

# OVER THE FENCE



NEWS FOR NEIGHBORS  
FROM THE  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC  
ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2018

PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR THE AHCA  
QUARTERLY  
MEETING

TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 13  
AT 7 P.M.

PATRICK HENRY  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL LIBRARY



## AHCA FALL MEETING: CAREER CENTER REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

Join us for AHCA's quarterly meeting on **Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the library of Patrick Henry Elementary**. Pizza will be served. Please bring your own water. This will be the first meeting with the newly elected AHCA officers. The primary topic of discussion at this quarterly meeting will be **plans for the Career Center's redevelopment**. Changes at the Career Center site may affect traffic patterns and property values, and it is an especially important issue for neighbors with children entering high school in 2022 and after. Please join us if you can. **Children welcome! Babysitting provided (donations to offset cost appreciated).**

## FALL AT PATRICK HENRY

The Patrick Henry community has been busy this winter. Henry students participated in the Read-A-Thon and raised more than \$22,000 for the school. In addition, we had an extremely high level of student participation and, as a result, Mrs. Turner, the principal, kissed a pig! The students were very excited to see Mrs. Turner kissing Roscoe at the celebratory assembly.

At the beginning of December the Patrick Henry community celebrated Different Abilities Week by dressing in differently themed apparel each day. Students learned about their different strengths and the different abilities they each have. We also had the privilege of hearing our wonderful musicians perform at the Winter Concert. We are excited to hear the new songs they learn between now and the Spring Concert.

We have many hard working students at Patrick Henry. After the first quarter we had the opportunity to recognize some of them during the Honor Roll Breakfast Celebration. We look forward to recognizing our students in a variety of ways throughout this academic year.

Thanks to the Patrick Henry PTA, the students were able to enjoy a performance of Uno, Dos, Tres Con Andres. They loved his performance and actively sang along to many of his educational songs. In the middle of January, many Henry families joined us for BINGO night. This evening raised nearly \$4,000 for our fourth grade overnight field trip to Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg. Thank you to all of the families who donated to and attended the event.

Cameron Snyder  
Assistant Principal  
Patrick Henry Elementary School

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# CAREER CENTER REDEVELOPMENT: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE HAPPEN AT THE 12 ACRE SITE?

BY KRISTI RUPERT SAWERT

Arlington Heights is home to a 12-acre plot of land known as the Career Center site. Arlington Public Schools (APS) and Arlington County (AC) have committed this site for redevelopment. They have divided the land into two "blocks": the "North Block," which is owned by APS, and the "South Block," which is owed by private property owners. The North Block is currently home to Patrick Henry Elementary School, Arlington Community High School, the Career Center, and Arlington Tech High School, and serves approximately 2,000 students.

**APS has decided to add 1,300+ high school seats to the Career Center site.** APS and AC formed the Career Center Working Group (CCWG) to evaluate the site, and to recommend how it may be developed in phases to accommodate these additional high school seats and associated facilities and community amenities. This is **not** a debate about whether the site is getting high school seats and construction. The debate is what

kind of seats the center will house (i.e., neighborhood or choice seats), the construction timeline, and what types of amenities will be placed on the site.

### **This is where you come in!**

What would like to see happen at the Career Center site? What type of amenities (if any) would you like our neighborhood to have?

In my view, the Career Center site should be redeveloped into a neighborhood, walkable high school that retains a maximum number of county-wide seats for Arlington Tech and Career Center training. The site must have fields, structured (underground) parking, a swimming pool, planned traffic ingress/egress, and the Columbia Pike Library. There is a possibility that the site could be extended through the South Block to Columbia Pike, and the library relocated to face Columbia Pike.

**Make no mistake: This is the time to get involved.**

The Career Center Working Group has over 40 members, each bringing their own interests, which may or may not necessarily align with our neighborhood's interests.



