

[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, July 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

**AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Agenda**

**6:30** Social

**7:00** AHCA Business Meeting

**7:30** Presentation: Improving Your Home's Comfort, Health, and Energy Efficiency by Scott Donelson of Home Energy Medics

**Pentagon City: Vornado PenPlace Proposal Update**

By Don Clarke, Nick Giacobbe, Dick Herbst, Nancy Swain, Joan Quinn

Vornado Corporation is seeking nearly 1.9 million additional square feet of office space for Parcel 1D of the Pentagon City tract. Both the Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA) and Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA) are on record as supporting the original plan for Pentagon City, which does not allow for any more additional office development. A 2009 Arlington County staff report stated that "Parcel 1D was identified as the prime hotel and secondary residential component, within the larger mix of uses in the PDSP." The Vornado pro-

posal violates the General Land Use Plan (GLUP), the C-O 2.5 zoning for the area, the Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP) and the Master Development Plan.

Arlington County's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is presently reviewing and apparently seeking to justify the site plan proposal filed by the Vornado Corporation for the office complex on the Pentagon City tract near the Marriott Residence Inn. The allowed office space use on the Pentagon City tract has been exhausted,

and Vornado has no legal right for this additional office use. However, it is vigorously pursuing this development with apparent

County interest. A member of the LRPC has noted that Pentagon City lacks sufficient office space. It was also noted that if the office space is approved, the County should encourage redevelopment of the four "suburban" office buildings on Army Navy Drive between Hayes and Fern Streets to more "urban" 22-story office buildings.

Approving additional office buildings would severely change the planned vision for the Pentagon City Metro Station Concept Plan. Because office buildings generate the most traffic and air pollution, impacts that affect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, this Metro station was planned for a Pentagon City with an emphasis on residential development and specifically limited office develop-

—Continued on Page 8—

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

## President's Corner

by Michael Dowell

Summer is here! I hope you take the opportunity to enjoy this newsletter with a cool beverage in the shade. And from your shady spot, while employing your favorite mosquito strategy (deterrent, first strike, or otherwise), take a moment to consider the smallest pleasures of life in our neighborhood. This week, my eight year-old daughter and her friends mastered the art of a perfect pitcher of homemade lemonade: juice (strained) from 8 squeezed lemons, one cup of sugar, 2 quarts of water and mint leaves from the garden. I need simply drink it, and look forward to many more weeks of this. Meanwhile life moves on at a slight-

ly slower pace. Passport to Summer had a great get together the other week with pizza and crafts and reading. The regular program is being held every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Aurora Hills Community Center from July 6 to August 24. We'll have a different theme for each week, with snacks and drinks. And we'll have food from Restaurant Row on July 27 and August 24.

At the next AHCA meeting, Scott Donelson, our local energy efficiency expert, will talk about ways to keep the heat outside and your house cool. We'll then take August off, so see you again in September.

## Expanded Library Hours Begin July 5

The new hours for the Aurora Hills branch library are:

**Sunday** CLOSED

**Monday** 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Tuesday** CLOSED

**Wednesday** 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Thursday** 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Friday** 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday** 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For a complete schedule of hours for the entire Arlington County public library system, visit <http://library.arlingtonva.us/departments/libraries/about/librariesabouthours.aspx>.

## Call for Volunteers: Civic Association Nominating Committee

Each November the civic association has an election of new officers for the following calendar year. As you are enjoying the summer and all the wonderful features our community has to offer, please think about what you can do to help ensure our quality of life. Our Bylaws describe the civic association as follows:

*"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."*

In order accomplish that mission, we need a cadre of volunteers to lead the association. We will be organizing a nominating committee at the September meeting and a slate of officers will be presented at the October meeting. Come November, we will vote on the slate of officers, as well as consider nominations from the floor.

## Congratulations to Our Neighborhood Graduates of 2011



Evan Silberman, son of Margaret Clark and Ralph Silberman, graduated from Hampshire College on May 21, 2011.

