



AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

It is OCTOBER. Which means those Halloween decorations they put out in July are on clearance at Costco!

AHCA ELECTIONS: nominations for all 2027 board positions will be held at our October meeting, and the vote will be held in November.

Since so many people have questions about parking, we requested the Department of Environmental Services come to our October meeting. Props to County Board member Susan Cunningham for encouraging them to come. Topics for discussion:

- the new residential parking permit program (RPP),
- how to identify non-permitted cars since there are no stickers,
- existing parking overflow onto side streets,
- future parking overflow from new multifamily development.

We will also get an update on the sewage plant upgrades aka "REGEN" from our liaison Paul Guttridge. The question on everyone's mind is - what will it smell like?

Early voting for the November 3 election began September 18, so, don't forget to vote! Incumbent County Board member Matt DeFerranti: mattforarlington.com is being challenged by independents Dr. Audrey Clement: audreyclement.com and David Sisson: davidsisson4arlington.com.

Dr. Clement came out in strong support of our civic association's efforts to preserve Nellie Custis School. Her platform centers on reducing taxes, stopping inappropriate upzoning and land / historic preservation. David Sisson's platform centers on affordability.

There are also bonds proposed in November. The Arlington Civic Federation's Revenue & Expense committee published its budget analysis in the September issue of "The Civic Voice" available at www.civfed.org. Suzanne Sundberg, the principal analyst for CivFed also put together her personal guide to the election. More inside.

Keep an ear out for the Missing Middle decision expected in October, if I hear of news I'll forward it to the listserve.

Lastly, we put together a neighborhood "NYT Connections" style puzzle. Test how much you know about Arlington and the 22202!

Regards,

Stacy Meyer
President



Next Regular Meeting:

Wednesday, Oct 14, 2026

Aurora Hills Community Center

735 18th St S

7:00-9:00 pm

AGENDA

- 6:30 pm Doors open - social**
- 7:00 pm Visitor Introductions**
- 7:05 pm Announcements**
- 7:10 pm Paul Guttridge - REGEN update**
- 7:20 pm Rep from the Department of Environmental Services: parking**
- 8:00 pm AHCA Business**
- 9:00pm Adjourn (Latest)**

Optional: Register via Zoom
<https://bit.ly/2026AHCA>

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



Aurora Highlands: The Streetcar Suburb Part 2

Many people asked for more info on the Aurora Highland's streetcar suburbs from the September newsletter. To the right is a map of the Aurora Highlands area, dated 1917, reading from North to South:

- The (currently being renovated) Long Bridge, landing on "Alexander Island" and the original Gravelly Point before the Potomac, was filled in for National Airport.
- "East Arlington" in the top center of the map was the location of Queen City, the Black community that was displaced for building portions of the Pentagon.
- Traveling south on the Washington-Alexandria line were the brickyards at Arlington Junction just next to what is now Amazon HQ2, and the original locations of the streetcar stations between Eads & Rt 1 - Addison Heights, Virginia Highlands and Aurora Hills.
- At the mouth of Four Mile Run was the Luna Park, a 19th Century themed water park that stood where the water treatment facility is today. (Back in the day, there were even beaches on the shores of the Potomac!)
- At the bottom of the map, you may recognize the name "St. Elmo" from the coffee shop in Del Ray. The line connected all the way to Alexandria where the Amtrak train station is today.
- Finally, at the bottom right you can see Potomac Yard, with its numerous train tracks.



We certainly live in an area with a very rich history that stems back to and before the colonial era, including the front lines of the American revolution, the civil war and to the beginnings of the modern life we know today. It is unfortunate that there is so little of the history left, and astonishing that the County Board even approved the demolition of Nellie Custis School, our last piece of public building left standing from this early era in Aurora Highlands, despite the protest of dozens of civic associations representing thousands of people across Arlington.



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Bond Questions 2026 - Suzanne's Picks

Many people spend weeks studying and reviewing their March Madness picks, but how many people take the time to think about the \$254M bond questions on this year's ballot? There is a real dearth of robust analysis these days but we found one person doing review; Suzanne Sundberg, a long time Arlingtonian, is the principal analyst for the Arlington Civic Federation (the federation of civic associations like ours across Arlington) for their Revenue & Expenditure committee. She provided her opinion for this year. You can find "Suzanne's Picks" on our website under "Documents." Scroll down to "Reports."

