

Aurora Highlands

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

AURORA HIGHLANDS CENTENNIAL
1910—2010

AuroraHighlands.org

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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, September 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

AURORA HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

Agenda

6:30 Social

7:00 AHCA Business Meeting, PenPlace & Pentagon Row update
Presentation - Linda Chandler: What's new at Linden Resources, the new name for the SOC on 23rd Street

Call for Volunteers: Civic Association Nominating Committee

Each November the civic association has an election of new officers for the following calendar year. As you are enjoying the last days of summer and all the wonderful features our community has to offer, please think about what you can do to help ensure our quality of life. Our Bylaws describe the civic association as follows:

"The Association is a non-partisan organization of community residents formed to work in the overall communi-

ty 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."

In order accomplish that mission, we need a cadre of volunteers to lead the association. We will be organizing a nominating committee at the September meeting and a slate of officers will be presented at the October meeting.

about how you can improve your neighborhood, contribute your talents, learn new skills, make a difference.

Your community needs you!

Calling all writers!

Do you have knowledge or expertise in a field that would interest or help your neighbors? Do you 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 tips that would interest or benefit your neighbors. Pitch your idea to the newsletter editor at ahca.news@yahoo.com.

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

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"Business and Rehabilitation"

We combine both to provide meaningful training and work for our community's disabled
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Come November, we will vote on the slate of officers, as well as consider nominations from the floor.

Please think

President's Corner

by Michael Dowell

We hope you had a great summer. The weather was a bit crazy but we managed to have a lot of fun anyway. We had a successful second season of Passport to Summer. We wrapped up the season with County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman and Vice Chair Mary Hynes to celebrate not only Passport to Summer but also the renovation of the library lobby. Stop by if you haven't seen it yet. It looks great!

At our upcoming meeting on September 14 we have a few items to discuss. We need to name a nominating committee to develop a slate of officers to lead AHCA in 2012. We'll also talk about the PenPlace proposal, which will go to the County Board for a work session soon. There's also a proposal to redevelop

the plaza at Pentagon Row. The goal is to add a couple of retail buildings and a larger ice rink in the winter. In order to do so, all of the existing landscaping would need to be eliminated. The plaza has become an important gathering spot in our neighborhood and changes should not be made lightly.

We'll be starting preparation for the BooHaHa which will take place on Saturday, October 22.

For next month's meeting, on October 12, we'll host our traditional joint candidates night with the Arlington Ridge Civic Association.

Hope you can join us at these and other events you'll find in this newsletter

Expanded Library Hours Began July 5

The new hours for the Aurora Hills branch library began in July. They are:

Sunday CLOSED

Monday 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For a complete schedule of hours for the entire Arlington County public library system, visit <http://library.arlingtonva.us/departments/libraries/about/librariesabouthours.aspx>.

Children's Science Classes at Aurora Hills Community Center this Fall

The County has more than taken notice of our successful use of the Aurora Hills Community Center with the popular Passport to Summer weekly series and children's science classes – they are now offering 3 Mad Science children's classes at the Center this Fall! The classes are advertised in the "Enjoy Arlington" mailer. Registration can be done on line at www.arlingtonva.us/prcr. Tuition assistance is available.

For questions, contact Laurie Reid, County Class Coordinator at 703-228-1833 or Elizabeth Cho-Fertikh, AHCA member 703-340-9878.