Evan's final year project (entitled "Low-Tech Computing: developing and teaching a programming-free introduction to computer science") involved developing a computer science course and then teaching that course during second semester. He plans to pursue graduate studies in Computer Science, but is taking a breather from schooling in the meantime.

[Readers: Please send your graduate stories and photos for the September issue to [ahca.news@yahoo.com](mailto:ahca.news@yahoo.com)]

## Volunteer Neighbor Update

Al Burt has helped his neighbors and friends by giving advice on or completing the following volunteer tasks over the last two months: Attached a bookshelf to a wall, modified an electric lawn mower switch to make it work, repaired a computer table in our library, repaired a foldable foot stool, advised a neighbor on tricks to live without air conditioning, designed, built, and implemented a system

for reducing traffic pollution in an un-air conditioned house, made a center board for a friend's sail boat, resoled common tennis shoes for better traction and replaced an overhead light fixture. Al is waiting for your call (703-521-9629) or email ([dcamiadca@yahoo.com](mailto:dcamiadca@yahoo.com)) titled "Cut the Strings" if you can use some help. Al will not ask for, nor accept, a payment for his help.

### 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](http://WWW.MVBCCC.ORG)

EMAIL [MVBCCC@MVBCCC.ORG](mailto:MVBCCC@MVBCCC.ORG)

Weekly services:

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

### Help Your Neighbors' Security

By Al Burt

With the deplorable mail delivery service in our neighborhood we often get mail that is miss-delivered and addressed to a neighbor. To help your neighbor's security, before putting the parcel out for redelivery, write on the envelope:


**"REDELIVER THIS.  
PLEASE BE MORE  
CAREFUL."**

Your neighbor will then be alerted to the fact that this parcel has been in other's hands. If it contains sensitive information your neighbor can then watch for any inappropriate activity resulting from the compromised information.

Your mail carrier may actually be embarrassed enough to start delivering the mail properly.


### Heat Stroke in Dogs

Our neighbor Dawn Slavin reminds us that in these "dog days of summer", no pun intended, it's important to be aware of the signs of heat stroke in dogs. She urges you to learn how to prevent it by visiting the website <http://dogs.about.com/od/dogandpuppyhealth/qt/heatstroke.htm>



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# Virginia Redistricting Brings Changes to Our Community

By Sue Super

Significant boundary changes for Virginia House and Senate districts under the Virginia redistricting plan approved in June affect all precincts 3, 8, 21, and 32 in our Aurora Highlands and Arlington Ridge community. Senate and House Districts remained the same for neighboring precincts 6 and 50 in the Crystal City area.

These new boundaries are in effect for the upcoming primaries August 23 (in Arlington, only a Democratic primary will be held) and the fall general election November 8.

Options to determine the precinct and districts you're in and other election information:

1. Virginia State Board of Elections website <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/> (click on the "Voter Information" link)
2. Arlington websites:
  - Election Information <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationElectionInformation.aspx>
  - Polling Places (which has a link to the State Board of Election's [Lookup](http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationPollingPlaces.aspx) feature) <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationPollingPlaces.aspx>
3. Arlington Office of Voter Registration at 703-228-3456 (Monday — Friday , 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Maps showing the new and old VA House and Senate districts are displayed at the Virginia Public Access Project website: <http://www.vpap.org/-redistricting>  
 Maps also are available from other websites, such as those maintained by incumbent elected officials, candidates for office, political parties, and other sites.

Following is a list of the precincts in our community and new districts:

PRECINCTS	POLL LOCATION	VA HOUSE/ SENATE DISTRICTS
3 Aurora Hills	SOC Enterprises Inc. 750 23rd St. South	House 45 Senate 30
8 Hume	River House, James Bldg. 1111 Army Navy Drive	House 49 Senate 31
21 Virginia Highlands	Aurora Hills Rec. Cntr 735 18th St. South	House 49 Senate 30
32 Oakridge	Gunston Community Cntr	House 45 & 49* Senate 30

\* The Oakridge precinct is split between two House districts; according to Arlington's Election Information website, this as a temporary situation to be resolved later this year by changing precinct boundaries.

