



AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

Planning is in full swing as we prepare for our Spring Fair! **Susan Cunningham, County Board Member**, will be at our meeting this month to discuss the needs of our neighborhood and answer your questions. Let us know what topics you want her to discuss and **submit your questions in advance using the survey link provided**; you can also vote for a neighborhood improvement project using the survey. Toby's Ice Cream will generously be providing ice cream for the meeting. We also have an Upcoming County Board Candidates Panel, where you can hear from all the candidates running for County Board, on April 17 (see next page for details). More updates inside!

Yours,
AHCA Pres. Rachel

Survey Link:
<https://bit.ly/AHCAsurveyApril>



AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Spring Neighborhood Fair
April 20, 2024
Come and meet your neighbors at Ives Park from 2:00-5:00pm
Activities: Bounce House (2:00-4:00), LIVE Band (4:00-5:00), Food Trucks, Cotton Candy, Corn Hole.
Food for purchase available: Alejandro's Tacos y Parrillada (2:00-5:00), Kona's Snow Cones (2:45-4:00).
Note no bathrooms are available at this park

Calendar

- April 6 - Pink in the Pool @ Long Bridge at 9am
- April 6 - Women in Blue Ice Cream Social 1 – 3:00 p.m. @ Mimi's Handmade Ice Cream: Connect with the Female officers of ACPD
- April 7 - Living History at Fort C.F. Smith. Registration Required.
- April 13 - Arlington Bunny Hop 5K Register by Apr 9.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 10

At: Aurora Hills Recreation Center
735 18th St S, Arlington, VA | 7:00-9:00 pm

AGENDA

7:00 pm - Call to order, approve March Minutes, & enjoy ice cream from Toby's



7:15 pm - AHCA business & Spring fair progress reporting

7:30 pm - **County Board Member Susan Cunningham**

will address us followed by Q&A

9:00 pm - Adjourn

Optional: Register via Zoom
<https://bit.ly/48GweqH>



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Nextdoor - Aurora Highlands



info@aurorahighlands.org



(703) 594-1344



P.O. Box 25201 Arlington, VA 22202



Local Listserve: 4D-A
<https://groups.io/g/4D-A22202>

Solar Eclipse:

A total solar eclipse will be crossing North America on Monday, April 8. Visit this [NASA page](#) and [NSF page](#) to learn more. It will be visible in the Washington, DC area between 2:04 pm and 4:32 pm on Monday, April 8. Some local eclipse activities are:

- National Air & Space Museum: [Solar Eclipse Festival on the National Mall](#): Celebrate the solar eclipse on the Mall on Monday, April 8, from Noon to 4PM. The event will run from 12 to 4 pm along the National Mall between 4th and 12th Streets. Browse the many activity stations to view the Sun in a variety of safe telescopes, and explore the different educational offerings from Smithsonian museums and partners. A list of partners and detailed map of activities will be released prior to the festival. Total solar eclipse trivia – [learn](#) why they will eventually disappear!
- Rosslyn BID: [Solar Eclipse Watching](#), Gateway Park, 2-4PM: Spend the afternoon with the Rosslyn BID to celebrate and view the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8, from 2-4 p.m. at Gateway Park! Take your lunch break, stop by on your commute home, or bring your friends and family out for music, lawn games, and eclipse viewing courtesy of the [Northern Virginia Astronomy Club](#) (NOVAC).
- Central library: [Solar Eclipse Extravaganza](#) Saturday, April 6, 2-4 pm at Central Library: Prepare to celebrate the upcoming Solar Eclipse! Join library staff for a short presentation on NASA's [Eclipse Soundscapes project](#), and learn how the library and you can get involved in a citizen science study on eclipses. Dr. Narcrisha Norman, from the National Science Foundation will give a talk about eclipses and the solar system. Additionally, the library will have an eclipse storytime and craft activities for children and families.

Art Appreciation: Eclipse Performance Art

Sadly, AGAIN no entries were submitted. We would have loved to have highlighted some of your creativity. Hopefully next month we will get some submissions!

Crystal City Library – Here and Gone?

As part of the site plan conditions for the [Crystal Plaza 1](#) project, approved in 2021, JBGS promised to provide a rent-free temporary 7200 sf space in the empty 1900 S Bell office building for a new Crystal City library to replace the pop up library that closed in 2019 (see [this ARLNow article](#)). However, negotiations between JBGS and the County broke down. Now JBGS has agreed to pay \$5.8 million over 7 years instead, but it is not at all clear that these funds will support a new library in Crystal City.

How Should Arlington Invest in Major Infrastructure?

[Feedback Form](#) is open through April 8: Please share your priorities for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP the County's plan for building, upgrading, and replacing facilities and infrastructure. It spans a 10-year period and is updated every two years. Visit the [project page](#) to learn more.