Mad Science:

Sensational Science

Children will harness science energy, learn the science behind cotton candy and explore the properties of

both light and color. Your Mad Scientists will experiment with magnets, examine curious optical illusions and analyze the amazing properties of slime! Children will get to know their taste buds better and witness a hair-raising demonstration of static electricity! A \$30 supply fee is to be paid to the instructor at the first session. Ages 3-5, 8 Sessions \$149, Class ID 120298A Sat., Sep. 24, 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Funky Forces Through the course of Funky Forces and more, children will play engineer, chemist and stunt pilot! Children will investigate physics fundamentals and bring their scientific minds to basic magic tricks. Your Mad Scientists will be shocked by what they learn about electricity, blown away by their experiments with air pres-

sure, and swept away by the excitement of working with waves! A \$30 supply fee is to be paid to the instructor at the first session. Ages 3-5, 8 Sessions \$149, Class ID 120297A Sat., Sep. 24, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Guide to the Galaxy

This NASA-approved and endorsed program takes children on a tour of the universe! Participants will go home with interesting information and take-homes, so they can continue their explorations. Children will learn about Space Travel, Energy, Dry Ice, Space Technology, Living in Space, Motion, and Planets and Moons. A \$30 supply fee is to be paid to the instructor at the first session. Ages 6-9, 8 Sessions \$149, Class ID 120296A Sat., Sep. 24, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Arlington Historical Society to Commemorate September 11

Beginning at 9:34 a.m. on Sunday morning, September 11, a group of Oakridge Elementary School students will begin tolling the bell in the belfry of the old Hume School 184 times to remember the victims of the 2001 attack on the Pentagon. The Historical Society is mounting a new 9/11-Pentagon exhibit at the Museum for this event and the Arlington County Fire Department will be on hand with a rescue vehicle in the parking lot.

The Museum will be open beginning at 9:00 a.m., and for regular Sunday hours, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. that afternoon. There will be a Memory Book available for guests and visitors to sign that day, to encourage and enable all to record their personal thoughts, memories, recollections of the event, and any other relevant thoughts or comments.

MT Vernon Baptist Church

You are invited to visit us at:

MT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH

935 South 23rd Street

Phone: 703-979-1558

WWW.MVBCCC.ORG

EMAIL MVBCCC@MVBCCC.ORG

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Second Annual Passport to Summer Series a Literal Success Story

This year's successful Passport to Summer series concluded with a grand finale on August 24, 2011. County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman and Vice Chair Mary Hynes joined the community to celebrate the renovation of the lobby of the Aurora Hills Community Center. Chairman Zimmerman commended the community for the successful partnership we have established to generate programming for the community center and encourage use of the library.



Rethinking signs

Please join the
Zoning Committee
of the Planning
Commission for

**A Workshop
to Review
Proposed
Sign
Regulations
for Arlington**

Tuesday, September 13, 2011
7-9:30 PM

Washington - Lee High School
The Commons (Cafeteria)
1301 North Stafford Street
Arlington, VA 22201

For more information visit:
www.arlingtonva.us
type "signs" in the search bar



Please RSVP to: dalbert@arlingtonva.us
include contact info and any special accommodations

Questions? Contact Deborah Albert: 703-228-3525



Haley Oakridge Gunston Invasive Plant Pull

By Marti Klein

HOG Pull, First Saturday of each month, 9:00 — 11:00 a.m., Haley Park

[Haley Oakridge Gunston
invasive plant pull]

Did you know that you have a natural area within walking distance of your home? The area between Haley Park, Oakridge Elementary School and Gunston Middle School is filled with trees, shrubs, and other plants native to this area. This should be a wonderful opportunity for Oakridge and Gunston students to learn first hand about the natural world. Unfortunately the native

flora is currently covered by many aggressive non-native plants. In addition to the ubiquitous English ivy, there is porcelain berry, wisteria, bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard and many more.

Some of your neighbors are returning this area to a more natural state. The project got a tremendous boost when over 80 LDS and other neighbors cut much of the brush on May 7. However, this project will take years to complete. It will then require a more modest effort to keep the unwanted plants from returning. Come join your neighbors on the first Saturday of each month as we reclaim our natural area. Neither skill nor a long

term commitment is required. Dress appropriately, including good footwear, socks, long pants and long sleeves. Bring gloves, drinking water, insect repellent and tools. Additional tools will be provided.