Redistricting delayed to August 23, the date for primaries and the filing deadline for candidates in the November 8 general election.

The following information is excerpted from Arlington's Election Information website as of the June 27 update [ \* additional notes have been added in brackets]:

### Democratic Primaries, August 23, 2011

Candidates are listed in the order and format they will appear on the ballot. Ballot order is determined by the order in which the candidates filed with the party/district chair. Note that some precincts are now in different districts following redistricting. Check out the changes on [Polling Place](#) page.

<b>Senate of Virginia, 30th District</b> [*incumbent Patsy Ticer retiring]	Adam P. Ebbin K. Rob Krupicka Libby T. Garvey
<b>Senate of Virginia, 31st District</b> [*incumbent Mary Margaret Whipple retiring]	Jaime Areizaga-Soto Barbara A. Favola
<b>House of Delegates, 49th District</b> [*incumbent Adam Ebbin running in Sen. 30th Dist. primary]	Alfonso H. Lopez Stephanie L. Clifford
<b>Commonwealth's Attorney</b> [*incumbent Dick Trodden retiring]	Theo K. Stamos David W. Deane

### General Election, November 8, 2011

Democratic primaries were called for all offices except School Board, where there are no party nominees. If only one Democratic or Republican candidate (two for County Board) is listed, it means those candidates were the only ones who filed for the office and thus became the nominees. Candidates are currently listed in alphabetical order; the final ballot order will be determined by the State Board of Elections later in the summer. Additional Republican nominees and independent candidates have until August 23 to qualify for the November ballot.

Political party affiliation is provided here for information, but please note that party affiliation only appears on the ballot for Senate of Virginia and House of Delegates candidates. D = Democratic, R = Republican, G = Green, I = independent candidate. School Board candidates are unaffiliated by law but may be endorsed by political parties.

(Please see chart on page 5)

## Virginia General Election, November 8, 2011

—Continued from Page 4—

<b>Senate of Virginia, 30th District</b>	(Democratic nominee to be determined by primary) Timothy T. C. McGhee (R)
<b>Senate of Virginia, 31st District</b>	(Democratic nominee to be determined by primary) Caren D. Merrick (R)
<b>Senate of Virginia, 32nd District</b>	Patrick N. Forrest (R) Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent
<b>House of Delegates, 45th District</b>	David L. Englin (D), incumbent
<b>House of Delegates, 47th District</b>	Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent
<b>House of Delegates, 48th District</b>	Robert H. Brink (D), incumbent
<b>House of Delegates, 49th District</b>	(Democratic nominee to be determined by primary)
<b>Commonwealth's Attorney</b>	(Democratic nominee to be determined by primary)
<b>Sheriff</b>	Elizabeth F. "Beth" Arthur (D), incumbent
<b>Commissioner of Revenue</b>	Ingrid H. Morroy (D), incumbent
<b>Treasurer</b>	Francis X. O'Leary (D), incumbent
<b>County Board (two seats)</b>	Audrey R. Clement (G) Mary H. Hynes (D), incumbent J. Walter Tejada (D), incumbent
<b>School Board</b>	Abigail J. Raphael, incumbent

**THE END**

### Will Arlington Public Schools Miss the Sustainability Bus?

By Mariam Gennari

While Maryland becomes the first state to require environmental literacy, in Arlington, parents still struggle to teach administrators what "Sustainability" means. Miriam Gennari reacts to the new MD requirement, "It is definitely about raising better stewards of our resources, but it is also about attracting new innovative businesses that require a highly intuitive workforce that is knowledgeable about environmental challenges of our time."

