



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

**AURORA HIGHLANDS CENTENNIAL
1910—2010**

Inside This Issue:

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If you live in the Aurora Highlands area, you are invited and encouraged to come to our monthly meetings where we meet neighbors, discuss topics of interest and share information. All are welcome to attend. Come and meet your neighbors at the Aurora Hills Community Center at 735 18th Street South. Childcare will be provided.

**OUR UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, March 10, 2010 at 7:00 pm
AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER**

Please come early for refreshments and a little socializing! Doors open at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7:00.

Agenda (details on page 7):

- ◆ Presentation of Hayes Street Multi-Modal Conceptual Design
- ◆ 2010 Census Overview
- ◆ Discussion on the Senior Program and our efforts to keep it open

**Library and Senior Center Take Major Hits
in Proposed FY 2011 Budget**

by Cara Tenuta

The proposed Arlington County budget for 2011, issued on February 10, calls for across-the-board cuts to most programs. It closes the Aurora Hills Senior Program housed at the Community Center with the Library. There are 6 senior program locations in the county and 2 are being eliminated. The Aurora Hills Senior Program is the only location that is close to Metro. It serves

75-100 seniors each of the 3 days a week it is open (because that is all the people it can hold). The estimated cost saving by closing this program is \$31,000. That amounts to \$310 per senior. By way of comparison, the County spends over \$21,000 per child in public school.

The Aurora Hills Library and other branches are to lose one full service day a week.

On Wednesday, March 3 at noon, there were 10 neighborhood residents outside of the library waiting for it to open at 1:00 pm. Our library is so important to the residents that they wait for it to open.

Review all the proposed cuts by going to: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ManagementAndFinance/budget/page72453.aspx> On the page click on:

◦ *Budget Reduction Summary by Department (FY 2010 and FY 2011)*. This will detail all proposed cuts. Under *PRCR* you will find item # 24 *Senior Centers* and under *Libraries* you will find item #5, *Service Hour Reductions*.

Our sincere thanks to SOC for its support of AHCA by printing our newsletter.

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President's Corner

by Michael Dowell

What a month it's been. What a snow storm! Thanks to everyone who cleared a hydrant or a storm-drain or helped a neighbor out during the snow. Who would have thought that the simple sight of bare asphalt could bring such joy! Thanks especially to Mark Hutto, who cleared lots of driveways and plow piles with his Bobcat, enabling folks to reconnect to the sidewalk and road transportation grid.

We've got some more work to do this month, and we're going to need everyone's help: the Arlington County Manager has proposed to close the Aurora Hills Senior Center to help reduce the budget gap. For those of you not familiar with the Senior Center, it's part of the Aurora Hills Library building with part-time staff to coordinate activities, trips, classes and movies for seniors throughout the year. All activities are paid for by seniors; every class or activity has a signup sheet, and if it gets good signup, the class is a go, and if not, the class is cancelled. In this manner, the county provides a great program at very little cost to the taxpayer.

Here are some numbers for you to consider: the Aurora Hills Senior Center serves 75-100 seniors three days a week. By closing the Aurora Hills Senior Program, the county will save an estimated \$31,000, which is less than 2.5% of the overall county Senior Program budget of \$1.28M.

The cost of the Senior Center to the taxpayer is less than \$2.75 per senior per day. The county's proposed resolution is to have seniors pay for transportation to other neighborhood Senior

Centers at a cost of \$5 per senior per day. The nearest center is the Walter Reed Senior Center, located on the far side of the Army Navy Country Club. We think the county can trim \$30,760 from the general Senior Program budget without having to close any Senior Centers, and hold true to the principle of equity for all.



Keeping sharp with Mah Jong at the Aurora Hills Senior Center -Photo by Cara Tenuta

The Senior Center is a great resource for our neighborhood and a minimal impact to the budget. It shows that a well-run program can operate services in the communities where we live just as cost effectively as the centralized services, and in doing so, maintain our walkable, neighborhood-centered community.

