

OVER THE FENCE



NEWS FOR NEIGHBORS
FROM THE
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC
ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2018

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR THE AHCA
QUARTERLY
MEETING

TUESDAY,
MAY 8
AT 7 P.M.

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REMEMBERING PATRICK HENRY PRINCIPAL ANNIE TURNER

BY MEGAN HAYDASZ

Patrick Henry Elementary's beloved principal, Andrea "Annie" Turner, age 53, of Woodbridge, VA, passed away unexpectedly near the end of the school's spring break on Saturday, March 31, 2018.

Annie was a quiet, thoughtful leader who really cared about the children and always had their best interests at heart. Whether motivating students to read during our school read-a-thon by moving her desk to the roof for a day (a few years ago) or kissing a pig (this year), playing the flute in the staff's talent show act, or watching students overnight for a silent auction sleepover, she was always game for some fun!

She made sure that Patrick Henry events were inclusive of the *entire* community, with its highly diverse needs and cultural backgrounds. She continually devised ways to fit more *and more* children into an aging building built for 463 students, which now serves around 670 and continues to grow. Every morning, she personally welcomed students in through the lobby, greeting them by name—just one of the many ways she worked to maintain the "family" feel of a smaller school.

She also took very seriously the job of helping to design Patrick Henry's new building next to Thomas Jefferson Middle School, which will be known as Fleet Elementary. It is very regretful that she won't be there to see the new school open its doors in September 2019, but we know that she will be there with our community in spirit!

Annie is survived by her husband, Sheldon "Ty" Turner; her children, Danielle Frye, Kim Turner, and Kelsey Turner; her siblings, Robin Maycock, Jennifer Macotto (Eduardo), Joel Maycock (Cary), and Seth Maycock; and her parents Paul and Roma Maycock of Williamsburg, VA. Memorial contributions may still be made in Annie's name to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), www.unos.org, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Annie was a special person that helped make Patrick Henry Elementary a great place to learn and grow. Our community deeply respected her dedication and love for the school and our children, and we appreciated the opportunity to know her and benefit from her leadership.

We hope that Annie knew how much we all valued her and the wonderful school community she helped create. We will never forget her, and we will continue to honor her memory through our commitment to the school's motto to "Do your personal best today and all life long!"

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One position open

SPRING FEVER!

BY REBECCA MASHAW

The average last-frost date for our area is around April 15—which means we have the go-ahead to get gardening.

Still, there are some cautions to keep in mind before you go all-in. Even if it's no longer frozen, the soil may still be a bit cold and wet for deep digging; check its condition by grabbing a fistful of soil and squeezing it. If it clumps but then crumbles as you try to break the clod, it's fine. If it glues together, it's still too cold and damp and the clay may need to be lightened with some compost after it dries out a bit.

It's an ideal time to get a soil test, especially for areas where you had problems last year, such as plant die-off, pests or fungus. You can pick up the form, the container, and instructions at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 South Stafford St., at the plant clinics at the Central Library on Wednesday evenings, or at the

Courthouse Farmers Market on Saturday.

We didn't have heavy snows this winter but there were some very windy days that may have caused limbs to break. Check for damaged and crossing branches while trees are still bare, and trim them off back to the collar, where branch emerges from the main branch or trunk. If you're uncertain of your pruning skills, if the branch is a bit too high for you to reach safely, or if there are nearby electric lines, call a professional! They are worth the price you pay to ensure you stay safe and your trees and tall shrubs are trimmed expertly.

Don't overprune, especially on spring-flowering trees and shrubs; you may cut off the buds! Wait until forsythia, quince, viburnums, azaleas, and other spring shrubs have flowered before pruning anything but dead wood. The same goes for most summer-flowering hydrangeas.



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Evergreens can be pruned now but again, don't overdo it. Take off any dead or dying bits and trim up for neatness. Some evergreens can take harder pruning than others but it's best to not to cut back hard.

Make your beds—your garden beds, that is. Cut down any spent perennials from last year (carefully, to avoid damaging emerging plants) and clear leaves and debris from planting beds so the sun can shine in and warm the soil.

Take inventory of your garden supplies, from grass seed for lawn repair and fertilizers to potting soil and leaf bags. Look over your garden tools to see what maintenance they need—sharpening, oiling, removing rust, repairing handles. Have power tools such as lawnmowers serviced to ensure the blades are sharp and there's no water lingering in the gas tank.

Now for the lawn. Wait for the lawn to green up to see which areas are truly damaged or dead. A few days of warm weather, sunshine and a bit of rain will quickly show you which sections need repairing. Rake and remove any dead grass, overseed the bare patches and top dress with compost. Keep the area moist, and don't use weed-feed combos in these areas; they'll kill the sprouting grass.

If you haven't already set up a composting bin or pile, now is a great time to get started. Take all those leaves and twigs you've cleaned out of your garden beds and

pile them up; add some kitchen scraps (veggie and fruit peels, eggshells, coffee grounds...no meats!). Add grass clippings when you start mowing your lawn. Toss in shredded newspapers and even all the fur you comb from your pets as they start shedding their winter coats!

