



# AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

We had a really good conversation at our September meeting about our priorities for the Livability 22202 reboot. There are a lot of good thoughts about what has been accomplished since the launch of Livability in 2019 and where we need to go to maintain the quality of life in our unique piece of 22202. We will continue this conversation at our October 11 AHCA meeting and also with the wider 22202 community on October 26 at the new Amazon community space (details in article on page 2). I encourage you to join us for both of those conversations, either in person or virtually and would like to stress the importance of civility during these discussions. All of our members deserve the right to have their voices heard with respect.

October will also be the nominating meeting for our slate of candidates to lead AHCA in 2024. I have decided that two years in the President's seat will be enough for now, but will still be working on vital neighborhood issues like tree canopy and pollinator habitats. If you are interested in leading the organization as president, taking on another leadership role, or know someone who is, please get in touch with Natasha Atkins, the chair of our nominating committee. We will also welcome nominations from the floor for candidates on October 11. Please note: according to our bylaws, in order to vote for officers in November, you must pay your dues by October 31. Also: in order to be elected to an officer position, you must pay your dues by October 31. To pay dues, see the Dues article below.

Looking ahead to November, we will vote on the candidates who come forward and wish the winners well when they take over on January 1. Ours will not be the only election in November, please remember to vote in the important local elections either on November 7 or through early voting.

Cory Giacobbe, President AHCA

### Calendar

See [aurorahighlands.org/events/](https://aurorahighlands.org/events/)

- Oct 2-27 - Gallery Underground: Pluviophile: Solo Show by Gary Keith [Opening Reception Friday Oct. 6 5-7 pm]
- Oct 9, 16, 23 - Virtual Open Door Mondays with County Board members 7-9 pm
- Oct 11 - October AHCA Meeting, 7 - 9 pm, online via Zoom, register here
- Oct. 15 - Festival Latinoamericano @ Arlington Mill Community Center, 1-5 pm.
- Oct 16 - 55+ Short Story Reading and Discussion, Aurora Hills, 1-2:30 pm. Register
- Oct 27 - 55+ Movies at Aurora Hills - 12:30-2:30 pm - Register here
- Oct 28 - Fort Scott Invasive Plant Removal, 9-11 a.m. Register here
- Oct 28 - Teen Night at Lubber Run Community Center, 7 - 10 pm, Free- Register Here
- Sept 29 through Nov 5 - The Tell-Tale Heart at Syntetic Theater - Tickets here
- Nov 4 - Haley Park Invasive Plant Removal, 9-11 a.m. Register here
- Nov 6 - 55+ Jeopardy! at Aurora Hills - 2-3 pm - Register here

### It's Racing Season!

The Army 10 Miler will be held Sunday, October 8, and the Marine Corps Marathon will be held Sunday, October 29. Watch for major street closures before, during, and after these races, and please come out to cheer the runners on. Your support is an inspiration to us.

### Festival Latinoamericano

The 2023 Festival Latinoamericano will be held on Sunday, Oct. 15, from 1-5 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center. The festival welcomes hundreds each year and will include a full array of live music and dance, great local vendors, interactive children's entertainment, delicious food, and exciting community spirit. The event is free and includes a full afternoon of engaging programming for guests of all ages.

### AHCA Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2023

\$20 per household. Pay dues either by mailing a check to AHCA, P.O. Box 25201, Arlington, VA 22202, or go to [www.aurorahighlands.org](https://www.aurorahighlands.org) and click the "Donate" button to pay by PayPal.

\*\* Paying by check saves the AHCA the PayPal transaction fee. To check your membership status, please contact the AHCA Treasurer at [treasurerahca@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerahca@gmail.com)

### Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, October 11**

7 pm-9 pm, Virtual via Zoom (Register Here).