For more information, contact:

Marti Klein,
[cumingslc@aol.com](mailto:cummingslc@aol.com)

Jennifer Frum,
frumjb@gmail.com

Mary Ann Lawler,
malawler0@gmail.com

Bill McLaughlin,
billmcnative@gmail.com

More Office Space in Place of Residential?

By Brent Spence

If Arlington County development is like a magic show and we are the paying audience, are we having fun yet?

Watch this trick with the land north of Crystal City. In June 2008, the County Board increased the density allowed on the site as part of a trade to acquire the old Marriott Twin Bridges site for what is now called Long Bridge Park. The developer, Monument View, LLC, is now requesting major changes to that agreement.

The plan was for a multi-family residential building and an office building with ground-floor retail use. Now, the developer is requesting a site plan amendment to provide a 100% office complex rather than a mixed-use development. In addition, the applicant wants a comprehensive sign plan that includes two rooftop signs. The proposed office complex would be con-

structed for, and occupied entirely by, the Boeing Company.

This 4.705-acre site is located where the Pentagon City Motel and Clark Street Theater operated. Increasing densities and changing uses from residential to commercial in this area immediately adjacent to our neighborhood will cause many things about our quality of life to deteriorate, including traffic, airflow, air quality, noise, etc.

So, what is Arlington and our neighborhood getting in exchange for these concessions? The Arlington County Planning Commission Agenda for meetings on September 6 & 8 includes these changes (Site Plan #400). If the Planning Commission approves, this proposal will still need County Board approval. County Board review is currently on the schedule for the Septem-

ber 17 Board meeting. This is moving fast!

Remember, the County Board is made up of elected representatives who serve at the discretion of Arlington residents. Officially, the Board's interest in business development is only as it benefits the residents of Arlington County. We have an obligation to oversee development decisions and request standards we deem appropriate.

Further information from the site plan review committee is at:

http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/planning/applications/site_plans/pdfs/file81996.pdf.

School News

By Laura Stone

Welcome back! The faculty and staff of Oakridge, Gunston, and Wakefield are looking forward to a wonderful new school year! Here's the news from our three neighborhood schools.

OAKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Oakridge needs more tutors and your help is requested. The Oakridge neighborhood volunteer tutoring program is in its 14th year and continues to make a difference in the lives of children in our community. Tutors work with a 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader on reading, math, and homework Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Volunteers will receive training, be provided with appropriate materials, and enjoy support and access to resources to ensure student and tutor success. For more information about this most rewarding program please contact: Tom Martin (703)521-5005, tom_martin542@hotmail.com.

Oakridge Overcrowding

Arlington Public Schools projects new school buildings and/or additions are now needed to handle increased enrollment throughout the school system. Some schools, including Oakridge, are currently over their capacity numbers, and many more schools are expected to be at or above capacity in the next several years. The APS staff has asked PTAs to help set priorities by asking their opinion on additions or other ways to increase capacity in preparation for the 2012 Capital Improvement Plan. After a series of meetings in May and June and with additional responses to the APS questionnaire gathered online, the Oakridge PTA responded that we would not support the idea of a permanent addition of 8-10 classrooms at our school.

The community strongly believes it is not in the best interest of students, teachers, immediate neighbors and the community at large to become a "mega school"

in Arlington County. Oakridge has a capacity between 550 and 581 students, just below the county's preferred school size of 600, and currently has 630 students; permanent additions that result in an even larger student population will strain our current infrastructure and have detrimental, long-term effects on our neighborhood community.

The community also overwhelmingly rejected the idea of increasing class sizes by 1-2 students again, because this type of increase puts a disproportionate burden on our already large and overcrowded schools while some schools are still well below capacity. The complete response to the APS questionnaire can be read at www.arcaonline.org.

If you would like more information on Oakridge, and our community's response to school crowding please contact Molly Watson mollyswatson@gmail.com.

GUNSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Gunston held its annual Ice Cream Social in Gunston Cafeteria on September 1.

The PTA-sponsored Fall Fest is on

September 23 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the cafeteria and in the parking lot outside the main office.

Back to school night is September 27 beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a PTA-sponsored reception outside Theater I. Classroom visits will be from 6:45 p.m. until 8:50 p.m. The PTA also plans to sell pizza before the program gets started to help out parents and children who won't have a chance to eat supper.

WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Construction on the new high school has begun! Building completion is projected for 2013 and grounds completion is projected for 2014. The construction of Wakefield High School has been targeted to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification upon completion. The following is a brief list of some of the LEED efforts in the new building:

- * A Geothermal HVAC system
- * Solar hot water panels
- * Rain garden landscape feature for on-site storm water management
- * Recycling construction waste
- * Low-emitting materials to create high indoor air quality
 - * Waste heat from mechanical system to be used to heat the pool
 - * Energy-efficient windows to reduce energy consumption
 - * CO2 monitors to regulate fresh air flow
 - * Daylight harvesting - light sensors that dim artificial light to respond to natural light levels
 - * Reforestation adjacent to existing mature forested areas using native vegetation

To check out the website for "all things Wakefield" go to: <http://www.apsva.us/site/default.aspx?domainid=2021>.



Activities and Events

Courthouse Farmers' Market, Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – noon. Located adjacent to the Arlington County Courthouse Parking Lot, at the intersection of North Courthouse Road and North 14th Street. Arlington's largest market, it continues year round and averages about 30 vendors, all of whom are required to produce their items within 125 miles of Arlington. Free parking in the garage under the County Administrative Offices. No dogs are allowed at the market.

Del Ray Farmers' Market, Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – noon, corner of East Oxford & Mount Vernon Avenues. The nearby Del Ray market is open year round, offering producer-grown fresh vegetables and fruits in season. All year round, this market offers meats, eggs, fresh pasta and sauces, Amish cheese, yogurt, bakery goods, eggs, jams and jellies, fancy nuts, and bakery goods.

Bread of Life Cooking Classes, 3rd Saturday of each month, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., Mount Vernon Baptist Church. For young chefs; come sharpen your culinary skills; dress up in chef uniform and have fun. Free. Call (703) 979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org.

Four Mile Run Farmers and Artisans Market, Every Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., just south of Glebe Rd. on Mount Vernon Avenue. The market continues every Sunday, be sure to drop by and see what's new!

Morning Meditation and Yoga in the Water Park (across from 1750 Crystal Drive), Every Monday at 7:00 a.m. Start the week in relaxation with Sport & Health at the Water Park. Instructors will lead a free 60-minute yoga stretching class every Monday through the end of September.

YogaFit for Seniors, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., Mount Vernon Baptist Church. Sit & Be Fit. This class is gentle, fun and the first two classes are free with a small fee afterwards. You must call or e-mail 1st to sign up. (703) 979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org.

Crystal City Farm Fresh Market, Every Tuesday through November 22, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on the Sidewalk along Crystal Drive between 18th and 20th Street. Over 20 local farmers and producers bring together seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh-cut flowers, container plants and herbs, farm-raised eggs, all-natural meats, artisan baked goods, specialty foods and much more.

YogaFit, Tuesday & Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Baptist Church. Experience the health benefits of gentle Hatha Yoga. First two classes are free. Small fee afterwards. Call (703) 979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org.

Outdoor Zumba. Every Wednesday at noon, 2121 Crystal Drive. The Latin beat continues with lunchtime Zumba in the courtyard area of 2121 Crystal Drive. This free weekly class provides participants a fast-dancing class led by Sport & Health instructors and runs through the end of September. Participants can even grab a quick, complimentary shower at the Sport & Health Club after the class.