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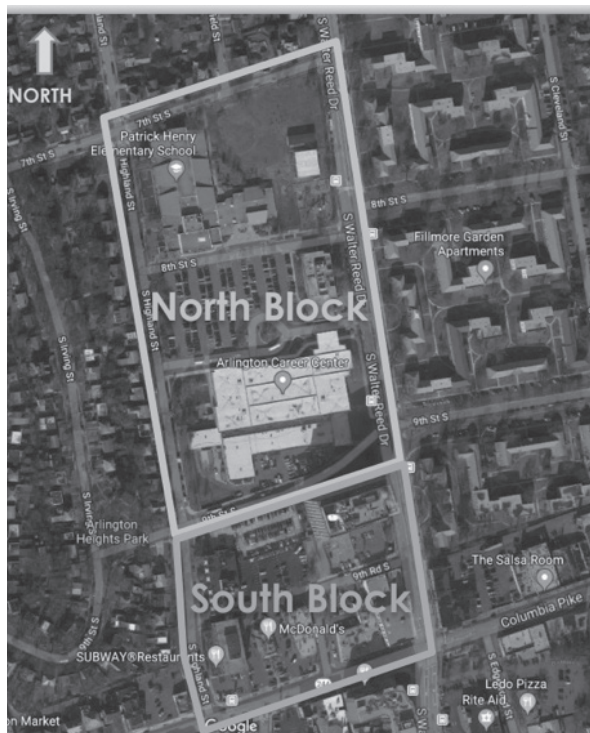
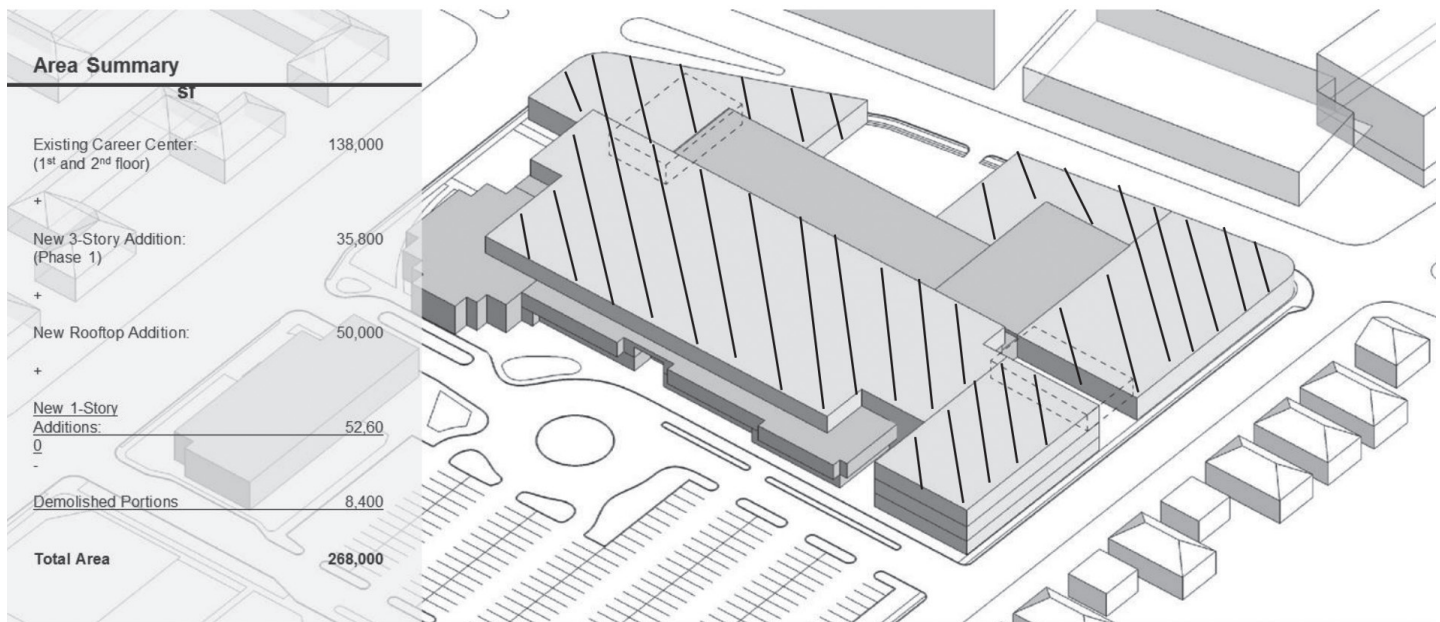


## Current Site Plans

As shown below, AC's architects proposed building a third level onto the Career Center building and extending the building's footprint in almost all directions. The Career Center building expansion as planned would add a 3-story building adjacent to Highland Street. As you can see, the plan simply crams another 1,300+ students to the site, takes away what little green space remains, provides no additional parking, no plan for the additional traffic and buses, and no amenities.

## How can you get involved?

You can get involved by attending meetings of the Career Center Working Group, which are conveniently held at the Career Center and open to the public. See here for meeting times and dates: [www.apsva.us/career-center/career-center-working-group/career-center-working-group-meeting-dates/](http://www.apsva.us/career-center/career-center-working-group/career-center-working-group-meeting-dates/). Send your thoughts to APS School Board ([school.board@apsva.us](mailto:school.board@apsva.us)) and Arlington County Board ([countyboard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countyboard@arlingtonva.us)), or contact me at [ahca.ksawert@gmail.com](mailto:ahca.ksawert@gmail.com).