<https://bit.ly/October2023AHCA>

### AGENDA

- 7:00 pm** - Call to order and approve September minutes
- 7:10 pm** - Nominations for 2024 AHCA Officers
- 7:40 pm** - Livability22202 Brainstorm
- 8:40 pm** - Committee Reports - Zoning Committee
- 8:50 pm** - Other Business / New Business
- 9:00 pm** - Adjourn

### Newsletters & Social Media

We know you enjoy having a print newsletter. We'll do our best to continue it. It will depend on continued support from advertisers and volunteers to distribute it. Sign up for newsletters by email at [aurorahighlands.org/join-ahca](https://aurorahighlands.org/join-ahca) and follow us at @AuroraHighlands on Facebook or Insta to stay connected no matter what.

**The 4D-A group list-serve is an alternative to Nextdoor for hyper-local information and to post queries to your neighbors:** To subscribe, go to the group website, read the rules and scroll down to the membership button. Here is the website: <https://groups.io/g/4D-A22202>

### All Underlined Items are Links to Websites and Other Content - Go to our Website for Live Links! [AuroraHighlands.org](https://aurorahighlands.org)

We use many links in the AHCA Newsletter to easily lead you to websites where you can get more information and stay up to date on the issues that interest you. Any underlined text is a hyperlink to a site. To save space in the print version, we haven't printed the long URLs, but it lets you know that you can go to the AHCA website for a clickable version of the AHCA Newsletter. See what I just did there? ;)

### Read Up & Reach Out!



[www.aurorahighlands.org](https://www.aurorahighlands.org)



[facebook.com/AuroraHighlands](https://facebook.com/AuroraHighlands)



[@AuroraHighlands](https://twitter.com/AuroraHighlands)



[Nextdoor - Aurora Highlands](https://nextdoor.com/AuroraHighlands)



[info@aurorahighlands.org](mailto:info@aurorahighlands.org)



[\(703\) 594-1344](tel:(703)594-1344)



[P.O. Box 25201 Arlington, VA 22202](mailto:P.O. Box 25201 Arlington, VA 22202)

## AHCA October Meeting Topic: Livability22202 Brainstorm

NOTE: This is the last opportunity for AHCA to influence the neighborhood-wide vision of development in 22202. This vision emerged from the work of Livability22202, a coalition of the 3 civic associations of 22202 – Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands, and Crystal City – neighborhoods that face common impacts from rapid commercial and residential development. Community leaders, activists, and interested citizens came together in 2018 to tackle the challenges facing our area, and to develop a holistic approach to ensuring that development would create a more cohesive and more livable community.

Livability22202 leaders met recently to evaluate the current Framework and draft new recommendations through a collaborative process with the civic associations during September. The current draft, which includes input from the civic associations, was presented to the Crystal and Pentagon Cities Council (CPCC) on October 3. The CPCC will use the draft to prepare their letter to the County with recommendations for community benefit priorities. The most current draft is posted on our AHCA website HERE. Mike Dowell will present the current draft at our October 11 AHCA meeting, and gather your comments and ideas. There will be a larger community meeting on October 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Amazon Community Room at Met Park (545 15th St. S). We hope you can join us.

Rebooting the Livability22202 plans gives us an opportunity to invite all community members, old and new, to voice their opinions. Please consider volunteering for working groups of interest to you and participate in the updates.

## Starting a business?

**Your local  
Rotary  
Club is  
here to  
help.**



**Scan for the best small  
business resources in  
the area!**

Get started today with  
making your business  
dreams come true.

Crystal City-Pentagon  
**Rotary**  
Club

Questions? Contact [smallbiz@pentagonrotaryclub.net](mailto:smallbiz@pentagonrotaryclub.net)

## County News

***Engage Arlington: Visit [this site](#) frequently for new opportunities to give the County feedback!***

### **Don't Forget to VOTE this Fall! Last day to register to vote or update your records is October 16**

Check your registration – or register to vote - through this [link](#). Registration closes 21 days before the General Election. Last day to [register to vote or update existing registration](#): October 16, 2023. Note [Same Day Registration](#) starts on October 17!