The question on the minds of many Arlington parents is:

Will environmental literacy, sustainability, and stewardship even make it into the new strategic plan that is due to be released later this summer? On June 16, 2011, the strategic plan was turned over to the school board after an advisory committee had worked on the process for about eight months. Yet Mary Van Dyke, a full time volunteer and parent of a student at Arlington Traditional School who teaches environmental education told the board that words like Sustainability are "buried in the comments." She applauded the superintendent for working to create an Advisory

Committee on Sustainability, but felt it lacked connection with the new Strategic Plan. Van Dyke went on to say that if APS is fully committed to energy and environmental conservation as well as incorporating sustainability into schools' operation and instruction programs; then the Strategic Plan needs to "support the needs of the whole child -- including experiential, service, and recess/play opportunities with attention and appreciation of the environment and the benefits of both indoor and outdoor learning."

Elenor Hodges, Executive Director of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, spoke on behalf of the community-based non-profit organization with close to 1,000 active members in Arlington who are working to create a sustainable community. She complimented efforts thus far, but went on to say, "connecting to our global environment is a value the Arlington Community demands." Looking at things from the perspective of civic leadership and the Arlington public school parent, Ms. Hodges indicated there was a necessity to examine every one of the current choices the school

system is making in order to meet the needs of future generations. "Sustainability is a key addition to Arlington Public Schools list of values."

Miriam Gennari, Diane Schwatz, and Zanna Worzella also spoke on June 18. Ms. Worzella, a recent college graduate, spoke about life experience and volunteer activities through sustainability and environmental stewardship. She closed her three-minute statement with a quote from Andres Edwards, author of *The Sustainability Revolution*: "Through education, sustainability can be firmly established within the existing value structures of societies." Sounds very similar to comments made by county board member Jay Fisette when county officials accepted the first phase of the Energy Task Force finding. It will be interesting to see whether or not the Arlington Public School system gets on the Sustainability bus, or gets left wandering behind.

Contact:  
Miriam Gennari  
[miriam@styrofoammom.com](mailto:miriam@styrofoammom.com)

## The Old Gray Car: She Ain't What She Used To Be

By Ralph Silberman

For those who have traversed S. Kent Street near 20th Street for the last few years, we now pause to remember our old "Gray Car." What may have been an icon or an eyesore is now gone. This 1985 Plymouth Caravelle moved into the neighborhood early in 1998, after my father had to stop driving. A good second car for us, it led an undistinguished life through the rest of its teens and through the early years of the 21st century, and only really came into its own at the tender age of 23 [not sure what that is in human years!]. At that time, it became our daughter's car for getting to Wakefield and back and around town, and after I failed to find the purple paint she want-

ed, my daughter and her friends (including several from the 'hood--one of whom always called it the "comfy car") went at it with many cans of spray paint and their imagination. Since then, its distinctive presence on the street has brought smiles to many (even being sighted in Georgetown once!), frowns to some. More recently, the Gray Car only came to life in the summers (too old to go away to college), and now I sadly report that, though still drivable,



it has been replaced (by a newer, but un-decorated, car that my mother can now no longer drive) and--in this photograph--you can all bid adieu, as it is raised high and taken away from us towards an uncertain future at a charity auction (thank you WETA). However, if you miss it and want to see it in its former glory, it does still live on in Google Maps Street View: <http://tinyurl.com/3bduuqq> --- and your own memories may be left at <http://tinyurl.com/3gp76tb>.

## New Virginia Home Energy Efficiency Rebates Available

By Scott Donelson (with VA DMME website excerpts)

The VA Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME) has made available approximately \$5 million for a new Virginia Home Efficiency Rebate Program to make existing homes more energy efficient. Energy efficiency improvements include upgrading certain heating equipment, adding insulation, replacing leaky windows, and making other improvements to existing homes to reduce energy consumption and utility costs. Under this new program, homeowners will be eligible to reserve funds for rebates for 20% of the costs of qualifying energy conserving products and services, up to \$595. Energy audits will be rebated for the cost of the audit, up to \$250.

