

Aurora Highlands

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

AURORA HIGHLANDS CENTENNIAL
1910—2010

AuroraHighlands.org

Inside This Issue:

- ◆ Nov. Meeting Highlights
- ◆ AHCA Dues are Due
- ◆ President's Corner
- ◆ Vision for the Library
- ◆ Sounds of Autumn
- ◆ Keep Our Mailboxes
- ◆ Christmas Tree Sale
- ◆ Dispatches: Karachi
- ◆ Crime on the Rise
- ◆ Activities and Events
- ◆ Tree Talk

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.

OUR UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING:

Saturday, December 10, 2011

5:30 — 8:00 p.m.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY HOLIDAY POTLUCK
AT ARLINGTON FIRE HOUSE NUMBER 5
1750 S. Hayes St
(Details on Page 2)

Highlights of November 9 Meeting

By Nick Giacobbe, AHCA Vice President

At the November meeting, we elected our new slate of officers for 2012, congratulations to:

President: Jim Oliver
Vice President: Nicholas Giacobbe
Second Vice President: William Gillen
Business Secretary: Jenny Lawhorn
Corresponding Secretary: Brent Spence
Treasurer/Membership: Mark Ruckh

Arlington County demographer Robert Ruiz presented the results of the 2010

census and compared how Aurora Highlands, the 22202 zip code, the greater Washington area and the greater U.S. have changed from 2000 to 2010. Since 2000, Aurora Highlands population grew by 29.9% with the 22202 area code growing even more. The largest growth was among 18-64 year-olds with the largest percentage change in people under 5 years old. Our neighborhood's growth of under-17 year olds outpaces the rest of the U.S. as well as the Metropolitan Washington area.

Dues are Due

A reminder that Association dues are now due. The Association's voice is only as loud as its membership, so please be sure to send your membership in today or bring your payment to the November meeting. Envelopes were included in all the paper copies of the November newsletter. There's also a membership form on page 11 that you can clip and mail in. Dues remain unchanged at \$20 per household.

If you and your family have enjoyed any of the neighborhood activities and events this year such as Passport to Summer at the library, the Boo Ha-Ha, Edgar Allen Poe Night, Candidates Night, or Dinner at the Firehouse, please join the Aurora Highlands Civic Association. Find an issue or activity that you care about and get involved — many hands make light work!

See you at the Firehouse!

Looking at the demographics, our neighborhood and the greater 22202 area code have seen a large increase in one-person households and four-person person

—Continued on Page 5—



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President's Corner

by Michael Dowell

The season is upon us. In lieu of our regular monthly meeting, we'll be having our Annual Holiday Potluck with the firefighters at Fire House 5 on Saturday, December 10, 2011. Come join us for seasonal hospitality, a shared meal and perhaps some Firehouse Chili. Bring a main dish, sides, drinks or dessert. For questions, contact Bruce Cameron, brucecameronAHCA@gmail.com.

Two Odyssey of the Mind teams have started planning for the March 2012 competition and will be meeting weekly at the community center to consider their challenges. And in January (or February), we will be

scheduling a follow up to our Poe evening last year. An evening of Macbeth may be just the thing to warm up a chilly winter night. We'll have details in the January newsletter.

This finishes my two years as AHCA President. I've made many new friends and learned a lot about our neighborhood. What a great place to live! In January, the 2012 officers will assume the AHCA leadership. Our great newsletter editor, Cory Giacobbe, will continue at the helm of this publication. We'll have a mix of old and new folks, so look for continuity as well as fresh ideas.

Annual Holiday Fire House Potluck Set for Dec. 10

There will be a Holiday Potluck at Fire House 5 on December 10, 2011 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. This is the 4th year the Fire House Team 105 and Captain Patterson have welcomed in the neighbors for the holiday potluck. All are welcome to come join in a little neighborhood holiday fun. Kids have a great time exploring the trucks and there are some amazing photos at the firehouse that show the history of the neighborhood. And the Fire House team is always extremely welcoming and in past years they have contributed some really tasty firehouse chili as well as some great stories and conversations.