The results of the General Election on November 7 will be critical to the future direction of Arlington County and Virginia. Make sure you VOTE to make your voice heard! Everything that you need to know to vote successfully in Arlington is linked through the County Voting [website](#).

Who's on your ballot? Go to this [page](#) and select the sample ballot that matches your Virginia Senate and House Congressional Districts. All Virginia Senate and House seats are up for election this year. We are also selecting TWO new County Board members. Note that you may write-in legitimate names for all positions on our ballot. To learn more about the County Board candidates, try searching for their websites or attending candidate forums.

Where, How, and When to Vote – Lots of Options!

Vote early by mail: You may request a ballot to vote by mail now through October 27.

Vote early in person starting September 22 in the Bozman Center. We do not have an early voting site in 22202; the closest early voting site to 22202 is the Walter Reed Community Center, which offers early voting starting October 24, with limited hours and days.

Vote in person on Election Day, November 7, between 6AM and 7PM. Know where you vote, what you need, and who's on the ballot before you go!

- Bring an acceptable ID: Note that out of state drivers' licenses are not an acceptable ID to vote in Virginia, but many other forms of ID are fine.
- Know where you vote: We have 8 different precincts in 22202 with surprisingly complex borders. Please go to YOUR precinct to ensure that your vote will count!
- Try "curbside" voting if you are over 65 or have impairments. We will bring your ballot out to you! Find more information on County disability services at the polls [here](#).
- Need a ride to the polls? Contact the Democratic (703-528-8588 ext 5 or [info@arlingtondemocrats.org](mailto:info@arlingtondemocrats.org)) or Republican (703-677-8217 or [info@arlingtongop.org](mailto:info@arlingtongop.org)) ride services.

### **Arlington Public Library Events in October**

Dungeons & Dragons for middle schoolers at Aurora Hills! Teen Book Cafe at Central and Westover! Family art night at Central! Learn to fix nearly anything at Central! Cuentos para niños/Stories for Children: bilingual story hour at Central! Latin dance lessons at Cherrydale! Check out the featured October library events here at this link:

<https://library.arlingtonva.us/events/featured-events/>

To see all Arlington Library events, visit <https://library.arlingtonva.us/events/>

### **Parks and Rec Events in October for all ages**

There really is an astounding number and variety of events and activities in Arlington: art, athletics, movies, music, nature, book clubs, cooking, hiking. To see the variety and volume, visit the Parks and Rec calendar for here:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Parks-Events>

Here is a link to the main Parks and Rec page with programs for all ages:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Programs>

### **55+ Activities - Fall Registration is open for 55+ programs, events and classes!**

The Fall Activity Guide is [here](#). There are great programs for fitness, art, music, dance, trips, hikes, parties and more! [View activities and register](#)! Or register by phone by calling 703-228-4747, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Transportation and Public Projects

### Long Bridge Drive Multimodal Connection – Feedback Form through October 22

Share your input on how you experience Long Bridge Drive today to help the County develop a new concept design for this key corridor in anticipation of new regional trail connections and multimodal transportation improvements. This multimodal connection fills a key missing link in the National Landing bike network and connections to Boundary Channel Drive and the planned Long Bridge project bike-ped bridge to DC. Providing a safe, comfortable, and convenient bypass path for cyclists and micromobile riders will create more safe space on the Esplanade for strollers of all kinds. Learn more by visiting the [project page](#).

### Free ART Bus Rides From October 2 to December 25

Inbound ART buses during the morning rush and outbound ART buses during the evening rush will be free for all routes. Consult the website to see when free rides will be available for your bus route. Skip the driving, save money on gas and tolls, and get to your destination stress-free. Note the time limitations for free rides!

