Range Planning Committee Meeting (LRPC) for parcel 1D on May 12 was largely devoted to a "Virtual Tour" of the area. Lots of large buildings were imposed on a diagram which mainly focused on Crystal City and nearby areas. It didn't look much like the Pentagon City area we know. The 4th meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Conference Room 311 at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. The topic for discussion will be the PenPlace Special Study and the goal of the meeting is to discuss and finalize the guiding principles for the site. The public is welcome to attend.

A formal agenda has not yet been distributed; however the handouts from the last meeting may have some bothersome overtones (available online at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Commissions/plancom/PlancomLRPC.aspx>). For example, a matrix comparing quotes from the 1976 Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP), 1997 Task Force on the Pentagon Row project, and PenPlace

Guiding principles draft on "Distribution of Densities and Heights" is a case in point. The 1976 PDSP says "Lowest densities should be in the south portion of the tract, adjacent to the single family neighborhoods." The 1997 Task Force states "Shift some residential density (from between Joyce and the mall) eastward to between Fern and Eads where concentration of buildings would be more fitting to a transition to Crystal City." Now comes the new draft, "Highest densities, including office buildings, commercial uses and hotels should be planned for this site, given its close proximity to existing and future transit nodes and as a transition to Crystal City."

Of course nowhere mentioned is the basic fact -- the office space is used up from the PDSP. Nowhere mentioned is that only four 22-story buildings are allowed on the Pentagon City tract according to the PDSP.

One chart suggests that the residential component has been shifted to the parcel between Eads and Fern, Parcel 3. The County Board said residential

could be on either parcel 3 or 1D. Noted in the data is that this is a site suitable to receive density transfers. Some wonder why?

Also mentioned at these meetings is the possibility of rebuilding the existing adjacent office buildings which have a height limit of 12 stories according to the existing zoning. That would really be a change!

Finally, some are curious that several charts are created by a company hired by the applicant. Isn't this a little too "close for comfort?"

The very purpose of the PDSP was to keep the total office component as low as possible. This was because office use is the biggest generator of traffic and air pollution. The densities have increased significantly around Pentagon City, yet no one is mentioning much traffic in the new Crystal City redevelopment plan, Potomac Yards development, etc. Nor is anyone mentioning the more than 2,250 parking places requested in the proposed new development.

Stay tuned!

Water Pollution Control Plant Update

Arlington County's Water Pollution Control Plant will host a community meeting on Thursday, June 23 to update neighbors on the Plant's construction, landscaping, and other related issues. The meeting is also an opportunity to give feedback on ways to improve the quality of service. The meeting will take place in the 2nd floor conference room in the Operations Control Building from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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

Public Meeting on Crystal City – Potomac Yard Transitway Operations

Transportation officials from Metro, Arlington County, and the City of Alexandria will hold a the meeting on Monday, June 27 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Aurora Hills Community Center to talk about the project to create transit-only lanes between Crystal City and Potomac Yard.

The purpose of the meeting is to report on the recommended transitway operating strategies and to receive community input.

Specific discussion topics include:

- Transit vehicle access policy
- Transitway management, supervision, and enforcement
- Schedule and next steps for transitway implementation
- Recommended bus routes operating in the transitway.
- Transit and traffic operations



The meeting will include an open house with maps and displays, a slide presentation, and group discussion. Meeting materials will be posted on the project website,

www.ccpytransit.com.

Activities and Events

Synetic Theater Presents Don Quixote, 1800 Bell Street. June 2 – July 3, (Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Sundays at 2:00 p.m.) Synetic once again merges its unique physical theater style with text in its season closer, *Don Quixote*, written by Resident Playwright Roland Reed whose *The Master and Margarita* was nominated for the 2011 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Resident Play. Lost in the mystical world of his books, Don Quixote abandons his home and reality to become a wandering knight. This touching comedy, inspired by the surrealistic paintings of Dali and Bosch, brings the wonder of Quixote's dreaming mind to life and focuses a satirical lens on what it means to be normal.

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 is available on the ACE website. <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org>

WABA'S BikeFest 2011, 241 18th Street South - Former Food Court in the Crystal City Shops at 1750 Crystal Drive, Saturday, June 11 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Enjoy the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) for the annual summer BikeFest Fundraiser and Celebration! Come enjoy an evening of live music and dancing featuring DC's Second String Band and WABA's very own DJ Jenner, as well as live sideshow acts, a silent auction and raffle, carnival-cycle games, palm readings, photo booth and much more! The highlight of the evening will be crowning the 2011 BikeFest Bike-Build Champion - three regional bike shops are building custom bikes with only 3 rules - builders can't spend over \$250, may use recy-

cled parts, and MUST be as creative as possible! For additional event information, or to volunteer, please contact WABA at events@waba.org or 202-518-0524 x 202. Visit <http://waba.org/events/bikefest.php> to purchase tickets.