So bring a tasty dish or beverage and come join in. There is no charge and all are welcome and other than a few brief remarks, it's really about eating some good food, talking to neighbors and the fire team, and just having a nice time.

If you can, please let Bruce Cameron and Maria Cameron know what you might bring so we can help balance out the choices. brucecameronahca@gmail.com or cameron.maria@gmail.com.

P.S. We'll check to see if Santa has left behind anything again this year.

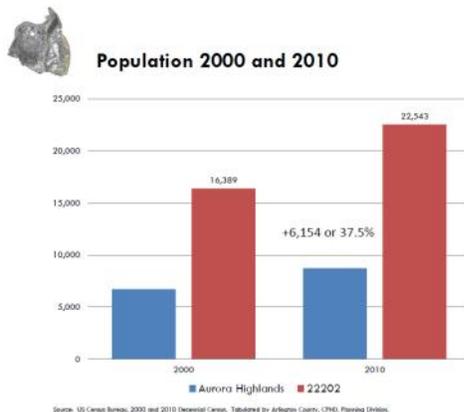
P.P.S. We always look for some volunteers before hand and afterwards who can help move tables and chairs from the Community Room over to the Fire House.

What's Your Vision for the Library?

Arlington Library staff invited Arlington residents to two vision meetings this fall to get our input on what we want to see in the library of the future. Library staff presented data about Arlington's changing demographics based on Census 2010. There were to be three community meetings but the third one was cancelled. Library Director Diane Kresh said that she felt she would get more valid neighborhood input if she held meetings in each neighborhood, and that those meetings will be held early in 2012. Stay tuned for date and location of the next Library Vision Community Input meeting.

AHCA Demographics Presentation

Robert Ruiz of the Arlington County Planning Division gave an excellent presentation at our November 10 meeting that highlighted the significant population and demographic changes in our area over the 2000-2010 period. For the entire presentation, go to this link or scan the QR code below: http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/planning/data_maps/CPHDPlanningDataandMaps_Presentations.aspx



December Art Display at Aurora Hills Library

By Bill Gillen

Artwork created by the Claremont Art Club will be on display in the lobby of the Aurora Hills Community Center and Library during the month of December 2011. The Claremont Art Club is comprised of second and third graders from the Claremont Immersion School here in Arlington. Please stop by to see the seven paintings created by our local artists!

Lobby Hours:

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

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.

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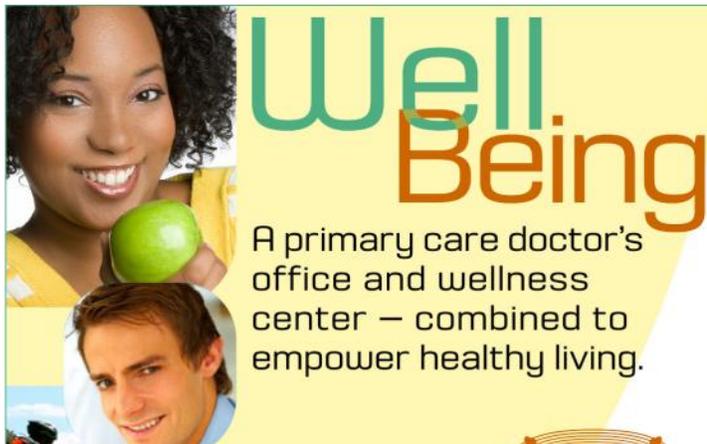


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Soothing Sounds of Autumn?

By Janet Dunkelberger

In our neighborhood, autumn arrives as a welcome time to reflect, plan and prepare. Even with the recent bright sun and 70s temps, boisterous activities of summer have been calmer, overtaken by studies and holidays. We changed our clocks, and now evening has all but disappeared. Darkness is more prolonged, daylight is precious. A walk has never been more delightful.

And then there are leaf-blowers.

One blower resounds across our entire community. Two or three make for surround-sound cacophony.

Ah, for the old fashioned rake, promoter of exercise and satisfying repetition. A family that rakes together can share a look at leaves so beautiful it seems a shame to pile them rather than put each one on display. Leaf rakes are relatively safe, too.