*Above: Proposed third-floor addition to Career Center (light gray diagonally shaded portions are additions).*

*Left: North Block, which is owned by APS, and South Block, which is privately owned.*

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# SCRATCH THE ITCH TO GARDEN WITH LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

BY REBECCA MASHAW

Like most gardeners, as soon as the holidays are over I'm starting to get the urge to get my hands dirty in the garden. The problem is, it's way too early. Our average last-frost date is April 15, give or take a few days, and that's for the hardiest plants.

There are a few chores you can take on when the weather permits, like cutting back ornamental grasses and perennials that have overwintered and are getting tattered. You can sharpen your tools, clean out the shed, and turn the compost.

You can also get yourself ready to go by taking advantage of the many learning opportunities available to gardeners through Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV).

On Saturday, February 10 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., MGNV and the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) will host a Spring Garden Kick-Off at St. Andrew's Episcopal on Lorcom Lane. You can attend free presentations on seed starting, composting, garden pests, pruning, and more. This program is part of the collaboration between MGNV and AFAC to encourage gardeners to grow vegetables to donate to AFAC.

On Saturday, February 17, from 1-4 p.m. at the Walter Reed Community Center, you can build your own cold frame to help extend the gardening season. This program costs \$65 to offset the costs of the materials you will need to construct a cold frame to take home with you at the end of the class.

Vegetable gardeners will appreciate "Vegetable Gardening Part 2: Planning and Preparation," a class that will be held at Westover Library on Saturday, February 24, from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

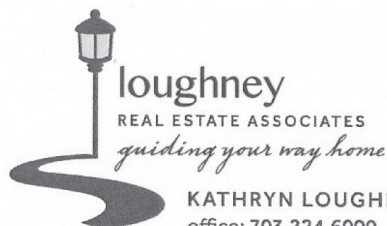
We in MGNV are committed to sustainable gardening, which means in part learning to garden to minimize water consumption. We're offering a class

on Wednesday, February 28, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Westover Library as part of the "DIY Sustainable Yard Series" that will focus on learning to retain and absorb storm water on your property to reduce runoff.

Those are just a few of the public education classes—almost all of them free—that VCE/MGNV will be offering just in the first quarter of 2018. There are also classes on pruning woody plants, lawn care, building healthy soil, and choosing plants for a sustainable garden. There are many more courses planned throughout the year, as well.

And if that's not enough, check out what's being offered through Green Spring Garden Park, another local resource for great gardening classes and information, and the U.S. Botanical Garden.

For those interested in becoming a Master Gardener, VCE and MGNV are going to offer an evening class this year, beginning in early September. Keep your eyes open for more information and sign up quickly, because the demand for evening/weekend classes is high.



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# FLEET ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

BY GRETCHEN KEARNEY  
AHCA APPOINTEE TO BUILDING  
LEVEL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The excavation of the two-level underground parking garage for the new Fleet Elementary is complete.

To expedite construction of the building structure (both for structural concrete and steel), a tower crane will be erected on site within the building pad. They are still working out the exact location of the crane to minimize impact on adjacent neighbors and maximize effectiveness for the work onsite. Once they secure the crane permit, they are hoping to have the crane onsite in by early February.

Construction of improvements to the west side sidewalk at S. Old Glebe Rd will commence shortly, if not by the time of newsletter publication. The goal of the sidewalk improvements is to provide a clear four-foot-wide path on the west side sidewalk from the 1st Road S. intersection to the northernmost extent of the project. Currently, there are utility poles right in the middle of the sidewalk at several locations. While the project does not have sufficient funds to move the poles out of the sidewalk (which is a very expensive operation) the county has approved installation of sidewalk nubs around the poles that will result in the four-foot-wide



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clear access path. This work will require that portions of the sidewalk and parking lane on the west side of the street be closed while the work is taking place.

Details on construction are always available online at the following web address, or feel free to contact me by email at [gretchenkearney@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenkearney@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns: <https://www.apsva.us/design-and-construction/new-elementary-school-jefferson-site/>

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

Because there are multiple elementary school openings and program moves taking place, the School Board is beginning its elementary school boundary process. The first work session was held on January 23.

- September 2019: Alice Fleet opens as neighborhood school
- September 2019: Elementary Montessori program moves from Drew to Henry site, and Drew opens as full neighborhood school

- September 2021: Reed opens as neighborhood school

The School Board asked staff to propose a process that includes all schools planned through 2021.