Presentation on Growing Trees in the City, "Urban Tree Planting: An Evolving Endeavor," Fairlington Community Center (3308 South Stafford Street), Wednesday, June 22, 2011, beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Karen Kumm Morris, a member of the Arlington County Urban Forestry Commission, will discuss the best practices for planting trees in urban settings – both on residential properties and in public parks. Learn more about the latest techniques such as: Expanded Tree Pit, Cornell University Structural Soil, Root Pathways, Continuous Soil Panel, and Silva Cells. Ms. Morris will discuss the range of options and the pros and cons of these modern techniques. She will also provide insight into how informed, tree-loving citizens can play a role in improving our community's urban street tree plantings. This session is open to all and will be preceded by the TreeStewards' annual meeting and election of board members from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m.

Vacation Bible School, Mount Vernon Baptist Church, July 18-22; 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 935 23rd Street South. "The Big Apple Adventure"; Come join us, all are welcome; ages 4-99. Light meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. daily, July 18–22. Call 703- 979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org for more information.

Brain Gym® Core Course, July 29, 30 and 31, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Oakwood School, 7210 Braddock Road, Annandale. Brain Gym® is a program of simple activities to enhance whole brain learning, focus attention, enhance fine motor movement, heighten reading, math and listening skills and other personal and academic needs. Benefits educators, health professionals, parents and people of all ages who want to relax and increase creative potential. Brain Gym® 101 Course participants receive

certificate. 2.4 Continuing Education Credit available from George Mason University. \$395 if registered by July 15, \$425 thereafter. Visit www.kinlearn.org to register.

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. 1:00-3:30 p.m. 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. Free. Call (703) 979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org for more information.

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.

Yoga in the Water Park (across from 1750 Crystal Drive), Every Monday at 7:00 a.m. Start the week in relaxation with Sport & Health at the Water Park. Instructors will lead a free 60-minute yoga stretching class every Monday throughout the summer and

Activities and Events

through the end of September.

Crystal Screen: By the Numbers. Every Monday at sundown, 2100 Crystal Drive.

Once again, the Crystal City BID transforms the courtyard at 1850 Bell Street into a movie theater for free BID shows free outdoor movies. There is no better place to meet some friends, bring a picnic, and enjoy an evening under the stars. The lineup for Crystal Screen: By The Numbers is:

Date	Movie
June 6, 2011	<i>Air Force One</i>
June 13, 2011	<i>Four Weddings and a Funeral</i>
June 20, 2011	<i>16 Candles</i>
June 27, 2011	<i>District 9</i>
July 4, 2011	HOLIDAY (NO FILM)
July 11, 2011	<i>50 First Dates</i>
July 18, 2011	<i>Oceans 11</i>
July 25, 2011	<i>Apollo 13</i>
August 1, 2011	<i>The Sixth Sense</i>
August 8, 2011	<i>The 40-Year-Old Virgin</i>
August 15, 2011	<i>10 Things I Hate About You</i>
August 22, 2011	<i>(500) Days of Summer</i>
August 29, 2011	<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>

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 continues with lunchtime Zumba in the 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.

Rock the Row Concert Series, Pentagon Row Plaza, Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Grab some friends and head out to the plaza for a great free concert while the sun goes down. The evening includes live music, free gifts with purchases, merchant specials, and weekly raffles. The 2011 concert lineup features:

Date	Band
June 2	Gonzo's Nose
June 9	The Reflex
June 16	Fools and Horses
June 23	King Cadillac
June 30	Dan Haas
July 7	Scott Harlan
July 14	Texas Chainsaw Horns
July 21	Pebble to Pearl
July 28	Ted Garber
August 4	Hang The DJ

August 11 The Reflex

August 18 Fools and Horses

August 25 Gonzo's Nose

Readings and Story Telling Time, 2nd Friday of each Month 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 935 23rd Street South. Hot dogs, chips, popcorn, drinks. Free. Call 703-979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org for more information.