They actually encourage conversation. Their use doesn't require ear protection, eye guards or allergy medication. Eye injuries from leaf-blowers are common in emergency rooms at this time of year. Leaf-blowers can cause hearing loss and trigger asthma.

Studies have even debunked the myth that leaf-blowers are quicker than rakes.

So, I'm keeping to my rake, savoring my own quiet. No one will know I'm raking unless they pass me on the street, but perhaps others will read this, recognize the benefits and consider getting back to a more relaxing experience.



Leaf Collection Continues

According to the Arlington County website, fall leaf collection continues until January 13. There will be a second pass of the vacuum truck in Aurora Highlands beginning December 9. All you need to do is rake your leaves out to the curb by that date. If you miss the vacuum collection, you can put your leaves in biodegradable bags that are available in the lobby of the Aurora Hills library. The bagged leaves are collected on the day after your regularly scheduled trash day, so for our neighborhood, that would be on Mondays.

There is a ton of information about leaf collection on the Arlington County website, including links to the collection schedule, interactive maps and instructions for raking and bagging your yard waste (there's even a video on leaf collection). Here's the link:

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

Don't forget to recycle your Christmas tree! Trees will be collected on your regular trash day from January 3 - 16, 2012. Remove the tree stand and all decorations, and please do not put the tree in a plastic bag.

Knights of Columbus Conducting Annual Christmas Tree Sale

The Knights of Columbus annual Christmas Tree Sale continues at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, on the corner of 23rd Street and South Hayes Streets daily through Monday, December 19th (or until supplies run out). The tree lot is open on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and weeknights from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In addition to trees, the Knights are selling fresh wreaths, pine roping, and tree stands, and the neighborhood's own Cub Scout Pack 164 will also be selling popcorn. So come on down and see the Knights for your tree!



How to Keep Our Mailboxes

By Laura Holman

In case you hadn't realized it, we have lost mailboxes this past year thanks to budget cuts and lack of enough mail being dropped into the blue mailboxes. Our household actually sends mail almost daily, and we have decided to make a conscious effort to walk the mail to the mailbox from now on, rather than leave it out for/hand it to the mailman or walk it to the post office. I really liked the one close to us, but it was removed already. I'd love to keep the one on 23rd and the one at the corner near Costco. I hope many of you



will commit to depositing your mail in these mailboxes so we can continue to enjoy having them in the neighborhood. We will simply take envelopes out on walks or rides to drop rather than continuing to leave them for our mailman, and maybe others would like to do likewise as well. CNN reported the following: "If fewer than 25 pieces of mail a day make their way into a mailbox over a six-to-eight week period, that mailbox is flagged for removal." Here's a link the CNN article: http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/09/08/greene.mailboxes.post.office/index.html?hpt=li_t3

Highlights from November AHCA Meeting —Continued from Page 1—

households had the greatest percentage change. The biggest numerical change in 22202 is non-Hispanic/white population, which increased, as did non-Hispanic households of more than one race.

The County will be using these data to project needs going forward; one indicator is that the overcrowding situation in the Arlington public schools will only get worse in the next few years. See the entire report online at: <http://www.Arlingtonva.us/prat>.

We also heard from Federal Realty, the owners of Pentagon Row, who want to redesign the plaza to allow a more welcoming feeling in the summer by using artificial turf and landscaping improvements, include

space for a larger ice rink in the winter and also add two free-standing retail spaces of 900 square feet each. There was a lively back-and-forth discussion pointing out how much the community likes the existing plaza and programming on the plaza. The clear consensus of the community was that all redesign efforts should center on maintaining the European piazza feel of the current plaza.

The community suggested that Federal Realty look at ways to reduce the size of the proposed retail spaces, review the heat island effect of either paving or artificial turf, find a way to maintain at least the current amount of natural turf, and maximize the use of the lobbies leading to

the second-story retail as a way of increasing retail space. Several people also pointed out that the overall pedestrian circulation plan at the Pentagon Row site was poorly executed and that all of the pedestrian sidewalks and crosswalks throughout the entire Pentagon Row site should be reviewed for safety.