The initial timeline, as laid out in their January 23 agenda is:

- January 30 – Pre-engagement meeting with APS Ambassadors and PTA leaders, 7 p.m. at Education Center
- February – Finalize communications and community outreach plan and begin sharing information via Engage webpage and other communication channels
- Mid to late February – Initial community meeting

# NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

BY EILEEN JANAS, NCAC REPRESENTATIVE

The Arlington Heights Civic Association has been notified that the long delayed trail project on the Route 50 service road from Irving to Fillmore Street is approaching final design. The project was approved by the civic association in 2009 or 2010 and funded by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee in 2011. Much of the delay is due to the VDOT backlog and need for their approvals.

The concept design approved by the AHCA depicts improvements to the trail, drainage, landscaping, and pedestrian safety elements according to Juliet Hiznay's 2011 report in "Over the Fence."

Tim McIntosh, Neighborhood Conservation Program Manager, hopes to present the final design to the Civic Association this spring, with construction planned for summer or fall 2018. The Irving Street/Arlington Blvd. Phase II--2900-3200 block Arlington Blvd. project was originally budgeted at \$381,478.00.

## JOIN AHCA'S LISTSERV

Be sure to join the AHCA listserv. You'll receive timely online notices, alerts and neighborhood information. It's easy and free. Send an email to [ahca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ahca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

## PERSONALIZED FINANCIAL PLANNING AND ADVICE

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# LOCAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**SUMMER CAMP:** Arlington's summer camp registration starts Wednesday, February 14 at 7 a.m. Your child can become a Wellness Warrior or explore a full day of gymnastics fun while your teen enhances nutrition skills in the Fabulous Fun Fixin' Foods camp or completes nature adventures. And, of course, classic camps will be offered. Arlington County has great offerings to fit different skills, hobbies, and interests for a variety of ages and abilities. For listings, visit: <http://camps.arlingtonva.us/s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/>

**FEEL THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL:** Celebrate Black History Month at the twenty-sixth annual Feel the Heritage Festival. Enjoy live music, dance, dozens of vendors, delicious food, free kids' activities, and more on Saturday, February 24, 1-6 p.m. at Drew Community Center. You can even enter the First Annual Soul Food Cookoff! Learn more at: <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/feel-the-heritage-festival/>

*Looking to volunteer? Contact [lbarragan@arlingtonva.us](mailto:lbarragan@arlingtonva.us).*

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# BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE – APPLY TO NEIGHBORHOOD COLLEGE

Learn how to become a neighborhood advocate and effect change through Arlington County's free Neighborhood College program, which will meet on eight consecutive Thursday evenings beginning April 12, 2018.

The program, launched in 2000, develops civic engagement and leadership skills, and is geared toward Arlingtonians who want to become more involved in neighborhood and county-wide issues. Participants will learn about many aspects of Arlington County government and key community engagement.

Space is limited — apply in English or Spanish by March 16. Participants from across Arlington will learn, practice, and sharpen

core communication and influencing skills, such as:

- Giving and receiving feedback
- Asking questions that will elicit the most helpful responses
- Non-“fixing” listening
- Influencing with emotional intelligence
- Building consensus
- Organizing for action

Sessions will feature conversations with County Board members and the County Manager, Arlington Public Schools, Parks and Recreation, Libraries, Public Safety, and Neighborhood Services, significant community organizations that provide services to vulnerable populations, as well as organizations that provide resources to get involved at a

deeper level in Arlington County.

Quick facts:

- Course is free to participants
- Classes held on Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., March 16-May 4
- Each session begins with a healthy dinner
- Childcare and simultaneous interpretation, if needed, provided for free
- All sessions at Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, 9th Floor Conference Room, Arlington VA 22201 (Free parking).

Learn more and obtain an application here. All applications due Friday, March 16. For more information, call 703-228-3819 or email [kbrown-henry@arlingtonva.us](mailto:kbrown-henry@arlingtonva.us).



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## 2018 AHCA MEMBERSHIP

Your membership helps support the Arlington Heights Civic Association's activities. Members receive voting rights on issues presented to the association. Membership year runs the calendar year, renewable each January regardless what month dues were paid in the previous year.

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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## THANK YOU!

We thank all the AHCA members who have added additional contributions to their membership payments. Those additional contributions have not gone unnoticed, and collectively make a difference.

We would also like to thank the many local businesses who help make this newsletter and our social events possible every year.

If you own a business and are interested in advertising in "Over the Fence," please contact editor Claudia Winkler and/or Treasurer Scott Winn for further pricing information and other details (contact information on pages 2-3).

Annual Subscription Pricing (Four Issues):

Business Card - \$130

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