

OVER THE FENCE



NEWS FOR NEIGHBORS
FROM THE
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC
ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2017

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR THE AHCA
QUARTERLY
MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 9 AT 7
P.M.

PATRICK HENRY ELE-
MENTARY
SCHOOL LIBRARY

NEIGHBORHOOD
GARDEN TOUR ON
JUNE 10

MORE DETAILS ON
PAGE 7



AHCA SPRING MEETING: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CARSHARING ANALYST

Join us for AHCA's quarterly meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the library of Patrick Henry Elementary.

Confirmed guests include our delegate, Alfonso Lopez, who currently represents the 49th District in the Virginia House of Delegates. Delegate Lopez will provide a state legislative update.

We'll also host Marietta Gelfort, Carsharing Analyst with the Division of Transportation in Arlington's Department of Environmental Services. She will introduce the county's carsharing website and discuss the selection process for reserved parking spots for car-share vehicles.

You can send car share program/parking questions in advance to carsharing@arlingtonva.us. More information on the carsharing program can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.



Lopez



Gelfort

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

SITING OF NEW 1300-SEAT HIGH SCHOOL

BY MOLLY CALKINS

Arlington Public Schools proposes construction of a new 1300-student high school at one of three sites:

1. the Education Center on the campus of Washington-Lee High School;
2. next to Kenmore Middle School campus; or
3. the Career Center site in Arlington Heights, which is also the campus of Arlington Tech, the Career Center, and Columbia Pike Public Library, as well as the current site of Patrick Henry Elementary and the elementary school that will replace it.

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SPRING AT PATRICK HENRY

The Patrick Henry students and staff have had a fun and enriching few months. At the end of March, many Henry families joined us for the Fine Arts Showcase. Viewing the framed artwork displayed around the hallways and the singing and dancing made for an evening of fun.

At the beginning of April we hosted an ESOL/HILT Family Literacy Night. Gulf Branch Nature center joined us for this event and students had the opportunity to touch and see many animals including a tarantula, a turtle, and even a snake.

Last week, Patrick Henry families and community members participated in the annual Henry Challenge. This event was a huge success, and everyone truly enjoyed the day. At the end of April, students in Pre-K through fifth grade participated in the Penny Challenge which raises money for the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Thank you for your generous donations!

We have many fun activities to look forward to in May and June. On May 11, our band, orchestra, and spring chorus will perform in the Spring Concert. On May 19, we have International Night. We hope you are able to join us for this exciting and educational event. At the beginning of May, our fourth-grade students go on their overnight field trip to Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg. Just a few weeks later, our fifth-grade students have an opportunity to spend the night at the Outdoor Lab. The students are really looking forward to these fieldtrips.

We are excited for the many activities to come. Thank you for your continued support!

Cameron Snyder
Assistant Principal
Patrick Henry Elementary School

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ARLINGTON COUNTY FAIR

The 40th Annual Arlington County Fair is scheduled for August 16-20, 2017, at Thomas Jefferson Park. Stay tuned to the fair website (<http://arlingtoncountyfair.us/>) for more information as it becomes available from ACF. AHCA will share resident parking permit information as it becomes available.

RESERVED-SPACE CAR-SHARE PROGRAM

Arlington County invites your input as it plans reserved parking spaces for car-share vehicles. On December 13, 2016, the County Board authorized a new ordinance related to carsharing (Chapter 14.2 of the Arlington County Code), ensuring a competitive procurement of car-share services, permits and fees, and enforcement procedures for authorized car-share vehicles. Based on this ordinance, the County Manager and staff have started the process to establish a “reserved-space” car-share program.

In a reserved-space car-sharing system, trips start and end in locations reserved exclusively for carsharing. Currently, two reserved-space car-share services operate in Arlington. Zipcar has been providing reserved-space service to the community since 2004. Enterprise Carshare entered the market in 2012 and has been providing their service in off-street locations.

To better incorporate community needs into the on-street station location considerations of reserved-space car-share providers, the county seeks community feedback on the potential placement of car-share parking stations in the Arlington County. At our May 9 AHCA quarterly meeting, county staff will brief us about the new county webpage on carsharing,

WHAT'S NEW IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS?: COUNTY FAIR, CARSHARING, AND MORE

as well as the interactive maps, which will allow residents to provide feedback on the potential on-street location network by either suggesting a location or commenting on an already proposed location. You can browse the webpage at <https://transportation.arlingtonva.us/carsharing/> and ask questions at carsharing@arlingtonva.us.