COUNTY BOARD CANDIDATES NIGHT

**April 17
2024**

7:00 - 9:00pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)
Hosted by Amazon at HQ2 Visitor Landing
545 15th St S - Arlington, VA

GET TO KNOW

AUDREY CLEMENT, JAMES DEVITA,
JULIE FARNAM, TERLEY PETERSON,
NATALIE ROY, AND JULIUS D. "JD" SPRIN, SR.

• Sponsored by:

• Open to all residents of 22202

• Agenda:

- Opening statements from candidates
- Questions from local panel
- Questions submitted by residents
- Closing statements

• To submit a question:

- Email question to questions@crystalcitycivic.org OR
- Submit question on notecard at meeting

Private Development Projects

Melwood: the county has concluded its online engagement. The Tier II study should be finalized and released later next week. The Planning Commission will then hold a hearing in May and the County Board will vote to accept or reject the study and either rezone the property or not.

Crystal House 7 and 8: the applicant has submitted another minor site amendment. It will:

- Increase number of townhouse style multi family units from 21 to 42 (maintain number of sticks (3) but double the number of townhouse style multifamily units (for sale, market rate))
- Modify building typology from street facing townhouses to back to back townhouses
- Change building height, floor elevations, and grading
- Modify the garage design and access
- Relocate and reduce the number of transformers
- Revise the courtyard layout & Modify various utility locations

AHCA's letter regarding these changes will be posted next week. We seek your input on these changes. We intend to raise the concern that the number of units has doubled with no apparent plan to support this change.

Brookfield: while this project is still in the early stages, there is concern that the only community benefit being offered is sidewalks and bike paths.

Transportation

Arlington Ridge Road-Mt. Vernon Avenue Bridge Reconstruction

to start later this year
The County hosted an open house for the bridge project on March 16 in the Aurora Hills Community Center. Staff answered participants' questions about the project, the poster boards, schedule, and impact. Some key points: Construction is anticipated to start this winter; construction is expected to be completed by spring, 2026. At least one travel lane will remain open each way during construction, as will the protected sidewalk for cyclists and pedestrians. Sections of the 4 Mile Run Trail will need to be closed some times during construction; detours will be available with signage, maps, and notifications. This is a critically necessary project as the bridge structure is at risk.

Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion (ANC SE)

The federal (DAR) section of the Columbia Pike realignment with the ANC SE (Segment A) entered a new phase in late March with a temporary lane shift on Columbia Pike, between South Rotary Road and the VA-27 southbound on-ramp, to accommodate utility construction. Pedestrian access will be maintained during this period. The closure of Segment A of Columbia Pike is expected to be completed in 2025. During this time, the Federal Highway Administration will realign Columbia Pike and build a tunnel for the Arlington National Cemetery expansion. Visit the [USDOT project page](#) for project information and contacts. S. Joyce Street will have a new intersection with Columbia Pike, north of I-395.

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Art Appreciation: Nature Photography

Officers will select one entry to be published in the May Newsletter! Mail or email your entry by May 1 to the AHCA P.O. Box or email it to info@aurorahighlands.org

Report a Problem

If you see problems you can report them to the County. Try it: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Report-Problem>

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

2024 AHCA officers

President Rachel Hicks
1st Vice President Jill Braun
2nd Vice President Stacy Meyer
Treasurer Ben Watts
Recording Secretary Nick Giacobbe
Corresponding Secretary Alyssa Gardner

WalkArlington is sponsoring two walks: The tulip walk on April 7 from 9AM-Noon and a Walk & Learn: Engineering for Safer Streets on Saturday, April 13, 10AM-11:30AM. Join Christine Sherman Baker, the County Vision Zero program manager, as she leads this walk through National Landing to highlight recent safety transportation features. Find details and registration links for WalkArlington walks through this [link](#).

Volunteering Opportunity: Be a "driver" of our walking school bus by walking a small group of kids to Oakridge Elementary one hour, one morning a week. Training and background checks are provided & safety vests for all. Ready for a test drive? Go to <https://friendsofthealliance.org/walking-school-bus/> and click on the volunteer link.

AHCA Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2024

Dues are \$20 per household. Mail a check to AHCA at P.O. Box 25201, Arlington, VA 22202, or via PayPal at <https://bit.ly/AHCAdues>
Find out your membership status by emailing: treasurerahca@gmail.com
We depend on continued support from advertisers, dues, and volunteers. Thank you to those who assist the AHCA.

Printed by:

The UPS Store 6199, on Fern St S , a great, local AHCA supporter!

IT'S TIME TO LOCK UP. 9 P.M. ROUTINE

At 9 p.m. each evening, conduct a security check and verify:

- Vehicles, residences, garages, windows, gates and sheds are locked.
- Tools, bikes, keys and other valuables are secured and brought inside.
- Activate exterior lights, security cameras and alarm systems.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY: Residents observing suspicious activity should contact the Emergency Communications Center at 703-558-2222 or dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Suspicious activity is an occurrence that is out of place in your neighborhood. Factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation alone are not suspicious. The public should report only suspicious behavior and situations rather than beliefs, thoughts, ideas or expressions.

POLICE.ARRLINGTONVA.US/9PMROUTINE

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