Rock the Row Concert Series, Pentagon Row Plaza, Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. As a result of bad weather during the summer, three concerts were postponed to September. Grab some friends and head out to the plaza for a great free concert while the sun goes down. The evening includes live music, free gifts with purchases, merchant specials, and weekly raffles. The remaining concerts are:

Date	Band
September 8	Pebble to Pearl
September 15	Gonzo's Nose
September 22	Fools and Horses

Wine in the Water Park, Fridays in September, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Crystal City Water Park (1750 Crystal Drive). Enjoy great music, delicious tastes, and fantastic wines in the Water Park. As a bonus, the first 30 people who purchase something from the bar will receive a wine bag.

Youth Friday, 2nd Friday of each month beginning in September, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Mount Vernon Baptist Church. Various activities such as readings, story-telling time, movie night. Hot dogs, chips, popcorn, drinks. Free. Call 703-979-1558 or e-mail mvbccc@mvbccc.org.

Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, September 10th, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., Calvary United Methodist Church, 2315 South Grant Street. Begin fall with delicious pancakes prepared by the men of Calvary. You are sure to see all your neighbors and friends and it will be a great time to catch up on everyone's summer vacation.

Vintage Crystal, Sunday September 18, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m., 2001 Jefferson Davis Highway. The Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) brings back the ever-popular, flavor-filled Vintage Crystal for its fifth edition. The spice is back with more wines, food, music and dancing. Building on last year's Latin-themed success, Crystal City will once again be serving up tasty tapas, tempting tequila, and a ton of fun.

Fall Volunteer Day, Saturday, September 24, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Hume School Grounds. Join your neighbors as they continue the battle to gain control over invasive plants and weeds at Hume school and the I-395 entrance to our neighborhood. The morning starts with juice and muffins and finishes up with hot dogs and soft drinks around noon. Wear comfortable clothing - long pants and shirtsleeves, and knobby soled shoes are encouraged. If you have garden tools and gloves, please bring them - but, if not, tools and garden gloves available. If you have extra plants in your garden or are dividing your perennials (day lilies, liri-ope, etc.) and would like to donate them, please leave them behind the school on September 22 or 23 and the team will plant them during volunteer day.

—Continued on page 9—

Activities and Events

-Continued-

Geranium Grab, Friday, September 30 at 9:30 a.m., 2121 Crystal Drive Courtyard.

The geranium grab will allow area residents and workers to dig in on the fun of removing hundreds of geraniums in Crystal City, in preparation for a new set of floral landscaping.

E-CARE, October 15, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Rd.

Dispose of hazardous household materials, or recycle computer monitors and televisions, small metal items, and electronics. There is a \$15 fee for each computer monitor and \$20 for each TV. No charge for LED or LCD monitors and televisions. Bikes for the World will collect serviceable bicycles so that they may be sent to countries for basic transportation needs and our own Art for Humanity will collect a variety of items for its projects as well. E-CARE is open to Arlington residents only (ID required). For more information visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/Documents/file66465.pdf>.

Arlington County In Process of Rewriting the Zoning Ordinance

By Janet Dunkelberger

Arlington is embarking on a total rewrite of the zoning ordinance, and AHCA should pay attention. The County Board expects to vote on these before the end of the year. Many would have potentially adverse effects on our neighborhood. Businesses have been the driving force, and it is obvious that the perspective of residents also needs to be included.

In addition to lifting restrictions on size, location and lighting, the draft completely changes the approval process, so sign requests would be decided by staff rather than the County Board. Currently, sign regulation is one thing that actually works for residents of Arlington, possibly because it is overseen by the County Board who are beholden to us to elect

them. If these changes pass, the County Board will be out of the loop.

These changes will affect us. The time to get involved is now. With respectful input from residents, our community has a long history of achieving happy compromises that minimize adverse effects.

Please consider attending a public forum on the revisions, September 13, from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School. You can also send your comments to the County Board. For proposed regulations, see: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/planning/studies/pdf/file82827.pdf>.