Wine in the Water Park (across from 1750 Crystal Drive). Every Friday in June from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The Crystal City BID, Washington Wine Academy, Jaleo, and DJ Adrian Loving team up for great music, delicious tastes, and fantastic wines each week this month.

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.

Calvary Methodist Blood and Breakfast this Saturday

The Calvary Methodist Men's Group invites all to Calvary's Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, June 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children \$2

Additional info 703 892 5185

PLUS

Calvary is also hosting a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. So come have some great pancakes and leave a little of yourself with the Red Cross!

Calvary United Methodist Church
2315 South Grant Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Comcast Franchise Focus Group June 22

Comcast Franchise Focus Group, Shirlington Library (2786 South Arlington Mill Drive), Wednesday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m. Comcast's license with Arlington is up for renewal and input about existing and future services is important. Comcast is not required to continue providing the equipment, channels, and financial support that Comcast currently makes available for Arlington's school system, community, and local government programming. Arlington could lose these resources if they are not stated priorities. The length of the new Comcast contract will be 10-15 years. Comcast needs to hear what future Cable TV services are important. You may also email your thoughts to Rob Billingsly, Arlington

County's Cable Administrator, (Rbillingsley@ArlingtonVa.US) or telephone (Office 703-228-3195 or Cell 571-237-1309).

Wakefield High School Ceremonial Groundbreaking Will Take Place June 9

The ceremonial groundbreaking for Wakefield High School's new building will take place on the outside pool deck (rain site will be under the canopy near the cafeteria entrance), on Thursday morning, June 9 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Public officials will be on hand to formally celebrate the start of the New Wakefield High School construction project. All are welcome to mark this important milestone. The new school building is anticipated to be ready for occupancy at the start of the 2013-2014 school year.



Image and design created by Bowie Gridley Architects

My View on The Value of Our Remaining Open Space

By Janet Dunkelberger

Once upon a time, a field was a grassy space where almost any sport could be enjoyed if you had the right equipment and could gather a team. Now, each expanse has a specific designation and a sign-up process. Baseball fields are kept locked lest any unauthorized shoe mar their surface. And soccer fields are carpeted so they remain picture perfect even in the rain. To some this system is ideal. Every grassy lawn is wasted until it can be fitted out for a specific use. This excludes unorganized games of kickball or Frisbee, but that is apparently inconsequential. After all, where are the clamoring constituencies when the Parks and Rec folks are deciding how to allocate our resources? Here in Virginia Highlands, the process of specialization has inexorably devoured almost every flat space. Where once were trees and grassy meadows, now we have an array of fences and surfaces suitable only for particular needs. This brings me to the several issues currently under consideration that would limit still further any natural areas or creative play.

1) Adding another artificial soccer field is undemocratic, spending lots of money for the few while depriving the many. The inconvenience of playing on real dirt is almost forgotten. Yes, I do know the tufts of grass can trip you and you can slide in mud. But I also consider the downside of the man-made field with its unbearable

heat and lead-laden pellets. Nature may be inconvenient but artificial has its drawbacks too.

2) Adding another volleyball area is excessive. It isn't toxic, but it really crowds the little space available.

3) And paving a grand swath of the last open grass to make a spray park is unconscionable. For a few hours a day, in a few months of the year, a few children might be able to wet themselves. Even under the best circumstances, the drawbacks far outweigh the benefits. Plus much more fun could be had at much less expense by buying temporary water play items that could be put away at the end of the summer.

In all cases, if the cost of constructing specialized play areas were to be divided by user hours, the fun could be seen to come at an exorbitant price. And that's without factoring in the loss of open space where activity is limited only by imagination. What if kids play on a 'Slip n Slide' and squirt each other from 'Super Soakers' or even a hose? Or an impromptu game of volleyball just uses a temporary net? Or a soccer field is allowed to become a picnic ground when that's what people want?

Especially as available parkland is limited and populations are growing, open space should be kept as truly open as possible to accommodate the wishes and pleasures of the maximum number of users.

Small Streets, Big Trucks

By Janet Dunkelberger

The other day a giant moving van was idling just west of Hayes on 21st Street. The driver was trying to figure out where to go. Our streets are narrow, built when vehicles were more manageable sizes. When huge trucks get into the neighborhood, they sometimes have trouble getting out. On my block a few years ago, a North American driver got frustrated and smashed his way around the corner, taking out a parked car and a tree. Trees at the other end of the block also bear scars of encounters with trucks. At the corner of 21st and Hayes, the super-size moving van was a tight fit. The driver considered various possibilities including backing up the 3 blocks to Eads, if necessary.