### CC2DCA update

CC2DCA is a County transportation project that will create a safe and convenient bike-ped connection between Crystal City and DCA. The most recent public engagement, an opportunity to comment on the project's [Environmental Assessment](#), now closed. The project is game-changing, but challenges remain for designing the access at both ends (the new VRE station and DCA) and improving the design of the bridge itself, especially over the Parkway. Stay tuned for future public engagement as the project progresses.

### George Washington Memorial Parkway South Section-Mount Vernon Trail Improvement Plan Environmental Assessment – Comments due October 24

Whether you drive on the Parkway or bike, walk, run, or roll on the Mount Vernon Trail – please make sure you send comments to NPS on their Environmental Assessment for both the Parkway and the Trail. This is your opportunity to weigh in on the proposed trail improvements and road changes for the Parkway. We need wider trails with less conflict throughout the area – but especially at Gravelly Point!

### Amendments to Code Requiring Motorists to Stop for Pedestrians

The County Board amended Chapter 14.2 of the Arlington County Code to require motor vehicle operators to stop completely for pedestrians in crosswalks. Previously, local code only required operators to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. This amendment brings the County into conformance with recent changes to state law and supports Arlington's ongoing Vision Zero efforts. Can't wait for this to be implemented!

### Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion (ANC SE)

9/11 Visitor Education Center Milestone Reached:

Milestone for 9/11 Visitor Center— “The Pentagon Memorial Fund, Inc. (PMF) passed a critical milestone in plans for a [Visitor Education Center](#) near the site of the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, receiving approval for its concept design from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). This action follows approval in July of the concept design from the National Capital Planning Commission.” [Pentagon Memorial Fund]

Meanwhile the [ANC SE DAR](#) and [realignment of Columbia Pike](#) continue to require contortionist maneuvers through various road closures and detours for all travelers. Be careful, especially after dark, as lanes are narrow, rough, and poorly marked and street lights are scarce.

### National Landing BID Transportation Roundtable - September 21 Meeting

The National Landing BID held its quarterly Transportation Roundtable on September 21. The meeting recording is [here](#). This meeting is the best way to keep informed about all transportation projects that impact our neighborhood.

## Retail and Restaurants

### Events in National Landing

Discover National Landing activities such as fitness, art, concerts, theater, movies, comedy, karaoke and more. Go to <https://nationallanding.org/events/calendar>

### Water Park Food Kiosks and Water Bar Now Open!

Get all the details of the long-awaited Water Park redevelopment at our website:

<https://aurorahighlands.org/news/october-2023-newsletter/>

### Farmers Market at Metropolitan Park Continues on Saturdays 'til November 18

Join [EatLoco](#) from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturdays through November 18 at Met Park for vendors and entertainment. Location: 1330 S Fair Street

### Arlington Restaurant Week – October 16 – 23!

Read all the details of retail, restaurant and entertainment on our website <https://aurorahighlands.org/news/october-2023-newsletter/>

## Private Development Projects

For updates on The RiverHouse Neighborhood and Crystal House 6. Also stay tuned for new Crystal City site plans. For details on all of these, see the full story at <https://aurorahighlands.org/news/october-2023-newsletter/>

# An exceptional brand for an exceptional neighborhood.

CONTACT PHIL FOR A COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION.

Phil Dickson

m +1 330 606 5843

o +1 703 745 1212

[pdickson@ttrsir.com](mailto:pdickson@ttrsir.com)

• Over \$100 Million in Sales

• Aurora Highlands Resident

• National Landing Specialist



TTR

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



# Aurora Highlands Experts

## FREE SHREDDING EVENT

Community Service by your local  
real estate agents

October 14, 2023  
9:30 AM - 11:00AM | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
See 'Events' on our site for details



Reach us at:  
571.549.4382



Trusted, Knowledgeable, Reliable.

hello@varityhomes.com | VARIETYHOMES.COM

901 N Glebe Rd Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22203



### Free ART Bus Rides for APS Students

Middle and high school students from Arlington Public Schools ride free anytime on Arlington Transit (ART), the County's bus transit system, with an iRide SmarTrip card, <https://bit.ly/3B3q84L>.