Last, we need to acknowledge that the fates of the Senior Center and Aurora Hills Library are intertwined. If the Senior Center is closed, the building utilization

will fall to the point that library closure will be the only logical conclusion.

What do you think? Please consider filling out the attached letter of support for the Senior Center and the Library and send it in. See you at the AHCA meeting on March 10. Thanks!

Community Center Proposal to be Presented at March Meeting

by Miriam Gennari

What is missing in our neighborhood? Many will say nothing is missing. We have shopping, business and parks. We have transit, entertainment and activities. We are a revenue-generating machine. We live in one of the most convenient and sought-after areas in Arlington, yet slowly the county government is chipping away at the one resource that every member of our community can enjoy regardless of age or affluence, our Aurora Hills Community Center. Not only have further cuts been proposed to the library schedule, but our senior program is scheduled for closure in the proposed FY 2010 budget. It may seem to some that in the current budget crisis, we have no say in what will become of the once vibrant center of our zip code. That is only true if we allow it to be. Discussions have begun to offer a plan to the County Board to reclaim the heart of our community and expand its services to enrich the quality of life for every neighbor, both socially and financially. Please join us as we assemble concerned groups and individuals at the March 10 civic association meeting and discuss a plan that will not only protect services threatened by the newly proposed budget, but ex-

pand the uses of the only facility in our area that is not privately owned.

We propose a public private partnership, and we will seek commercial space to be made available to qualified approved businesses, organizations and citizens to provide workshops, tutoring, and intelligent activities to all interested members of our community, coupled with a community center that can be used to offer a relaxed and comfortable indoor space to our families, young adults and seniors. The current facility, combined with the old fire station, is just sitting there waiting for us to put it to good use (we already built and paid for it). Together we can take hold of a valuable asset we already have and mold it into something so much more. Community members are lining up to offer their expertise and funding. We need everyone's support as we unite in telling the county board loud and clear, "735 18th Street South is the center of our neighborhood and we are united in preserving, protecting and utilizing it for the good of Arlington County residents."

Neighbor Profile: Frank Minichello of the Aurora Hills Senior Program

by Cara Tenuta



meetings, helping out with lunch, and having a great time.

Frank is happy and single and lives in a great condo with a gym. He has been working out for 50 years. He started with the Jack LaLanne program. While he used to work out five days a week, he has cut

back to three days a week because it is good to give your body a day to recover between workouts. He drives, shops, cooks, and visits his son and his grand-dogs in the area. Frank has enjoyed being part of the Aurora Hills Senior Program for the last five years.

Everyone knows him and everyone likes him.

The Monday, 3-1-10 Aurora Hills Advisory Council meeting was distressing for everyone. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed closing of the Aurora Hills Senior Program announced in the Arlington County FY 2011 Proposed Budget Departmental Budget Reductions: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ManagementAndFinance/budget/file74662.pdf> (See page 18 of 23, Item 24, under the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources.)

After strategies and actions were discussed, Frank expressed his personal views: "This place is my life. I come here three days a week. I volunteer here. This Senior Program is what keeps me alive. Do they want me to die?"

Do you have a neighbor who's doing something cool? Write it up and send it in.

Snowmageddon: a Report from the 'hood

A special thank you to brothers Andy and Tommy on 19th Street and their very able shovel brigade who used their energy to help out-and dig out- many of us. A special shout out to Mark Hutto, a craftsman builder who has added elegant homes to our community, who more than once fired up his Bobcat this winter to dig out his neighbors from icy snow mountains blocking driveways and mailboxes. There were many, many incidents of neighbors helping neighbors, blocks cooperating on snow removal, and neighbors checking in with each other during the heavy snowfall and power outages. Having helpful neighbors who check on each other is another reason we enjoy our neighborhood.