The Need for an Emergency Room in Our Area

By Brent Spence

We need an Emergency Room in our area. Not Urgent Care, but a real, fully functional Emergency Room, whether part of a hospital, or stand-alone. With the Pentagon, Crystal City, National Airport, and a growing population, it is imperative to have an easily accessible nearby Emergency Room.

The difference between a stand-alone Emergency Room and an Urgent Care Center is that stand-alone Emergency Rooms provide the same services as hospital Emergency Rooms. They are always open, 24/7, and always have board certified doctors, nurses and medical technicians on duty. Patients may arrive by ambulance or walk in. If hospitalization is required, staff arranges transfer by ambulance, rather than elevator as in a hospital Emergency Room.

Proximity to a stand-alone Emergency Room could save your life. If you go to an Urgent Care and require a higher level of treatment, you could be put into additional jeopardy by the delay of then needing to arrange transportation

to an Emergency Room.

Urgent Care Centers are designed to deal only with minor, non-emergency situations. They lack diagnostic and treatment equipment, may not have an MD on duty, and are open fewer hours. Basically, an Urgent Care Center provides the same services as a doctor's office.

For these reasons, stand-alone Emergency Rooms are increasingly a medical option. Hundreds of stand-alone Emergency Rooms across the country have been providing care for years in urban and rural settings. In 2007, they numbered 146, and by 2009, there were 241.

With the Arlington County Board considering huge increases in density for Crystal City and now Pentagon City, they should also consider the necessary infrastructure including a full service emergency room. Traffic congestion is getting worse and there is no Emergency Room reasonably accessi-

ble, especially during rush hours. Pen Place would be an excellent site for a hospital or stand-alone Emergency Room.

Our access to emergency care is currently compromised by the excessive time it takes to get to a hospital. And were a catastrophe to occur again, as it did in 2001, we would be LESS prepared because our hospital has been closed. Why wait until we face the unthinkable, either personally or collectively?

Our community should put forward a request, from the Aurora Highlands Civic Association to our elected representatives on the County board, to make it a priority to provide adequate emergency facilities. It is also essential that we individually contact our representatives to make this happen. Ten years after 9/11, we need to make sure that we are not forgotten.

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SOC Enterprises is now Linden Resources

The SOC has renamed itself for a wonderful, unique tree – the Linden Tree. Because ...

- Trees are symbols of growth, support and independence, which is powerful imagery for how SOC helps people with disabilities every single day.

- The Linden tree specifically represents transformation and hidden inner strength. Like the people SOC serves who may require extra support, encouragement or unique accommodations to perform their jobs, when Linden trees are first planted, they often require extra nurturing until they are rooted and able to thrive.

Linden Trees have heart-shaped leaves that symbolize heart-felt passion for helping people with disabilities to reach their full work potential. At times those heart-shaped leaves grow upside

down, yet the tree is strong, healthy and vibrant. Like SOC employees with disabilities, sometimes they may do the job just a little differently, but they always get the job done. About the new tagline, Exceeding Expectations

It's written into the mission: *To expand employment opportunities for people with disabilities while exceeding the expectations of our customers.* More importantly, the people with disabilities that are served, who work for Linden and for its customers, who demonstrate continuous resourcefulness and a focused determination to succeed in their jobs, are the very people that make it possible for Linden to deliver outstanding results and business solutions and exceed the expectations of customers.



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Yes! I want to join the Aurora Highlands Civic Association!

Please complete the following information and enclose the form with your check payable to **Aurora Highlands Civic Association**. Annual dues are **\$20.00** per household. Bring it to the next Civic Association meeting or mail to:

Membership Chair
Aurora Highlands Civic Association
P.O. Box 25201
Arlington, VA 22202

Member information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Check here to receive Civic Association announcements by email.

I'm ready to get involved!