President Mike Dowell reported on the huge success of this year's Boo-Ha-Ha. The weather for the event was perfect and we had hundreds of participants. The Association agreed not to object to renewals of the day care permits for Busy Bee and Louisa Cottle, as well as a variance request for construction of a garage in the 800 block of 18th Street South.

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>

First Children's Environment Fair a Success

Congratulations to organizer Miriam Gennari and the many volunteers and organizations for a great afternoon for kids to learn more about the environment on November 5. The booths were fun, creative and taught about the role each and every one of us plays when it comes to protecting our fragile environment.

The children got hands-on experience with the Environscape watershed model and learned how pollutants in the watershed get washed into Four Mile Run and Chesapeake Bay. They learned about the effects of climate change, the importance of native trees, and the future of green buildings. Sociologist Ralph Perrino discussed the international impacts of waste to energy plants around the world. The Sierra Club did a demonstration of wind energy. Dan Redmond demonstrated solar cookers with hot fresh brownies. Arlington's Parks and Recreation presented tips on bike safety. Thanks go to many people and organizations including Johns Hopkins, NIH, NOVA and APS. Miriam is already planning another Children's Environment fair to take place in the spring of 2012. Way to go Miriam!

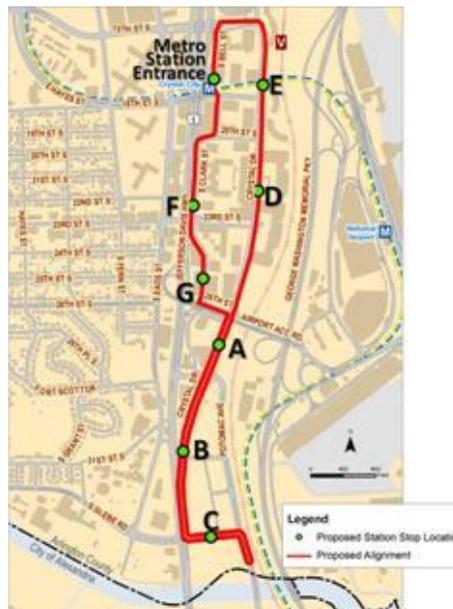
Crystal City Transitway Station Names

Results Are In!!!

Thanks for the many votes and creative write-ins on the recent survey to select names for the stops on the new Transitway. Here are the winners:

Location	Name
C	South Glebe
B	33rd & Crystal
A	27th & Crystal
D	23rd & Crystal
E	18th & Crystal/VRE
Metro	Crystal City Metro
F	23rd & Clark
G	26th & Clark

For more information about the project, go to www.ccpytransit.com.



Dispatches from Neighbors: Karachi, Pakistan

By Lynn Ferenc

What is Karachi like? I often get asked that question and I have no ready answer. I live in Karachi, but I really don't. My impressions and experiences of Karachi and Pakistan in general, are often limited to what I see, smell, hear or read from within my walls.

One of the absolute joys of being in the Foreign Service is the unique opportunity to live and work overseas and experience other cultures first hand. I have spent my career in interesting places all over the globe and I now find myself on my final assignment in Karachi, Pakistan. Admittedly, the circumstances here are a bit more difficult as we live and work on a compound for security reasons. A bustling, exciting and dangerous city lies beyond the razor wire. I get glimpses of this on those few occasions I can venture out.

Karachi began as a small fishing village and has blossomed into the largest city in Pakistan with 18 million inhabitants. It is the commercial and financial center of Pakistan. Karachi is located on the Arabian Sea and has two thriving commercial ports. It is the most ethnically diverse city in Pakistan and with that comes ethnic tensions and political violence. This I can tell you from the fact books.

From within my walls I live in Karachi. From within my walls I experience Pakistan.

From within my walls I can occasionally smell the sea. It isn't always a pleasant smell but it is a tangible connection to the outside world.

From within my walls I can hear the call to prayer five times a day. To my untrained ear it has a tortured quality, but it is actually an inspiring prayer.