- Cheryl Mendonsa



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The Blizzard of 2010

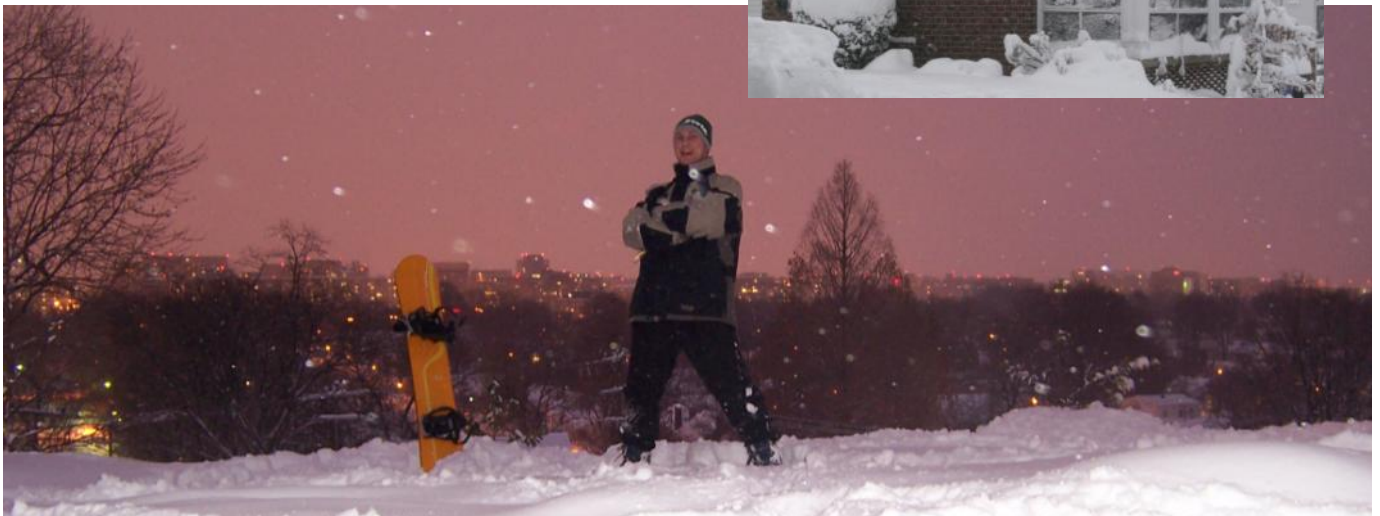
Photo Essay by Our Citizen Photographers



Junco in the white junk - Combs



Jeepers Creepers! Where'd you get those peepers? Karen Tucker



Behind Hume School overlooking the neighborhood on January 10, 2010 - Todd Drenth

The Blizzard of 2010



Snow-capped mail box—Karen Tucker



Braden and Harrison Tull - Sledding Fun



Snowed in and digging out - Maya Giacobbe



The Blizzard of 2010



Snowboarding down 20th Street
- Todd Drenth



Children's only sidewalk access at 20th & Hayes
- Martha Krafton



The tree that took out the power and cable
-Maya Giacobbe



To see all blizzard photos submitted by your neighbors, visit the Facebook photo album at:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=149166&id=679614297&l=8002f79b91>

If you would like to add blizzard photos to the album, send your photos to the editor in an e-mail attachment to:

AHCA.news@yahoo.com

Agenda for March 10 AHCA Meeting

We've got a packed meeting this month!

Please come early for refreshments and a little socializing! Doors open at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7:00.

Katherine Youngbluth of the Arlington County Transportation Dept will present the conceptual design for the Hayes Street Multi-Modal conceptual design, wherein the block between Pentagon City Mall and Pentagon Center is reworked to provide a better integration of the bus, metro and streetcar transit lines. Katherine will be there early with large displays of the plan, so you can see it up close and discuss it with her prior to the start of the meeting. You can also download the plan at http://www.aurorahighlands.org/Media/Pentagon_City_MultiModal_Conceptual_Plan2009.pdf

Roberto Ruiz of the Arlington County Demographer's Office will present an overview of the upcoming census 2010, which commences in April, and provide some demographic data on our neighborhood.

Budgetmageddon: The Senior Program and our efforts to keep it open.

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How to Join Arlington Alert: Arlington Alert is an alert system that allows the County to contact you during an emergency by sending text messages to your e-mail or cell phone. Copy the address below into your browser. Once at the page, click on the blue rectangle marked "Click here to register!"