NAMING OF NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT THOMAS JEFFERSON

The naming process for the new elementary school slated for construction adjacent to Thomas Jefferson Middle School is underway.

The Naming Committee is tasked with recommending a name for the school when it moves from its current central location to the far northwest corner of the neighborhood. The Naming Committee includes a representative from each civic association within the current Patrick Henry boundary, as well as the Henry principal, a Henry parent, a Henry staff member, a Thomas Jefferson Middle School (TJMS) parent, and a TJMS staff member. AHCA is represented on the Naming Committee by our neighbor Mahender Dudani, who has been involved in the PTAs for both the Henry Elementary and TJMS. The committee also includes an at-large member who does not represent a neighborhood, civic association, school, PTA, or other stakeholder group, and is currently running as a School Board candidate.

The Naming Committee has narrowed the new name options to five. They are listed below, each with an explanation from the committee:

Alice West Fleet Elementary School: “A native Virginian, a granddaughter of slaves, and a long-time Arlington teacher, resident, community activist and leader... she broke down racial barriers, serving as the first black reading teacher in Arlington and the first black teacher to teach in an all-white school in Arlington.”

Grace Hopper Elementary School: “Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper was an acclaimed computer scientist, professor, and long-time Arlington resident... Ms. Hopper was key to the development of COBOL, a computer programming language that helped make coding more accessible.”

Journey Elementary School: “The new elementary school building is designed with different levels and sections representing different biospheres... The name ‘Journey’ was recommended through the Community Input Form and represents the students’ journey through the building as they explore our diverse world as well as the educational journey that students and their families experience.”

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Liberty Elementary School: “The name ‘Liberty’ is a tribute both to Patrick Henry’s famous ‘Give me liberty, or give me death!’ speech and to his support of the Bill of Rights. This option represents a name change that maintains a connection to the school’s existing name.”

Patrick Henry Elementary School: “Patrick Henry Elementary School was given its name in 1925, renaming the original school name, Columbia Elementary School. Patrick Henry was a lawyer, orator, and statesman who served as the first and sixth governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He was also a slave owner.”

Source: <https://www.arlnow.com/2017/05/01/names-for-new-elementary-school-narrowed-to-five-options/>

More information about the Naming Committee is available at: <http://patrickhenrypta.org/new-school-needs-name/>.


IT’S TIME TO RESCUE THE SIDEWALKS

BY EILEEN JANAS, AHCA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Now that the weather is pleasant and we are out working in our yards, please closely examine the bushes and trees on your property that are next to the sidewalks and trim them in accordance with county standards. Take pity on the tall, and remember that tree limbs that extend over the sidewalk should not be lower than 10 feet. Think about those enjoying the vista at stroller height, and lop off those branches that are clawing their way across our paths. Our sidewalks are generally not very wide. There are places in our neighborhood where it is difficult for people to pass each other without one of them stepping into the street—and impossible for a person with a stroller to pass someone with a grocery cart, due to overgrown bushes. On behalf of all those who stroll the neighborhood, please keep your bushes from encroaching by trimming them back from the edge of the sidewalk.

Don’t have the tools to conquer those hedges? You can borrow a wide variety from The Shed at Arlington Public Library using your library card: telescoping tree pruners, 3” loppers, hand saws, 7.5” hedge shears, and much more. See <http://library.arlingtonva.us/a-z-list/the-shed/> for hours and rules

Arlington County Code, “Garbage, Refuse and Weeds” § 10-15. Duty of Each Property Owner or Occupant of Property to Cut Back Obstructing Vegetation. It shall be the joint and several duty of each owner or occupant of property to cut back or remove trees or parts thereof, hedges, shrubs, vines and other vegetation which encroaches upon any sidewalk, alley, roadway, street or highway and which impairs or obstructs any pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Such growth higher than ten (10) feet above the surface of a walk or roadway need not be removed unless such growth creates a health or safety hazard. (2-21-81; 4-24-82; Ord. No. 96-7, 5-11-96)



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Happy Spring! Who's ready for longer days, flip flops and BBQ's?! It's time to come out of hibernation for a little fun and sun. Outlined below are a few upcoming events that I hope you will note on your calendar.

END OF SCHOOL YEAR SUMMER PICNIC

Date: Saturday, June 17
Time: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Location: Patrick Henry Elementary Blacktop

School's out for the summer! Make plans to swing by for some pizza and ice cream. We'll have music and, of course, water balloons among other activities for the kids.



TODDLER MEET-UP

Date: Saturday, May 13
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Thomas Jefferson Playground

Have a few kiddos and want to get to know other families in the area?



