



AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Miriam Gennari

At our March meeting, we will be voting on a sustainability statement to the County Board, which I fully expect to pass. You can read it on our website at aurorahighlands.org.

Engagement is the focus of the Aurora Highland Civic Association. Regarding Amazon, our county government, educators, businesses, and developers scored a much better deal than New York did. Nonetheless, **I hope with the passage of the sustainability statement we can impress on the County Board the importance of long-range holistic and collaborative planning.** JGB has a plan, the Crystal City BID has a plan, the universities have a plan. The County has several plans that guide development in Pentagon City and Crystal City, as well as numerous separate plans for various components such as housing, forestry, public spaces, and energy. It is clear we will need more elementary school space in 22202 and the County is already mulling a new high school. **We have the perfect opportunity to create a vision that complements the investment of the universities and training centers in our zip code.**

I have heard valid concerns about Amazon's impact, but I believe Amazon, JBG, and the County are making a good-faith effort to address some of those concerns. **AHCA's job is to ensure continued engagement by those entities with our community.** We are collaborating with the other civic associations in 22202 to do so and even though we are not all looking at the same playbook, public safety and education are shared priorities. We have everything Amazon wants in a community and **if we work together we will all benefit from this transition.**

I hope you will join us as we engage the various stakeholders. **After all, we as residents are the most important stakeholders!**

Next Meeting: Wed, Mar 13

7pm, 735 18th St. (Aurora Highlands Community Center)

1. Sustainability Statement discussion & vote (read it before on our website!)

2. Presentation by Crystal City Business Improvement District. Tracy Gabriel, President & Executive Director will share about their upcoming projects and strategic plan, including expansion into Pentagon City.

3. County Board Member Erik Gutshall will take questions on Amazon, prior to the Board's vote on the incentive package on March 16.

4. Update on Dominion Power's work at the Four Mile Run Sub Station beginning Fall 2019-Spring 2020.

5. Vote on Accessory Dwelling request. In January we heard a presentation about a homeowner who legally built living quarters over his garage in 1983. The owner is now asking for a letter of support that the County grant his unit legal status as an Accessory Dwelling Unit.

Stay Informed!



www.aurorahighlands.org



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P.O. Box 25201 Arlington, VA 22202

Mark Your Calendar

March 15 - St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at the Senior Center

Celebrate the holiday with friends, Irish music and a traditional Irish meal! Lunch catered by Samuel Beckett's Restaurant and musical entertainment by The Sunshine Gang. Must pre-register by March 11. \$10 per person.

March 20 - Women in STEM Panel, 8:15-9am

In greater Crystal City, more than half of the workforce has a background in STEM, so the panel will tackle gender diversity in STEM on a local level. Hosted by the Crystal City BID, in partnership with U.Group and Axios. Purchase tickets (\$35): eventbrite.com/e/women-in-stem-tickets-55983259436.

April 6 - Eco Teen Action Celebration & Film Screening

Teen changemakers will discuss sustainable development, followed by the Arlington documentary "StyrofoamMom". Proceeds benefit Global Co. Lab's building of a teen network for Global Earth Day's anniversary in 2020. Hosted at National Landing (241 18th Street S). Must pre-register, students get in free! eventbrite.com/e/teen-eco-action-celebration-at-national-landing-tickets-56661847110

COMMUNITY UPDATES & RESOURCES

55+ Programs at Aurora Hills Community Center

Our Senior Center offers a wide range of activities from Tai Chi and yoga to comedy clubs and movies to art afternoons and more! Check out the activities calendar (parks.arlingtonva.us/senior-centers/) or call 703-228-7369 to register.

Pocket Park at 20th and Ives

The Dept of Parks & Rec anticipates demolishing the house this summer. We hope to have DPR staff at the May or June meeting to discuss.

Safety Improvements Planned for Arlington Ridge and Lang Street Slip Lane

To improve safety around school zones, a County project will close the southbound Lang Street slip lane in order to eliminate the conflicts between pedestrians and drivers. Other elements of the project include wider sidewalks and a concrete median on Arlington Ridge. A study verified that closing this lane would not back up traffic. Construction is expected to occur in 2021. To learn more in the meantime check out: projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/arlington-ridge-road-and-lang-street-safety-improvements/



JOIN THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION!

Be a voting member for just \$20 per household. Mail in a check, pay on our website via PayPal, or bring cash/check to the next meeting!

Your annual dues support our newsletter, meetings, and community activities throughout the year. The civic association's voice carries weight as we promote our interests together as a community to County staff, County Board and School Board members, private businesses and organizations, and even state representatives.

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