



All Aurora Highlands residents are invited and encouraged to attend our monthly meetings where we meet neighbors, discuss topics of interest, and share information.

MEETING – Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m.

Aurora Hills Community Center

Come early for refreshments and socializing! Doors open at 6:30

Refreshments courtesy of



Aurora Highlands Civic Association Newsletter – March 2016

Meeting Agenda

Introductions

Community Updates

- We had a great turnout at Siné on February 25 for the second AHCA social.
- Next AHCA social event will be at Crystal City Sports Pub, March 30, 7–9 P.M.
- Ribbon-cutting for the east side of Virginia Highlands Park will be on March 13 at 1:00 p.m. Laura Holman has generously offered to organize the reception by the tennis courts. If you can provide some finger foods or drinks, please arrive a little early.
- School Board Forum on 22202 will be held at Oakridge Elementary School, March 16, 7-9 P.M.
- County Board approved funding for two Neighborhood Conservation projects in our neighborhood. One was to fund the cost over-run of the Fern St. sidewalk project, which has been stalled for several years. Utility work on Fern St. will begin in the spring, followed by hardscape in the summer or early fall. The board also agreed to fund renovation at Nelly Custis Park, though we are not expected to see anything happen on the design phase until the fall or later.
- County Board Chair Libby Garvey will be at our April 13 meeting.
- Whole Foods will be opening in Metropolitan Park. Representatives will be at the meeting to answer your questions about the new store.

For Discussion

- Vote on \$250 donation to Oakridge Elementary School for the Spring Fling festival.
- Capital Bikeshare: a representative of Capital Bikeshare will be at the meeting to discuss two proposed locations for new Bikeshare stations in our neighborhood. One is at S. Hayes and 23rd St. S., and the other is at S. Fern and Army-Navy Drive. You can take the surveys at: <http://bit.ly/1VstwJH> (for the Fern St. site) and <http://bit.ly/HayesBikeshareSurvey> (for the Hayes St. site).
- County Board member John Vihstadt will talk with AHCA about issues facing our community: development, density, schools, and transportation. Come with your questions.

Most Important Schools Meeting of the Year (childcare provided for 3+ year-olds)

This is our one chance to convince the School Board and County that we need a new school in our area to help relieve the overcrowding at Oakridge. In its Final Report, the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG) recommended that the School Board "plan for a second south Arlington elementary school in the Pentagon City area." In response, the School Board directed the Superintendent to prepare a report on the options and next steps regarding that possibility post-2019. However, in the

four months since the SAWG released its report, the School Board has dramatically decreased its enrollment projections for Oakridge (last year's projections estimated 150+ more students in 2025 than this year's projections). Although Oakridge is still expected to be significantly overcrowded by 2025 (with a total of 1,016 students), this revision will make it much more difficult for us to argue the case for a new school.

If you care about solving the overcrowding issues at Oakridge – getting our kids out of trailers and into classrooms – it is critically important that you come and voice your support for a new school in our area to the School Board and County staff in attendance.

Where: Oakridge Elementary School
 When: Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 7 P.M.

AHCA Social, March 30, 7–9 p.m. – We hope to see you there.

Join your neighbors at the Crystal City Sports Pub, which has generously offered to host us again in their second-floor room. The Sports Pub is located at 529 23rd St. S.

Important Websites

Aurora Highlands Civic Assoc. Join here: aurorahighlands.org	Neighborhood Nextdoor site www.nextdoor.com 4D-A Neighborhood Listserv	groups.yahoo.com/4D-A
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AHCA Bank Account Balance (required by by-laws): \$9,443.31 as of March 2, 2015

What do your dues get used for? Your dues cover the cost of the newsletter, website hosting, and supplies for meetings and AHCA social events, but they also help fund many activities in the neighborhood. AHCA sponsors the wildly popular Boo-Ha-Ha fall festival, and we also contribute to the Miracle on 23rd St. tree-lighting ceremony hosted by Linden Resources. AHCA donations also support school activities at Oakridge Elementary School, Gunston Middle School, and Wakefield High School. Let us know if you have a school or community activity you would like us to consider. You can join with Paypal at aurorahighlands.org or mail a check or bring one to the meeting.

Please sign up with the Aurora Highlands group on Nextdoor to stay informed about happenings in the hood, including AHCA-related issues. We also encourage people to use Nextdoor as a way to spread the word about events or other items of interest to the whole 22202 community.

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