<http://www.arlingtonalert.com/index.php?CCheck=1>

How to Join the Neighborhood Listserve:

For bulletins of neighborhood interest, ask to join the Yahoo group 4D-A. The group is administered by Alice Anders of AHCA. Copy the address below into your browser. Once at the page, click on the blue rectangle marked "Join This Group!"

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/4D-A/>

Calling all writers!

- Would you love to see your name in print?
- Do you have knowledge or expertise in a field that would interest or help your neighbors?
- Have an interesting story about our neighborhood's history?

Write an article for the AHCA Newsletter! Share your knowledge about health, finance, pets, home repair, gardening, car maintenance or any other neighborhood tips that would interest or benefit your neighbors. Pitch your idea to the newsletter editor at ahca.news@yahoo.com. We have your byline waiting to print!

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Weekly services:

11am Sunday, 7pm Wednesday.

Upcoming Events

Green Living Expo
Saturday, March 20
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) is sponsoring the Green Living Expo. The Expo will feature green suppliers, products from local and national businesses, exhibits and seminars from government agencies and nonprofits, and a free Going Green Guide for Apartment Renters. The event is free and will also include a raffle and activities for kids. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Blvd. in Ballston

Water Pollution Control Plant Community Update
Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 pm

Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services staff will discuss the latest news about the plant, including updated construction schedules for the ongoing \$568 million upgrade project, landscape plans, lift station upgrades and new equipment and facilities. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period. The meeting will take place at the Operations Control Building of the plant; enter through the gate at 3151 South Fern Street near the intersection of South Glebe Road. The security guard at the entrance will direct you to parking.

G-40 Art Summit
March 3 - 31

Keep an eye out for art in Crystal City in March. An office building at 223 23rd Street South will get a makeover into contemporary exhibition space. An artistic interpretation of the G-20 political summit, the G-40 will showcase four state-themed floors with ten featured artists and 40 additional artists per floor. The juried show will include sculpture, photography, paintings, collage and mixed-media.
 Wednesdays & Thursdays: 5-10 pm
 Fridays: 5 pm -12 am
 Saturdays: 12 pm -12 am
 Sundays: 12 pm – 6 pm
 Mondays & Tuesdays: Closed
 223 23rd St South
<http://www.crystalcity.org/do/g-40-art->

*Stay involved.
 Keep informed on
 what's going on in
 our community.*

**Arlington Home Show & Expo –
 Ways to Save Money at Home**
Saturday, April 10, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Spending hundreds to save pennies makes little sense. Attend this event at Arlington's Home Show & Expo to learn how to slash your utility bills and save money. This event will show you specific actions you can take that have a fast return on investment or cost nothing. Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street S., Arlington, VA 22204. For more info: <http://www.columbiapike.org/HomeShow/>

Earth Hour

On March 27 at 8:30 pm, hundreds of millions of people around the world will unite for the environment by turning off the lights for one hour. For more info: <https://www.myearthhour.org/home>

A Streetcar - Our Desire?

by Nick Giacobbe



The **Columbia Pike Transit Initiative** plans for five miles of transit improvements along Columbia Pike (Route 244), including a streetcar, from the Skyline complex in Fairfax County to Pentagon City, with a later phase connecting through Crystal City to Alexandria.

The Columbia Pike Transit Initiative will host its first **Community Coordination Committee** meeting on **Wednes-**

day, March 10, 2010 at the Walter Reed Community Center (Rooms B & C), 2909 16th Street South from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. James Harrison will be the AHCA representative to the committee and will keep us informed of the activities.

The Community Coordination Committee's role is to provide periodic feedback to the project team and to help inform constituencies of the project's

progress and opportunities for participation. The group will meet at least semi-annually, for the duration of the estimated 24-month environmental documentation project.

For more information, visit <http://www.piketransit.com>.