Applications are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all the funding has been reserved. A waiting list will also be created, and applicants will be placed on that list in the order in which they are received. As approved rebates are redeemed and paid, additional funds from unclaimed rebates will allow DMME to approve requests on the wait list over the next few months.

Energy-efficient equipment and items purchased and installed on or after March 26, 2010 will be eligible for the rebate if they meet all other eligibility requirements.

Rebates will be calculated at 20% of the documented cost\* of the following eligible project items, up to \$595 per residential property address:

1. Oil furnace
2. Gas, propane or oil hot water boiler
3. Insulation and air sealing
4. Replacement windows and exterior doors
5. Storm doors

An energy audit will be rebated for the cost of the audit, up to \$250.

\* "Documented Cost" includes the price of the item or system, sales tax if charged, and any delivery, materials and labor costs if a contractor installs the item. Labor provided by the applicant is not an eligible cost. The total rebate amount available will be capped at \$595 to remain under the federal income tax reporting threshold of \$600 and to avoid any concerns about the taxability of the rebate.

This rebate is available to Virginia homeowners only. Homeowners must purchase their energy-efficiency products and systems from a Virginia retailer or vendor, or a contractor with a license to do business in Virginia.

Virginia homeowners will have 60 days to complete their projects once their reservation is approved. Up to 30-day extensions may be available if needed by contacting DMME staff and documenting the need for the extension.

If you received a rebate for specific equipment and items under the previous Energy Efficiency Rebate Program, you cannot apply for a rebate for the same equipment or item under the new Home Efficiency Rebate Program. However, if for example, you previously received a rebate for 10 windows, and want to install 4 more windows purchased after March 26, 2010, you can apply for a rebate for the additional windows that were not included in the previous rebate.

For more information and how to reserve your rebate, go to: <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DE/ARRA-Public/HomeEfficiency.shtml>

Scott Donelson is a local resident, a BPI certified energy auditor, home energy consultant, and president of Home Energy Medics, [www.MyEnergyMedics.com](http://www.MyEnergyMedics.com), a certified contractor for the VA Energy Efficiency rebate program and an elite NoVA home Performance with Energy Star program participating company.

## Activities and Events

**Passport to Summer Library Evenings, Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Aurora Hills Community Center from July 6 to August 24.** There's a different theme for each week, with snacks and drinks. And we'll have food from Restaurant Row on July 27 and August 24.

**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 Credits available from George Mason University. \$395 if registered by July 15, \$425 thereafter. Visit [www.kinlearn.org](http://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 in the 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](mailto: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 south of Glebe Rd. on Mount Vernon Avenue.**

**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 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 2011 lineup for Crystal Screen: By The Numbers is:

Date	Movie
July 11	<i>50 First Dates</i>
July 18	<i>Oceans 11</i>
July 25	<i>Apollo 13</i>
August 1	<i>The Sixth Sense</i>
August 8	<i>The 40-Year-Old Virgin</i>
August 15	<i>10 Things I Hate About You</i>
August 22	<i>(500) Days of Summer</i>
August 29	<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 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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
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](mailto:mvbccc@mvbccc.org) for more information.

ment as compared to the intense office development in Crystal City and Rosslyn. The air pollution has been exacerbated since the 1976 rezoning.

Moreover, the County has just approved a massive rezoning of the entire Crystal City area and has expanded Crystal City across Route 1. Given the PenPlace proposal, citizens should ask, "How can we depend on Vornado to adhere to the Crystal City sector plan when these developers are invested in undermining the zoning, GLUP, Pentagon City Metro Station Concept Plan, and integrity of the Pentagon City tract?" If the proposal is accepted, it will set the precedent to "gut" the rest of the Pentagon City plan as well as Pentagon Centre, which is a "hole in the doughnut" in the middle of the Pentagon City tract. The "hole" includes Costco and the strip of stores near the Metro (the former Western Electric property). Finally, what hope does that give us that the recently approved Crystal City Sector Plan will be honored to its planned completion? Do planning documents even matter?