I am interested in:

Library Schools Parks and Rec. Streets & Lights

Zoning/Planning Other _____

Serving on an AHCA committee

Note: Your address, phone number and e-mail address will not be released outside the civic association. The dues year runs November 1 to October 31.

Tree Talk: Restoring Our Community's Native Tree Canopy

by Cory Giacobbe

Tree Damage from Storms

The winter and summer of 2011 were hard on our trees. Mature and over-mature trees lost limbs or were uprooted during heavy snow, wind and rain storms. Trees in Arlington fell on cars, homes and power lines, and many property owners are still dealing with the damage. This makes some wonder whether tall shade trees are worth it, whether it's safe to have a large tree in their yard.

Tree damage can be minimized or prevented by planting the right tree in the right place, by caring for the trees on your property, and by getting an accurate assessment of your trees by a professional Arborist. Most of the fallen trees I've seen in Arlington were diseased or had sustained long-term damage from being covered in English ivy. I wrote last year about the reasons and methods for removing English ivy from your trees.

Here's a link to that issue: http://aurorahighlands.org/Media/news2010_02.pdf

The Tree Steward website, <http://treestewards.org>, lists several measures you can take to ensure your safety and the health of your trees:

- Remove the target. While a home or a nearby power line cannot be moved, it is possible to move picnic tables, cars, landscape features, or other possible targets to prevent them from being hit by a falling tree.
- Prune the tree. Remove the defective branches of the tree. Because inappropriate pruning may weaken a tree, pruning work is best done by an ISA Certified Arborist.
- Cable and brace the tree. Provide physical support for weak branches and stems to increase their strength and stability.
- Provide routine care. Mature trees need routine care in the form of water, fertilizer (in some cases), mulch, and pruning as dictated by the season and their structure.
- Remove the tree. Some hazardous trees are best removed. If possible, plant a new tree in an appropriate place as a replacement.

See the [July 2011 newsletter](#) on how to hire an arborist.

Recycling Wood After Storms

If you are unfortunate and lose a tree that you think could be recycled into furniture, tools or art, send an email to info@TreeStewards.org and we'll try to arrange contact with a woodworker who can evaluate and recycle the wood.

Tree Canopy Grant

I've heard through the grapevine that AHCA's Tree Canopy Grant has been approved and we'll receive most of the trees we applied for. Those trees will be planted in November. There will most likely be another round of grant money again next year. If you're interested in hosting a canopy tree in your yard next year, send me an email at the newsletter email: ahca.news@yahoo.com.



Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale

Saturday, September 24th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria. TreeSteward Scott Knudsen has recruited fourteen vendors from five states with a wide array of native plants, many shrubs and trees, to increase the stock of environmentally friendly plants. TreeStewards will staff an information booth to assist consumers in adopting the right plants for their locations. For more information, visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~sknudsen/>

Trees For Residents Arlington County's spring tree distribution program is now in the fall. The county offers a choice of four different trees to Arlington residents for free to plant themselves on their own property. The tree species will be announced later in September. The deadline to apply will be in late September. The trees will arrive to the coordinator's house in October. Stay tuned to the AHCA listserv or the County website for information on how and when to apply: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/scripts/parks/page61495.aspx>.

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

Association Officers & Committee Chairs

President – Michael Dowell
703-521-7739

Vice President – Nick Giacobbe
703-842-5441

2nd Vice President – Cory Giacobbe
703-842-5441

Treasurer / Membership – Brent Spence

Secretary – Jenny Lawhorn
jennylawhorn@comcast.net

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 - Michael Shumway 703-774-5045

Newsletter Advertising - Marty King 703-979-3410 martinch@erols.com

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 in e-mail messages (not attachments) to the newsletter editor, Cory Giacobbe: AHCA.news@yahoo.com

For past issues of the newsletter, bylaws, and neighborhood boundaries and more, visit

AuroraHighlands.org

P.O. Box 25201 - Arlington, VA 22202

AuroraHighlands.org

"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.