There are lots of different types of composting bins and containers you can use, or you can simply make one out of a few posts and some rabbit wire. Check the Virginia Cooperative Extension website (<http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/index.html>) for information on composting if you want to learn more. But get started!

It's time to feed the rest of the lawn with a fertilizer or compost and to apply pre-emergent weed treatment to get ahead of the crabgrass. There are some good weed-and-feed products available; talk to the experts at the nursery for advice.

Check your fences, arbors and trellises for needed repairs to broken or rotted wood, BEFORE the plants start growing rapidly. If (like most of us) you find some of your wooden structures are mildewed, scrub them with a mixture of two of gallons water, two quarts bleach, and one cup of liquid soap such a dishwashing soap. If you need to repaint you can find a mildew preventative at the nursery or home center to add to the paint that will help keep mold and mildew at bay.

Most of all, enjoy the spring!





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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION PASSES RESOLUTION ON CAREER CENTER

Thank you very much to all neighbors who attended the April 10, 2018, AHCA meeting. Please see below a resolution passed by AHCA members, which was sent to the Arlington School and County Boards. The resolution supports a neighborhood, comprehensive high school at the Career Center site, provided that it has equal facilities to Arlington's three existing comprehensive high schools, including but not limited to: an aquatics facility, art/music/performing arts/auditorium, library/media center, full-size gymnasium and auxiliary gymnasium, and outdoor field space and commons. The resolution also supports structured (underground) parking at the site.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION Passed April 10, 2018

WHEREAS, Arlington Public Schools (APS) is planning for the expected growth in high school enrollment and approved the planning for 700-800+ additional high school seats to be added at the Career Center, and the Arlington Tech program is expected to grow to 800 students by 2022;

WHEREAS, the Career Center Working Group (CCWG) is charged with developing a plan that defines how APS can open 700-800+ additional seats to the Career Center site by 2022, within funding already approved by the School Board, and the CCWG will provide options for optimizing future development of public facilities within the study area through a phased development plan;

WHEREAS, Arlington's three existing comprehensive high schools have already been internally maximized, and their academic and extracurricular programs cannot support significant additional growth;

WHEREAS, schools are public facilities, jointly funded by all taxpayers, and therefore all of Arlington's comprehensive high schools should offer equitable academic and extracurricular opportunities;

WHEREAS, the 22204 ZIP code (in which the Career Center is located) has a higher concentration of low-income residents and families than many other areas of Arlington, and these families already face many resource challenges, such as: (a) childcare affordability, (b) affordable enrichment/tutoring opportunities, (b) scheduling conflicts due to working multiple jobs, (c) dependence on public transportation, and reliance on public facilities, like libraries and community centers;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that low-income and/or minority children have higher instances of drowning, but busing to offsite pools would cut into required academic instructional time;

WHEREAS, the Career Center/Patrick Henry site offers the rare combination of: (a) a physically large parcel of land, (b) a central-Arlington location, and (c) high-accessibility to public transportation; joint-use amenities would provide much-needed recreation, meeting, and performance spaces for ALL of Arlington; and an improved connection to Columbia Pike would draw new and strengthen existing local businesses;

WHEREAS, inequality of funding and/or facilities by 2022 could ultimately result in substandard educational opportunities for 22204 students, which could, in turn, lead to a decline in business, community, and residential support for both this school and the 22204 ZIP code.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

- Arlington Heights Civic Association (AHCA) favors and supports a comprehensive neighborhood high school at the Career Center;
- AHCA opposes adding comprehensive high school seats to the Career Center without facilities equivalent to or exceeding those of the three existing comprehensive high schools, including but not limited to: an aquatics facility, art/music/performing arts/auditorium, library/media center, full-size gymnasium and auxiliary gymnasium, outdoor field space and commons, and structured (underground) parking;
- AHCA favors and supports the acquisition of properties south of the Career Center along Columbia Pike, that would (a) provide a needed connection between the Career Center and Columbia Pike, (b) provide additional space that could be used to house programs now located at the Career Center, and (c) free up space on the Career Center site for other uses;
- AHCA favors and supports the relocation of the Columbia Pike library to a new building to be built at or about Columbia Pike and South Highland Street;
- AHCA favors and supports postponing the addition of additional high school seats to the Career Center by two (2) years to 2024 in order to obtain additional funding during the CIP; and
- AHCA requests that any proposal to add high school seats at the Career Center should include a detailed plan, both physical and financial, for construction and for the educational and extracurricular opportunities that will be offered to students attending school there.

Kristi Rupert Sawert, AHCA President

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COMPASS



ISO: INTERESTED ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MILLENNIALS TO SERVE ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

BY MAUREEN CRITCHLEY

Arlington Heights Civic Association (AHCA) currently has one vacancy for delegate and another vacancy for an alternate to the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF). The current president of ACCF, Duke Banks, has asked neighborhood civic associations to bring in "new blood" to the ACCF by encouraging millennials and other young people to become more involved in county issues that face the county government and schools, such as recent past topics that have appeared on ACCF's monthly agendas: transitioning to renewable energy, responsibility and liability of nonprofit board members, planning and zoning, and medical marijuana, to name a few of the topics discussed during recent meetings with subject experts.