### Fentanyl Overdoses at Wakefield – How can we keep our students safe?

ARLNow reported two more Fentanyl overdoses at Wakefield and the arrest and charging of the Fairfax distributor and Arlington teen who gave the two students the drugs. The ARLNow story links to a prior story that summarizes PTA meetings and parental roles to try to prevent additional cases.

### Volunteer to Lead a Walking School Bus

The Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs is looking for adult volunteers to lead Walking School Buses at elementary schools around the County. For more information see our article in the AHCA September newsletter or visit the Alliance's page -- <https://friendsofthealliance.org/walking-school-bus/>

### Report a Problem Adds new Features:

If you see problems you can report them to the County. After marking the location on the map, select Blocked Sidewalk, Street, or Bike Lane and complete and submit the form. You can also report broken traffic signals, potholes, damaged sidewalks, street lights out, damaged traffic signs, and lots of other things! Try it.

#### 2023 AHCA officers

President Cory Giacobbe

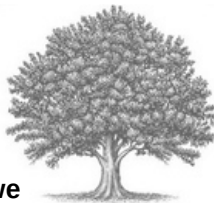
1st Vice President John Whall

2nd Vice President Jill Braun

Treasurer Ben Watts

Recording Secretary Nick Giacobbe

Corresponding Secretary Natasha Atkins



Winter is coming, but we can be sure of two things. Summer will follow, and it will get hot. Please consider planting a tree in the spring. Every week, we have fewer of our neighborhood's mature trees, which ensures that we will feel the heat more. It's easy, and it's FREE. And this year there's a bonus benefit:

you can reduce your stormwater utility fee, a new tax on the impervious surface of your property, by planting a tree through the Tree Canopy Fund. For information on the Stormwater Utility, see our previous two newsletters at <https://aurorahighlands.org/documents/>

More information on the Tree Canopy Fund will be available later this month at <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/>. Applications for new trees will be due in January. Interested? Feel free to email Natasha Atkins, at [natashaatkins1@gmail.com](mailto:natashaatkins1@gmail.com), who can advise you and put your application in for you.

### APS Pausing Middle School Boundary Changes – and Keeping Spanish-Immersion at Gunston!

Arlington Public Schools is pausing an impending middle school boundary process, citing stable enrollment this fall. Earlier this year, APS was bracing for overcrowding at a few middle schools. It proposed busing some students from Dorothy Hamm and Swanson to under-capacity Williamsburg Middle School. It also floated moving the Spanish language immersion program from overcrowded Gunston to Kenmore Middle School. Now, administrators say enrollment needs are not pressing enough to warrant these changes just yet. The Arlington School Board endorsed a plan Tuesday to postpone the process for one year. The changes would now affect students going into grades 6 and 9 in the fall of 2026. (ArlNow.com)

### Gunston Park Playground Renovation – Feedback Form through October 18

Share your feedback to help inform upcoming renovations for the playground area of Gunston Park which has reached the end of its useful life. Learn more about the project and sign up for updates on the Gunston Park Renovation webpage.

Thank you advertisers! Advertise with AHCA and reach over 1,000 of your neighbors! Email [newsletter@aurorahighlands.org](mailto:newsletter@aurorahighlands.org)

When life tells you it's time to buy or sell a home, call the Andors Real Estate Group. We'll guide you every step of the way to a successful closing just as we have for hundreds of our neighbors since 1995.

**We're different. We do more.**



Call James  
703.203.1117  
**TRUSTED. PROVEN. EFFECTIVE.**



6820 Elm St. | McLean, VA 22101 | 703.636.7300



Serving Pentagon City, Addison Heights, Aurora Hills, and Virginia Highlands

September 2023 Balance: \$11,710.00