From within my walls I see large birds of prey circling the city. I learned that there is a 3,000 year-old Zoroastrian/Parsi tradition of sky burial- a tradition that is still carried out in Karachi today. The dead are placed on "towers of silence" and consigned to the vultures. From within my walls I am fascinated yet repulsed by this ancient custom.

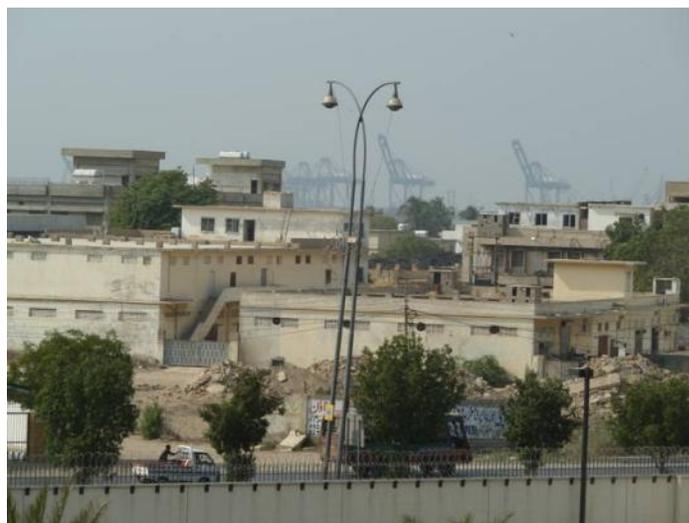
From the newspapers I learn of the life that goes on beyond my walls- the

good and the bad. When I do go beyond my walls, I view the street life from the distance and protection of an armored car.

Yes, from within my walls I live in Pakistan.

—Lynn Ferenc, when she isn't posted overseas with the State Department, calls our neighborhood home. She keeps up with what's going on by reading the AHCA newsletter online.

Editor's Note: "Dispatches" is a new monthly column. It is written by neighbors who are away on leave, away at college or who have moved away. If you know someone who would like to write in, or if you miss someone and would like to know what they're up to, let us know and we'll try to contact them and invite them to write an article. Send articles and ideas to ahca.news@yahoo.com.



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Join us for their first concert in Virginia and the release of their debut album, "Eastern Treasures: A Collection of Asian Folk Songs."

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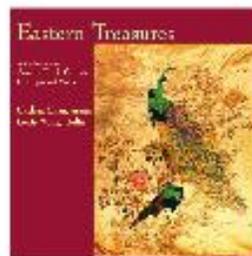
Friday, December 16, 2011

7:30 pm

2315 South Grant St, Arlington, VA

\$10 Suggested donation
Refreshments to follow

RSVP for child care by Dec. 9 to violinorgan@gmail.com



Crime Seems to be Rising

By Nick Giacobbe

There have been a rash of burglaries in the neighborhood over the past few weeks and there is generally seasonal uptick over the holidays. Please remember that if you see any suspicious activity to call the Arlington Police non-emergency number, 703-558-2222 to report your observations to the police. If a crime is in progress, please dial 911. As the police often point out, nobody knows better what's out of the ordinary than the neighbors on a block, so please remember to call in suspicious activities.

For an update on crime, our next quarterly meeting with the Arlington Police will be on Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Below are some tips on crime prevention that have been handed out at previous quarterly meetings. Remember that Lt. Heather Hurlock is available to conduct a home security survey and can be contacted at 703-228-4057.