Summary of Suzanne's Arlington review of the bond question:

Arlington voters will consider **five bond referenda totaling \$264 million** for capital projects. Suzanne's main concern is Arlington's existing debt. She notes that the county had approximately \$2.6 billion in net debt as of FY2025, including about \$1.4 billion in bonds and related borrowing. She also points to total indebtedness of \$10,803 per resident, compared with \$4,082 per resident in 2013. Given this debt burden, Suzanne believes voters should distinguish

between borrowing for essential infrastructure and borrowing for more discretionary projects.

She is inclined to support:

- **Metro & Transportation — \$69.745 million**
- **Utilities — \$20.745 million**

She is still considering:

- **Arlington Public Schools — \$80 million**
- **Community Infrastructure — \$58.825 million**

She is planning to oppose:

- **Parks & Recreation bond — \$34.945 million**, which she views as primarily discretionary spending rather than essential maintenance or infrastructure. Obviously, this is one person's opinion, if you are a parks advocate, you may disagree with Suzanne of course.

Suzanne also provides her candidate picks for county board, school board and state elections as well as her thoughts on the proposed Virginia constitutional amendments. Link also at the online newsletter: <**"Suzanne's Picks"**>



Aurora Highlands Connections
2026

Arrange Into 4 Groups of 4.
"easy / medium" ?????

Answer at October meeting:

Addison
Arlington
Aurora
Cunningham
Fisette
Fort
Garvey
Gun
Long
Nelly
Oak
Roach
Spain
Virginia
Wake
Wash

(ps there are clues in the
newsletter)

The EatLoco market at MetPark is up for review at the October 17, 2026 County Board meeting. If you have comments, please email countyboard@arlingtonva.us, and if you copy president@aurorahighlands.org we will batch the letters we are copied on until our October 14 meeting.

2026 AHCA Officers

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Report a Problem

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

CONTACT INFO: Email president@aurorahighlands.org if you are curious, or interested in volunteering, **or just show up at a meeting!** Please don't be shy!

Any and all help is welcome and appreciated.

AHCA is committed to inclusivity and open, civil dialogue.

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Calendar & Announcements



OCTOBER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SELECTIONS

Oct 12 - 19: Arlington Restaurant Week

Oct 14: AHCA Meeting 7 pm, Aurora Hills Library

Oct 16: Met Park Movie Night 'Coco' 6pm on the Central Green

Oct 17: E Care 8:30 am - 3 pm 1425 N. Quincy Street. Arlingtonians can dispose of hazardous household materials, old electronics & small metal items, bikes (Bikes for the World) & halloween costumes for free.

Oct 17: 9:30 am County Board Meeting

Oct 18: Paint & Sip Daydrift Books & Cafe

Oct 23: Deadline to vote by mail & for voter registration for the Nov 9 election. Provisional ballots are available for same day registration after Oct 23.

Oct 26: County Board Town Hall 6:30 PM, 3rd Fl. 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

Oct 27: Virtual Info Session about trees with Arlington County Forestry Team 6:30 pm. See Parks & Recreations Events.

Oct 31: HALLOWEEN! Screening at the Alamo Drafthouse

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOW OPEN: Dolan Ughur 320 23rd Street S. 100% halal Central Asian cuisine with hand pulled noodles, kebobs, and mince pies.

FLAVOR FRIDAYS & SALSÁ DANCING! 8:30 PM Peruvian Brothers 1450 S. Eads St
FREE BOOKS DELIVERED to your doorstep for children up to age 5 from READ & Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, go to: readearelyanddaily.org

PENTAGON 9/11 MEMORIAL target completion 2029 is moving forward in a location across Washington Boulevard in Arlington Cemetery.

CRYSTAL CITY UNDERGROUND. JBG Smith has hired HR&A to study new uses. More to follow.

KIMCO is seeking to remove the sunset provision of the approvals to redevelop the Costco site that was approved in 2024. (Costco is remaining for at least two decades.) More to follow.

The County's Costume SWAP donations, 4300 29th Street S. 7 am - 3 pm. until November 6.

LEAF COLLECTION starts November 9

OCTOBER is Austrian Wine Month at Beauty Champagne 576 S. 23rd St.

And finally the County wants us to remember:

PUMPKINS ARE ORGANIC, NOT TRASH.

Happy Halloween!



The summer art contest had
more fabulous entries we are excited
to share



Artists:

Anaya Shukla, K.M.

Carson & Maria

Steen,

left to right, top to
bottom.

Winners, all.

See them in color in
the online
newsletter!



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