Interestingly, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has a nearly \$3 million dollar "spot Improvement" project to widen the I-395 exit ramp on to Eads Street which will allow an easy flow to the Parcel 1D site. A VDOT public hearing on the ramp widening is scheduled for August 16th, 5-8 p.m., at Arlington County Central Library.

Recently, the LRPC and County asked for comments from LRPC representatives regarding "Draft Guiding Principles" for the Parcel 1D site. Some general excerpts are as follows:

Nick Giacobbe, Vice President, Aurora Highlands Civic Association and LRPC representative wrote, "I think we are at a crossroads in which there is a conflict between good planning and the 'considerable reward' that was identified more than three decades ago [in the Master Development Plan]. The neighborhood I represent has gone on record numerous times as supporting completion of the 1976 plan and encouraging the County to live up to the commitment made more than three

decades ago. The plan had very specific limits established for a reason; Pentagon City was not intended to be a mega office district and for that reason it was limited to 1,250,000 gross square feet of office space. Instead, it was intended that there would be a special emphasis on residential development and regional shopping facilities. Other areas of Arlington County can fill the niche for office space quite nicely, and the plan the County Board just approved for the redevelopment of Crystal City should be able to more than meet the office space needs of the foreseeable future. In fact, limiting the development on Parcel 1D to what is permitted under the 1976 plan may be just the stimulus that is needed to jump start the Crystal City redevelopment."

Don Clarke, former President of ARCA and LRPC representative, said, "To begin, I wish to endorse all of the extensive commentary submitted by Nick Giacobbe, of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association; his suggestions and notes will, if adopted, do much to clarify the intent of the document, as well as align the principles with the Pentagon City PDSP. My own comments are general in nature and directed toward what several of the concerned residents of the ARCA feel are unfortunate assumptions that seem to be driving the Committee's deliberations toward a report that will call for a change in the GLUP and the zoning that apply to Parcel 1D. We in ARCA are not aware of any provisions in the Committee's charter that call for reaching such a conclusion. Consequently, I will point out several places in the Guiding Principles that make it look as though the Committee is attempting to provide a rationale for accommodating a developer's desire for increased density in a parcel that has no provision for such density in the PDSP."

Joan Quinn, ARCA member, long involved with Pentagon City issues points out that "Parcel 1D is, and has long been, part of the Pentagon City tract. It is not a separate parcel of land disjointed from the requirements of the PDSP for Pentagon City, and it has no connection to, or association with

Crystal City, no matter how hard Vornado and Company attempt to make it appear so. Therefore, the only proposals for development of Parcel 1D should be proposals involving hotel and residential. The recently approved redevelopment of Crystal City vastly increased the capacity for new office buildings in Crystal City; more than enough office space for the next 30 years. The PDSP for Pentagon City specifically notes that Pentagon City is not to be office centered like Crystal City."

Nancy Swain, former ARCA president and LRPC alternate, asks "On what basis can the LRPC, without a clear charge from the elected officials, explore changing the existing Metro station concept for Pentagon City by adding more office when none is ... available? ... PenPlace office proposals are clearly outside the parameters of the Pentagon City tract Metro station concept, PDSP, and C-O 2.5 zoning ordinance. It is also outside the current GLUP. To add additional office goes against the visionary leaders of the 1970's and 1980's to limit office space there in order to protect the public health and welfare of our community. Additionally, the emphasis in the 1990's of the Pentagon City Task Force and County Board action was on residential in the future development. One can postulate, absent any charge from the County Board, the only thing important is profit for the developer, Vornado. The developer has already made a \$27,000,000 million profit as reported on page A19 of the December 8, 2009 issue of the Washington Post. This was when an undisclosed purchaser forfeited its deposit. One can only imagine the value the County would be giving Vornado with the additional office density."

The process still has a long way to go. There will be another meeting or two of the Long Range Planning Committee as the group develops a recommendation to fit with the "guiding principles." A work session is planned to discuss the site with the County Board. Eventually the matter will go to the full Planning Commission and County Board for approval.