QUICK TIPS ON RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

1. Is your address in block numbers, in contrasting colors, 3 inches high and visible day and night from 30 feet?
2. When considering securing your home, have you established routes for escape in the event of fire?
3. What kind of locks are on your exterior doors?
 - a) Double cylinder (needs a key to open.)
 - b) Single cylinder (latch on the inside.)
4. If your exterior doors contain glass inserts or panes, have you covered the glass or secured it from breakage?
5. If your basement door is in a secluded location, have you taken additional measures to secure it?
6. Do all of the windows have adequate, operational locks and if easily accessible, have additional measures been taken to secure them?
7. Are all windows kept locked at night and when away from home?
8. Do you close your shades, blinds, or curtains at night?
9. Are the exterior areas of windows free from concealing structures and landscaping?
10. Are all of the basement windows covered and locked?
11. If basement windows are in secluded locations, have additional precautions been taken to secure them?
12. Is your sliding glass door secured with a "Charlie bar" or pinned so that the panel cannot be lifted out of the track?
13. Is your garage door closed and locked at all times?
14. Is there a deadbolt on the door from the garage to the living quarters?
15. Is there a deadbolt on the door from the basement to the living quarters?
16. Are the windows on the garage door and windows in the garage covered and locked?
17. If you have a shed, is it locked and are windows covered and locked?
18. If you have an alarm system, is the pad visible from outside?

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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 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., Mount Vernon Baptist Church. 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.

YogaFit for Seniors, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., Mount Vernon Baptist Church. Sit & Be Fit. This class is gentle, fun and the first two classes are free with a small fee afterwards. You must call or e-mail 1st to sign up. Call (703) 979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org.

YogaFit, Tuesday & Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Baptist Church. Experience the health benefits of gentle Hatha Yoga. First two classes are free. Small fee afterwards. Call (703) 979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org.

Youth Friday, 2nd Friday of each month, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Mount Vernon Baptist Church. Various activities such as readings, story-telling time, movie night. Hot dogs, chips, popcorn, drinks. Free. Call (703) 979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org.

FotoWeek DC, Interior Walkways of Crystal City, through March 31.

With over 5,600 submissions from 44 countries, the winning images in the 2011 FotoWeek DC have proven to be the most stimulating and evocative in the festival's four-year history. The Crystal City Fotoweek Exhibition will also host the winners of the Youth contest and the FotoDC Favorites that did not make the winner's circle, but stood out for their content and composition. In total there will be 84 Competition Winners/ Honorable Mentions, 31 Youth Contest Winners, and 33 FotoDC Favorites.

Romeo and Juliet, through December 23 at Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell Street. Don't miss this reprise of Synetic's passionate and lyrical production of Shakespeare's classic story of star-crossed lovers that received two Helen Hayes awards for this production. For more information, visit <http://www.synetictheater.org>.

Community Potluck at Fire House 5, Saturday, December 10 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Fire House Team 105 and Captain Patterson welcome neighbors for the 4th annual holiday potluck. Bring a dish or beverage (if possible, email Bruce or Maria Cameron your dish so he can help balance the menu). Enjoy sampling the famous firehouse chili (they are great cooks!), your neighbors' offerings, and view the amazing photos documenting the history of the firehouse and the neighborhood.

HOG Pull, Sat., January 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Help remove invasive plants from the woods between Oakridge and Gunston. Meet at Haley Park, 2400 S. Meade Street.

Simple Gifts Holiday Labyrinth Walk, Wednesday, December 14, Advent Lutheran Church, 2222 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Take a deep breath before the rush of the holiday season with a few quiet moments in the labyrinth. Kids walk at 6:30 p.m., then enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while the adults walk at 6:45. All come together at 7:00 p.m. for simple songs and prayers in the Taize tradition.

Wong-Chen Duo, Friday, December 16, Calvary United Methodist Church, 2315 South Grant Street, at 7:30 p.m. Violinist Lewis Wong and organist Chelsea Chen will make their first concert appearance in Virginia. One of America's premier violin-organ ensembles, the duo has just released its debut album "Eastern Treasures: A Collection of Asian Folk Songs." Suggested donation is \$10; refreshments follow the concert.

Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, January 7, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., Calvary United Methodist Church, 2315 South Grant Street. Begin the new year with delicious pancakes prepared by the men of Calvary. You are sure to see all your neighbors and friends and it will be a great time to catch up on

everyone's holidays.

Quarterly Police Meeting, Wednesday, January 25, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church at 7:00 p.m. An update from the Arlington Police on what's going on in the neighborhood and what we can do to help. Remember, if you see something suspicious please contact the Arlington Police at their non-emergency number



703-558-2222, or call 911 if you see an event in progress.