At the March 6, 2018, meeting, two Arlington Heights delegates addressed questions to the five-member School Board asking when they envisioned opening a fourth county high school, and when they envisioned transitioning from a facility that serves only choice programs to a neighborhood population.

ACCF meetings usually take place on the first Tuesday of each month (excluding July and August), from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in an auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center. Free parking in a designated area is referenced in ACCF's monthly email reminder that is sent to all delegates and alternates. Meetings are recorded and edited by Career Center students.

Interested residents who wish to be considered to serve as a delegate or alternate are encouraged to contact AHCA President, Kristi Sawert at: ahca.Ksawert@gmail.com. Please send along a brief info about how long you have lived in Arlington Heights (newcomers are welcome!) and what your civic interests are so that the AHCA Executive Board can consider your qualifications.



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NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATES

BY EILEEN JANUS, AHCA REPRESENTATIVE TO NCAC

ARLINGTON BOULEVARD TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The Arlington Boulevard Trail Project, approved by the civic association in 2010 and funded by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee in 2011, is moving ahead at last. Neighborhood Conservation Program Manager Tim McIntosh and Chris Balallo of the Department of Environmental Services presented project plans at the Arlington Heights Civic Association meeting on Tuesday, April 10. McIntosh expects the 100 percent of the plans will be signed by the Engineering Bureau by the end of July, with construction beginning in late August or early September 2018.

The current trail along Arlington Boulevard between S. Fillmore St. and Thomas Jefferson Community Park is discontinuous and beset with drainage issues. The trail project will construct a 10' wide path with a 2° ADA-compliant slope for drainage from S. Fillmore St. to TJ Park, separated from the highway and service roads. The curb and gutter at the S. Highland St./Arlington Boulevard intersection will be realigned to improve safety. Parking in front of Etz Hayim will remain, but a planted buffer will separate it from the trail. Jill Yutan, the landscape architect for the NC Program, stated that all of the invasive trees along the route will be removed and replaced by fast-growing native trees. They will remove 22 trees and plant about 36. No trees can be planted in the section between S. Fillmore St. and S. Fenwick St. because of utility and gas lines in that area.

Trail project delays were primarily due to the jurisdictional complexity of the location and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) competing priorities. As of result of the delay and expected cost overruns, lighting will not be part of the trail project. The county is currently undertaking a Streetlight Management Plan and staff is considering options for a more comprehensive lighting approach along the trail adjacent to Arlington Boulevard beyond the scope of this project. Stakeholders along Arlington Boulevard will be included in the pre-construction meeting and kept apprised of traffic changes as the work proceeds.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - UPDATE AND CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee will hold a funding round in June and select the next group of projects with enough points to take to the County Board for funding. Although Arlington Heights Civic Association does not have enough points for funding in this round, we have an approved project working its way up the queue: traffic calming and intersection redesign on 1st Road South (between S. Glebe Rd. and Old Glebe Rd.). At our May meeting we will vote to reaffirm this as our first priority project.

We can add a second project to the queue in this funding round, even though it will be years before we accumulate enough points for construction. In my walks through the neighborhood, it appears to me that AHCA has updated all the streetlights throughout our association. If I'm mistaken, please let me know so I can add a streetlight project to the NCAC queue. Over the past 20 years we have also added curbs and gutters to many of the streets that did not have them, and most of our streets now have sidewalks on at least one side of the street. I have noticed two places where neither side of the street has a sidewalk:

Highland St. S - from Rt. 50 to 2nd St.
Irving St. S - from 6th St. - 7th St.

Would we like to enter either of these locations as an AHCA street improvement project?

Please bring project suggestions to the May meeting for discussion.

PROGRESS ON IRVING ST./ARLINGTON BLVD. INTERSECTION

The intersection safety improvement project at Arlington Boulevard and Irving Street continues on schedule. In spite of challenging weather conditions this winter, the work has continued according to plan. The new traffic signal equipment is installed, curb cuts are in place, and most of the concrete work is finished.

Once Dominion Energy removes the old pole at the southwest corner, the concrete work will be finished, asphalt paving completed, and pavement markings redone. Mr. Charles Boateng, the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services construction manager, anticipates that the project will be finished on time by the contractual completion date of summer 2018. (UPDATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.)

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:

Arlington Heights Civic Association
P.O. Box 40311, Arlington, VA 22204

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

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

Quarter Page - \$245

Half Page - \$425

Full Page - \$825

ONE MORE THING FOR THE SPRING "TO-DO" LIST: CLEAR THE SIDEWALK

As you tackle your spring yard care projects, please make sure to remove sidewalk obstructions. Closely examine the plants on your property that are next to the sidewalks, and trim them in accordance with county standards. Hedges should not protrude over the sidewalk. Tree limbs that extend over the sidewalk should not be lower than 10 feet. 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 due to overgrown bushes. Please pay particular attention to things growing at stroller height. A branch hitting an adult at knee level can cause serious harm to a toddler.

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 <https://library.arlingtonva.us/services/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)