The Battle Against the Abattoir 1927-1932

by Michael Dowell

Aurora Highlands Neighborhood Centennial A Look Back Over the Last 100 Years

Early in 1927, Norton & Co. received a permit to build an abattoir near Columbia Pike and the Washington-Richmond Highway (now Rt. 1), which met up near Four Mile Run. Aurora Hills and Virginia Highlands, the two neighborhoods that comprise Aurora Highlands today, together with Arlington Ridge, swung into action, enlisting the County Board, a Congressman, the Governor and even the Secretary of War in the battle! Read on for some headlines and excerpts from the Washington Post archives:

"Locating the Abattoir", February 25, 1927. "The Aurora Hills Civic League and the Virginia Highlands Citizens Association have raised their voices with many others in protest against the proposed location of an abattoir in Arlington County... [S]hould the plant be installed in Arlington, it is not unlikely that objectionable odors would drift across the river and into Potomac park to the discomfort and displeasure of thousands of recreation seekers."

The abattoir was headed off at this point, but two years later the company tried again.

"Slaughter House Project Assailed", January 22, 1929. "Protesting against the establishing of a slaughterhouse in Arlington County, citizens of Virginia Highlands, Aurora Hills and Hume, meeting last night in the Jefferson District Fireman's Hall, went on record declaring that they will do everything possible to prevent the permit being issued by the board of supervisors... P.P. Campbell, former representative in Congress from Kansas and now a resident of Arlington County, declared he could not conceive that the official could so forget their duty as to grant the permit."

"Opposition Grows in Abattoir Fight", February 25, 1929. "A special committee headed by Gibson Gardner of Arlington Ridge, will confer with Secretary of War Davis today and urge that fur-

ther appeals be made to the supervisors not to grant the permit. Efforts will also be made to present a letter from Gov. Byrd protesting against a slaughter house in Arlington County."

"Battle on Plant to go into Court, Citizens of Aurora Hills and Virginia Highlands Vote to Act." September 13, 1932. "Frank Gosnell, member of the County Board, voicing his strong objection to the establishment of the plant, declared that it was nothing short of a dignified abattoir,

"...citizens of Virginia Highlands, Aurora Hills and Hume went on record declaring that they will do everything possible to prevent the permit being issued by the board of supervisors..."

and while assurances have been given that dead animals will not be brought to the plant, it will still be objectionable in many other particulars."

"Plant Building Hit by Arlington Board, Review by Circuit Court of Decision Granting Permit will be Sought" September 18, 1932. "Clyde C. Mills, chairman of the special committee representing the citizens of Aurora Hills and Virginia Highlands, who at a recent mass meeting voted to carry the matter to the courts, assured the board of cooperation and financial aid, if necessary... Meanwhile the National Capital Park and Planning Commission at a meeting yesterday prepared to investigate the problem and determine whether it would go on record about the matter."

"Rendering Plant Rehearing Sought, Effort Will Be Made Tonight at Arlington Board Meeting" September 20, 1932. "While the county board has gone on record to appeal to the circuit court for a review on the matter, as have citizens of Aurora Hills and Virginia Highlands, the committee is of the opinion that if the matter can be reopened and the citizens heard, the matter may be more easily settled."

Ultimately, the appeal was rejected and an out-of-court settlement was reached. The county bought the land from Norton, gave him ten months to vacate it, and made it a park. The abattoir was finally shutdown!

Join me for a **lia sophia Jewelry Party**
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When: March 20 **Time:** stop by between 2 and 5 pm
Where: Tortoise and Hare Bar - 567 South 23rd Street

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Membership Renewal



Please join or renew your membership in the Aurora Highlands Civic Association.



We can work together more effectively to improve our South Arlington home if we have more people sharing opinions and becoming involved in issues that matter to us as a community. Our neighborhood social events create opportunities to



get to know each other as neighbors and friends.



Join Today!

If you are interested in the quality of life in our neighborhood and want to participate in keeping our community safe and vibrant, please join Aurora Highlands Civic Association. Membership is open to all residents aged 18 or older. Dues are \$3 per year (individual) and \$6 per year (family). Donations are always welcome. Please complete the following information and mail with your check payable to “**Aurora Highlands Civic Association**” to AHCA, P.O. Box 25201, Arlington, VA 22202 or bring to the next monthly meeting.