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SOCIAL UPDATES FOR ARLINGTON HEIGHTS: PICNIC, TODDLER MEETUP, AND LOOKING AHEAD

BY KRISTY KELLY

If so, please join us on Saturday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m. at the TJ playground. The plan is to have a play date on the second Saturday of every month. A big thanks to Kristen Hamilton for organizing. If you would like to be added to the email updates, please email Kristen at kristenjeanhamilton@gmail.com.

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTY

Date: Saturday, October 28
Time and Location: TBD

It's never too early to start thinking about Halloween, so mark your calendars for a spooktakular time! Keep an eye out for more details in the next newsletter.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS WELCOME COMMITTEE

Have you lived in Arlington Heights for a while? Do you have any relationships with the neighborhood restaurants? If so, it would be great to have you be part of the Arlington Heights Welcome Committee. I'd like to put together

a welcome packet to include a few coupons from area restaurants for new neighbors. If you have any interest in assisting with this packet and/or delivering it to new neighbors, please let me know.



Have any ideas or any interest in volunteering to help pull all the event details together? Any interest in organizing an event for the community? If so, please contact Kristy Kelly at kristykelly14@gmail.com.

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SITING OF NEW HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUED

At the school board candidates' debate on April 19, the candidates were asked where they thought the proposed 1300-seat high school should be built. James Lander said he preferred the Education Center at Washington-Lee because that building is already under APS control. He acknowledged that building a new high school at the Career Center site would subject Arlington Heights to potentially 10 years of construction, given the new elementary school already slated to be built at the Thomas Jefferson site. The other two candidates did not respond directly with preferences or pros or cons of particular sites.

Recent meetings shed light on the unfair and deceptive APS process for selecting a site for a proposed new 1300-student high school. In sum, APS ignores community input.

Those who attended the April 4 community meeting at Henry Elementary followed instructions to provide input about pros and cons of the Career Center site by posting comments on sticky-notes and online. One of our neighbors photographed and carefully transcribed each of the sticky-notes, as detailed in her April 4 post to the AHCA listserv. The concerns included that Arlington Heights already has a high density of schools in one neighborhood, along with related traffic congestion. In addition, the Career Center site offers the smallest acreage of the three sites, with a large existing student population. Sports fields would not fit the plan at the Career Center site, and APS had not provided any cost comparisons for the three proposed sites, even though many residents have specifically asked for costs comparisons.

APS ignored that community input in its April 18 presentation to the School Board Work Session. On the slide titled "What We Heard," APS listed only 3 of the numerous challenges to the Career Center it heard from multiple sources, including community meetings (see slide in right column).

1,300 Seat High School: Career Center What We Heard



Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility for a neighborhood attendance zone for the high school • Central location • Allows Ed Center to be used to address other capacity needs • Provides opportunity for access to various programs at one site • Able to build vertically to address space needs • Instructional focus of Arlington Tech • Walkable option for the neighborhood • High school amenities available to the community • Access to public transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of current Career Center programs • Structured parking will be required • Field space may be limited

Here are just some comments from the far longer list of challenges/concerns about the Career Center site conveyed at the April 4 community meeting:

- Career center site is already crowded.
- Acre is very little space. Nowhere to expand or offer field except on roof.
- Career center should not be sacrificial land so that Kenmore can expand its athletic facilities.
- Mixing elementary school needs with high school needs seems foolhardy.
- Arlington Heights already is burdened with traffic, noise, and construction of new elementary school.
- The neighbors and neighborhood have been blindsided by this option.
- Having a new neighborhood high school without the same offerings as the other neighborhood high schools should be a non-starter. Fewer or no onsite sports clubs, etc. is not equal and would set up "haves" and "have nots."
- Overtaxing neighborhood infrastructure. Cost-prohibitive to tear down and rebuild on site
- Disruptive effect on single family homes adjacent.
- Total lack of valid, reliable data on costs, impacts and long term sustainability.
- Not centrally located.

Because APS refuses to share community input with the School Board, we must give input directly. Here are all the ways to provide input to the School Board: <https://www.apsva.us/contact-the-school-board/>.

Also come speak at the School Board meeting on May 18, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. Here are details and how to sign up: <https://www.apsva.us/school-board-meetings/>.

APS materials about the new high school, including its April 18 presentation, are available at <https://www.apsva.us/instruction/new-high-school/>. We'll discuss this issue at AHCA's quarterly meeting on May 9.

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There is hope!