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January Meeting with County Board Candidates

Mark your calendars for a joint meeting of the Aurora Highlands and Arlington Ridge Civic Associations on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. The Aurora Hills Community Center will be the scene of one of the few meetings with all of the contenders for the County Board seat being vacated by Barbara Favola when she departs for the Senate in Richmond. Details will follow, but this promises to be an exciting evening!

HOG Pull, January 7, 9:00 — 11:00 a.m.

Help pull invasive plants from the woods between Oakridge and Gunston. Meet at Haley Park, 2400 S. Meade Street.

Bring:

Appropriate clothing, including good footwear, as some parts of the area are steep and contain poison ivy.

Gloves

Tools - weeders, clippers, whackers, small saws

Drinking water

Insect repellent

We will provide extra tools if you don't have any of your own. This is a RiP and ARMN approved project.

Contacts:

Marti Klein,
cummingslc@aol.com

Jennifer Frum,
frumjb@gmail.com

Mary Ann Lawler,
malawler0@gmail.com

Bill McLaughlin,
billmcnative@gmail.com



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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

TreeSteward Class Starts Feb. 8

Apply now for the next TreeStewards volunteer training class. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, February 8 – April 18 2012 at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington. Class will also include three Saturday morning sessions. For details and the 2012 application, visit the TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria website:

<http://treestewards.org/>

Notable Tree Program Nominations Close on December 15

The tree must fall into at least one of the following categories:

- Size and/or Age: Scored by height, circumference and canopy cover, the condition of the tree is also taken into consideration.
- Species: Unusual species for our area.
- Historical Interest: For example, associated with an event, famous person or building.
- Special Significance to Neighborhood



Fill out the [Notable Tree Nomination Form](#) available online and mail to:

Notable Tree Program, Attention Landscape & Forestry Section
Arlington County Division of Parks and Natural Resources
2700 South Taylor Street
Arlington, VA 22206

Nominators other than the tree's owner should contact the owner for consent before submitting the application; owners may request that their names and addresses not appear on the public listing. Volunteers and/or County staff will measure and evaluate the tree, taking into consideration its health and condition before making a recommendation to the Beautification Committee, which makes the final decision. For more information call 703-228-7747.

Virginia Loves Trees License

Plate Trees Virginia has been working with the urban forestry faculty at Virginia Tech to develop a new public outreach initiative — the Virginia Loves Trees specialty license plate. The first step in the process of official adoption of a new license plate design by the DMV is achieving a pre-sales quota of 450 plates.

If you are interested in this new plate, please visit the Virginia Loves Trees to apply for and pre-purchase the new license plate, <http://www.valovestrees.org>.

Once the quota is met, General Assembly Sponsor Delegate Joe Johnson (D) – 4th District, will submit a bill to the General Assembly early in the 2012 Session to authorize adoption of the license plate by the DMV.

This article is from the website of the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria <http://treestewards.org/>

Get Your Trees Ready for Winter

Winter is finally upon us after a long and warm fall. Trees need a little attention before the temperatures drop.

–Water trees once a week before the ground freezes, especially trees less than two years old.

–Freshen the mulch around the base of the tree. Add a couple inches deep of leaves from your garden or mulch from the county. Keep mulch two or three inches away from the bark of the tree. Widen the ring of mulch a bit each year until it's as wide as the branches reach.

–Remove English Ivy from the trunk and base of trees. See the November newsletter for reasons and techniques http://aurorahighlands.org/Media/news2011_11.pdf

–If there are broken branches from storm damage, correctly prune the branch to avoid disease. For pruning advice see pages 18-20 of the US Forest Service's *Tree Owner's Manual*. The manual can be downloaded from the TreeSteward website. <http://treestewards.org/>

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

Association Officers & Committee Chairs

President – Michael Dowell
703-521-7739

Vice President – Nick Giacobbe
703-842-5441

2nd Vice President – Cory Giacobbe
703-842-5441

Treasurer / Membership – Brent Spence

Secretary – Jenny Lawhorn
jennylawhorn@comcast.net

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 - Vacant

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Newsletter Editor – Cory Giacobbe
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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 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.