He offered this suggestion: when you are expecting a pick-up or delivery, please ask what size truck will be coming.

Truckers usually know with some precision the dimensions and maneuverability requirements for their rigs. Perhaps we can help them out by providing information about our streets - and requesting a smaller truck as necessary.

Arlington Arts 2030 Report

The initial draft of the [Arlington Arts 2030](http://www.arlingtonarts.org/Libraries/Documents/Arlington%20Arts%202030%20-%20May%2025.sflb.ashx) report, a long-range strategy that provides recommendations for the support of the arts in Arlington County over the next 20 years, is now available for public review and comment <http://www.arlingtonarts.org/Libraries/Documents/Arlington Arts 2030 - May 25.sflb.ashx>. There will be two public hearings to help shape the future of arts in Arlington: Saturday June 11 from noon to 2:00 p.m. at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Boulevard and Monday, June 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Shirlington Public Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Comments can also be submitted by email to arts2030@arlingtonva.us.

arlington arts

Van Goes to Alaska

By Mike Dowell

Long time neighbor Van Newstrom and her husband Bill Albee have sold their house on 26th St, packed up a truck and headed north to Fairbanks, Alaska to run a bed and breakfast. Van was active in the AHCA, serving as president, officer

rebuilt, and last, Van organized the first Boo-Ha-Ha. If you are up in Fairbanks, stop in to see Van and Bill, and convey the neighborhood's best wishes.



and all-around organizer for years. Van's contributions to the our community are far too many to list but here's a few: Van organized the community support for the fire fighters during 9-11, she wrote the grant application that got Nina Park

Alaska Heritage House
410 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
<http://akheritagehouse.com>
(907) 456-4100

For the Finest Quality Home

TROUTMAN HOMES

New ♦ Renovation ♦ Addition



DAN TROUTMAN 703-380-6361



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



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

Water Young Trees in Summer

If you planted a tree within the last two or three years, it is still in the vulnerable stage of early root growth. Young trees need to be watered once a week, or twice a week if it is especially hot and dry. The amount of water needed depends on a variety of factors including tree size and how well the soil drains. Here are the watering guidelines for our area, from the Arlington County website: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/parks/ParksRecreationScriptsParksWateringTrees.aspx>.

"Trees planted within the past two years that are less than 6 feet tall need a minimum of 5 gallons for each watering. These trees should be watered at least twice a week starting in April and continuing through November. Rain-fall should not be considered adequate unless it is 2" or greater.

The best time of day to water is early in the morning so that the amount of evaporation is minimized. Late in the evening is the second best time. The amount of water that comes through a hose varies for a variety of reasons such as hose size, length, size of the building's plumbing, water pressure, etc. However, you can still estimate that about two gallons of water flow through a typical garden hose per minute. This is roughly comparable to the amount of water that flows through the typical shower. Therefore, you should water newly planted trees for at least (3) three minutes with an unrestricted hose. Hoses with sprinklers may need to be run longer since sprinklers may restrict the amount of water that flows each minute."



Casey Trees of Washington DC recommends "[25 to Stay Alive](http://caseytrees.org/)", but the amount of water needed each week depends on the local precipitation and temperature. During the summer months, Casey Trees posts weekly tree watering recommendations on the main page of their website. Check it if you're unsure how much water your trees need. <http://caseytrees.org/>

If you use a slow-release watering bag such as a Gator Bag or Ooze Tube, re-fill it each week from May to November. These bags should be removed after two years.

Arlington County has a water truck and staff dedicated to watering street and park trees during the summer. However, if you are within hose-watering distance of public trees that appear to be in distress, considering doing the trees and the community a favor and give the trees a drink.

TreeSteward Tree Tables at Farmers Market

When is the best time to prune my magnolia? What should I do to protect my ancient oak trees from my neighbor's construction project? What is wrong with my dogwood? What are the best native trees to plant in a post-age-stamp-size garden? Where are the best places to go to see trees in the D.C. area? Tree Stewards will be available to answer your questions at the Arlington Farmers Market on Saturday, June 4, 8:00—11:00 a.m. and Saturday, June 18, 8:00—11:00 a.m.

More dates in Arlington and Alexandria to be announced soon. Stay tuned! More at 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 – Cory Giacobbe
703-842-5441

Treasurer / Membership – Brent Spence

Secretary – Jenny Lawhorn
jennylawhorn@comcast.net

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 -

Michael Shumway 703-774-5045

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.