After the bizarrely warm winter followed by a month of winter in March, most of us probably gave up on the garden. When the sleet and snow came along—followed by a week of absurdly cold nights in the 20s—the daffodils were up and blooming, the star magnolias were open, the saucer magnolias were showing color, and, of course, the cherry trees were nearly blooming. We also had hellebores in full bloom, buds on the honeysuckle and even fat green buds on the hydrangeas.

I wrote it all off when winter made its belated appearance. But how wrong I was!

Some of the daffodils managed to stagger back to their upright positions. The hellebores are now lush and gorgeous. Our neighbors' saucer magnolia held on to its buds and actually bloomed at the end of March. Even the cherry trees mostly survived to blossom. Our camellia already had a few open flowers on it when the bad weather came along but it shook the cold off and is blooming beautifully.

The one thing I fear we will have to just soldier on without this year are the classic mophead French hydrangeas (*hydrangea macrophylla*). As they are inclined to do, they were lured by the warm weather into producing not only leaf buds, but also flower buds, and those buds just cannot survive several bitter cold nights in a row. The stalks I left in place last fall are probably dry and brittle now, although fresh green leaves are showing at the base of the plant. But before I cut the old wood out I'll give it a chance.

Other plants aren't so easily fooled but apparently French hydrangeas, while lovely, aren't too bright.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL WHEN SPRING ARRIVES

BY REBECCA MASHAW

The same can't be said for our native oakleaf hydrangea. Because they evolved right here, they're tougher and more accustomed to weird weather. We will probably see their beautiful off-white conical flowers this summer.

Gardening takes patience, which is not one of my strongest virtues. But I have learned that it pays to watch and wait. I won't cut all of

last year's hydrangea branches back until I'm sure they are dead and dry (which they probably are). But just like in baseball, there's always next year. For now, I'll appreciate my hellebores and honeysuckles and rejoice that even after this wacky weather, the redbuds are popping open all over the neighborhood. They always make me happy.

GARDEN TOUR SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Mark your calendars for the AHCA Garden Tour. This year's tour will feature the work of your friends and neighbors, and could also feature your own garden if you are interested. You will find a wide range of styles and approaches from commercial design to highly individualistic. Two of the yards feature rain gardens, and we will have a knowledgeable professional to tell us about them. One beautiful garden has been a labor of love by the owners, both of whom are landscape architects. But don't let that intimidate you! If you love plants and flowers, you'll be right at home.

If you would consider including your home on this walking tour, or want more information, contact John or Rebecca Mashaw at 703-892-3793, or reach us at rmashaw@comcast.net or johnmashaw@comcast.net.

2017 AHCA MEMBERSHIP

Your membership helps support the Arlington Heights Civic Association's activities. Members receive voting rights on issues presented to the association. Memberships should be renewed annually.

Individual/Family Memberships are \$20.
Business Memberships are \$25. Please complete this form and send with your check made out to AHCA to the following address:

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BLPC UPDATE

BY GRETCHEN KEARNEY, *ARLINGTON HEIGHTS BLPC REPRESENTATIVE*

The County Board voted 5-0 on April 22 to approve a use permit and land lease agreement for a new elementary school and parking garage at the Thomas Jefferson site at 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Arlington Public Schools plans to open the new 752-seat elementary school in September 2019.

The new multi-story, approximately 111,000-square-foot building will be built on the northwest corner of the Thomas Jefferson site. The project includes a new underground parking garage with 214 parking spaces that will provide parking for both the new elementary school and the existing middle school.

Notable features include a gymnasium wall that opens to the outside to create an outdoor theater, play areas that will be open to the public outside of school hours, and a publicly accessible restroom on the southwest corner that will be available during off hours. South Old Glebe Road will be rebuilt to support operations of the two schools (we've been told without a loss of parking spaces on South Old Glebe Road).

Construction on-site at TJMS for the new school is tentatively scheduled to start during the month of July.

The actual start date will be dependent on approval of permits, and we will keep you posted through the listserv.

At the most recent BLPC/PFRC meeting (ironically held in the Thomas Jefferson Community Theater), many groups expressed concern about the use of the theater and parking during construction, slated to begin later this year. Staff have developed a plan to relocate shows to Gunston and other theaters such as Kenmore Middle School or high school theaters, with the coordination and cooperation of APS.

There is a tentative plan in place to relocate the TJ bus drop off to the 2nd Street/Community Center side of the building during construction. Teacher and staff parking will be in the eastern parking lot adjacent to the tennis courts, with additional parking available at the churches on the northern side of Rt. 50.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know and I will find the answers for you!