## Is Your Home Hot Upstairs? Do You Think You Need an Attic Fan?

By Scott Donelson

Now that Summer is upon us, how do you address an upstairs that is constantly hotter than the rest of the home? Do you think an attic fan will solve the problem? Not really, but read on as to why and what to do! Also, have you ever told yourself the following:

- ⇒ Warm spots in a home are inevitable
- ⇒ I will just add insulation and it will solve my problems
- ⇒ I just don't have a big enough air conditioner to keep the upstairs cool
- ⇒ My house is just fine because it needs to "breathe"

All of these are some of the more common myths homeowners have about their homes.

### So what is causing the upstairs to get much hotter?

The simple answer is usually air gaps at the ceiling level and often a lower than acceptable insulation level. Ductwork in the attic can also be problematic if leaky or under-insulated. A hot attic acts like a giant radiator, transferring heat into your living spaces, sending both utility bills and temperatures soaring. Most homes are like "Swiss cheese" when it comes to air leaks. These leaks are caused by items such as electrical penetrations in the tops of walls, studs shrinking away from the wallboard, recessed lighting, plumbing vents, etc. If you had a plumbing leak, would you just let it leak? Of course not, so why would you let air leak out that you have paid to heat and cool? Air sealing is the number one priority by the EPA/DOE when it comes to home weatherization improvements. Insulation is second, but insulation is far less effective without air sealing. Most homes in this area have only 20-30% of the insulation recommended by today's standards which is R-49 (about 13 inches of blown cellulose).

EPA studies indicate that 46% of typical home energy consumption is due to heating and cooling and that nearly half of this is being wasted due to air leaks in the home. (Details on the EPA/DOE energy consumption break-

down can be found at the website at the end of this article). Due to this significant air leakage, most homeowners are paying to heat and cool 2-4 times the amount of air they need to every day! A house truly acts like a system and air leaks result in comfort problems, higher bills, and more wear and tear on the air conditioner. A bigger air conditioner is not better, and actually, if replacement is being considered, an AC system often can be downsized given the proper air sealing and insulation! This results in both initial replacement and long term savings!

### Attic Fans

Most attics reach approximately 130-140 degrees in the summer. It would seem sensible that by exhausting hot attic air, attic fans would reduce the heat that is transmitted down through the ceiling into your home. However, running an attic fan is NOT the right thing to do for the following reasons:

1. Most often attic vents are not properly sized to allow fresh air to enter the attic and replace the hot air removed by the attic fan. Because there is not enough replacement air, if the home is not properly air sealed, the fan will actually draw cool air from the air leaks in the upstairs ceiling and tops of walls and your cooling \$ with it!
2. Attic fans usually have only a small effect on the heat gain through the attic. On a sunny day, heat radiates from the roof deck to the ceiling, and the fan can't affect this radiant heat gain. If you think an attic fan is helping, you likely have air sealing and insulation problems, and the attic is being cooled with much conditioned air from your house.
3. Attic fans are expensive to install and electric ones use substantial electricity. If the attic fan is controlled by a thermostat, it may be running 12 hours a day or more, costing you more money than it's worth.

### So what do you do?

Sealing attic air leaks and adding the proper depth of insulation are usually the best ways to reduce heat transfer from the attic in Summer and keep your upstairs cooler, but not necessarily the only ways. Done properly, these

will far outweigh the benefits of an attic fan and actually render it ineffective.

The best place to get help to figure out the source of problems is through a home energy audit. A home energy audit is a four-hour in-home analysis by a trained professional to qualitatively and quantitatively evaluate the home for comfort issues, energy savings, indoor air quality, and combustion safety issues. The subsequent audit report will identify any problems and give you the prioritized "improvement roadmap" to follow with recommended fixes. A professional energy auditor will know how to consider the right materials for the given application to solve the problems and ensure the most benefit. More details on the audit process can be found in the November 2010 AHCA newsletter article at: [http://aurorahighlands.org/Media/news2010\\_11.pdf](http://aurorahighlands.org/Media/news2010_11.pdf). A new round of VA state home energy efficiency rebates have started which includes energy audits (see link below).