Additional contributions in any amount are always appreciated.

Name _____

Address _____

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Phone _____

I am interested in.....

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Centennial Tree Project by Cory Giacobbe

In honor of our neighborhood's 100 Year Anniversary, the Aurora Hills Civic Association will sponsor the planting of 100 trees in Virginia Highlands Park. The County Parks and Recreation Department is very interested in our project and has agreed to partner with us in planting a Centennial Grove in the park. Parks and Recreation has pledged to provide 100 trees and work with us to design a grove in the sloping area between the soccer field and the softball fields. The resource that we must provide is labor. We will be convening a team of citizens to work on two Saturdays to clear the site of invasive plants, and then, two weeks later, begin planting the trees. The more helpers, the faster we get it done. The work will take place in April and May, and be completed by June 1st. Stay tuned for details and a call for action. Information will be



found here in the April edition and on the neighborhood list serve as well.

There will be opportunities this year to increase our local tree canopy on private property as well. Our tree coverage is dwindling due to age of the trees, construction, storm damage and invasive plant damage. If you have recently lost a tree or have a spot in your yard clear of power lines, consider planting a tree this year. In the spring, look for the annual tree distribution which usually takes place around Neighborhood Day in May.

In the summer, our Civic Association will again apply for a tree canopy grant to place trees on private property. If we are awarded a grant, our trees will probably be planted in late fall, 2010. Watch for tree planting opportunities and tree information in the newsletter and in the neighborhood list serve.

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

AHCA account balance as of 1/31/10 was \$7,883.74

Association Officers & Committee Chairs

President – Michael Dowell
703-521-7739

Vice President – Nick Giacobbe
703-842-5441

2nd Vice President – Cara Tenuta
703-864-6826

Treasurer / Membership - Gail Fleming
Business Secretary – Cory Giacobbe
703-842-5441

Web Master– John Kriese
703-519-0961

Corresponding Secretary – Jenny Lawhorn

AHCA Rep. to Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee: Chris Mann

AHCA Rep. to Crystal City Business Improvement District (CCBID): Cheryl Mendonsa

Long Range Planning Commission's Crystal City Long-Term Plan: Bruce Cameron & Mike Dowell

Aircraft Noise - Denis O'Sullivan
703-521-6425

Meeting Hospitality - Rosamunda Neuharth-Ozgo

Newsletter Distribution - Cara Tenuta
703-864-6826

Newsletter Advertising - Marty King
Newsletter Editor—Cory Giacobbe
703-842-5441

Police and Waste Water Treatment Plant Liaison -Brad & Louise Garris -
703-548-1944

Urban Planning Ted Saks
703-683-1312

Items for the Newsletter: Send items to the newsletter editor, Cory Giacobbe: AHCA.news@yahoo.com

We would like to thank the following neighbors for delivering the newsletter each month.

Johanna Soli
Louise Garris
Colleen Preston
Chick Walter
John Kriese
Jean Campbell
Becky Reddick
Janet Dunkelburger
Janet Kiel
Ann Garrison
Paul Stetekluh

Louise Ott
Dennis Middleton
Bob Ramsey
Tracy Malone
Luanne Wonders
Scott Wing
S. Hawkins
J. Sessa
Lucille Noell
Al Burt
Sue & Greg Super

Don Clark
Carol Grant
Dave Kuc
Theophila Perry
Mary Callow
Cheryl Mendosa
Sarah Bardos
Kathy Landis
Duane Reger
Alainie Stamatopoulos
Dell Saunders

P.O. Box 25201 - Arlington, VA 22202

"The Association is a non-partisan organization of community residents formed to work in the overall community interest in promoting civic pride, enhancing the quality of life in the community, preserving the character of the community and planning for the orderly, safe, and humane development of the community" (AHCA Bylaws, Article II). The AHCA meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (unless specifically noted) in the Aurora Hills Community Center (735 S. 18th St.) at 7:00 p.m.