The following web sites contain more information on the topics discussed: <http://www.MyEnergyMedics.com> (links to many sites and answers to frequently asked questions) <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DE/ARRA-Public/HomeEfficiency.shtml> (VA state rebate info) [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_where\\_money](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_where_money) (the details on the home energy consumption breakdown) [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home\\_sealing.hm\\_improvement\\_sealing](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_sealing) (how and where a home leaks air pictorially, duct sealing and air sealing information) [http://www.ornl.gov/sci/roofs+walls/insulation/ins\\_02.html](http://www.ornl.gov/sci/roofs+walls/insulation/ins_02.html) (Description of many insulation types)

About the author: Scott Donelson is a local resident, a BPI certified energy auditor, home energy consultant, and president of Home Energy Medics, [www.MyEnergyMedics.com](http://www.MyEnergyMedics.com), a certified contractor for the VA Energy Efficiency rebate program and an elite NoVA home Performance with Energy Star program participating company.

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## Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway Project Design Meeting July 13

You are invited to a meeting on the design of the Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway Project. The meeting will take place before the Aurora Highlands Civic Association Meeting on Wednesday, July 13th, 5:30 p.m. at Aurora Hills Community Center at 735 18th Street South, Arlington, VA 22202.

Arlington County is planning transit improvements in the Crystal City Potomac Yard (CCPY) Corridor, including a bus-only transitway, station stops, frequent bus service, and passenger amenities. The goal of the project is to provide high-capacity and high-quality transit service to residents, businesses, and visitors in this fast developing corridor. The public is invited to view the progress and comment on the design during the meeting on July 13. Presentations will be made by Arlington County Senior Transit Engineer, consulting architect, and consulting engineer on the design of Transitway and stations. Boards will be available displaying plans, station locations, and architecture.

Questions? Contact Matthew Huston, Arlington County Senior Transit Engineer, 703-228-3267.



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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

### Tree Steward 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 postage-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 Saturdays: July 16, August 6, and August 20, from 8:00—11:00 a.m.



More dates in Arlington and Alexandria to be announced soon. Stay tuned! For tree table updates and other tree care information visit [TreeStewards.org](http://TreeStewards.org).

**How to Hire an Arborist** People often ask me how to hire an arborist. It's a tricky question because it's fraught with danger and liability. Read in the link below about how and why to hire a certified arborist for your tree care, and then follow the link to the International Society of Arboriculture's tool "Find a Tree Service Near You":



<http://planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/arborist-tree-technician.html>

**Status of the George Washington Tree at the Water Pollution Control Plant** I learned through the neighborhood listserv last week that the George Washington tree at the corner of 31st and Fern behind the sewage treatment plant had lost a large limb.

The tree was examined by an arborist and it was found that the tree is hollow all the way to the ground. The hollow trunk had been filled with concrete to stabilize it about 30 years ago, a procedure which is no longer recommended. A hollow tree is able to stay alive because the living part of the tree is the cambium, the slimy layer just under the bark. It is the cambium that carries the fluids and nutrients up to the leaves and down to the roots.

Since the tree is the first Arlington County Heritage tree, designated in 2003 under the county's Tree Preservation Ordinance, arborists will be assessing the tree to determine the best course of action to preserve it.

The George Washington tree (left) is a Southern Red Oak, *Quercus falcata*, estimated to be over 300 years old. In addition to being a Heritage tree, it is also the County's Champion Southern Red

Oak. It is the largest known specimen of its species in Arlington. It is 130 feet high with a circumference of almost 18 feet. It is said that the tree was used as a surveyor's marker by George Washington while working on the Summer Hill Plantation Property.

## 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](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

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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.