Arlington County Secret Santa

Make someone’s holiday special

Make the holiday season happier for some of Arlington’s most vulnerable residents by taking part in the Department of Human Services’ Secret Santa Program.

How it works

Donate gift cards from area stores: Cards from grocery stores, drug stores, clothing stores and Target all work great – and the Department of Human Services distributes them to more than 1,000 needy individuals in the community in the holiday season.

Who it helps

Children in Foster Care: Your contribution of a gift card will help bring a happy holiday to these deserving kids. Most kids in foster care are teens, and it is nearly impossible to get the right gift for a teenager — so gift cards are a great option.

People with Disabilities and Seniors with Low Incomes: Making ends meet can be difficult when you are without family and on a fixed income. That’s the case for many older Arlingtonians and members of the community who have disabilities.

Families with Low Incomes: For families struggling to put food on the table, having the money to purchase even modest holiday gifts is difficult. For low-income households, gift cards from local grocery stores are a big help — and helping a parent buy a special gift for his or her child is priceless.

Gift cards should not exceed $25 each, but you can submit as many as you like. Donations are generally tax deductible.

Checks are welcome too: Make them out to “Arlington County Treasurer – Secret Santa.” We’ll purchase gift cards with your donation.

Remember to include a return mail address or email address so we can send you a thank-you note and a tax receipt.

How to Be a Secret Santa

Mail or hand deliver gift cards/checks by Dec. 17 to:
Secret Santa Program
c/o Kurt Larrick
Department of Human Services
2100 Washington Blvd., 4th Floor
Arlington, VA 22204

Cards/checks may be designated for a particular beneficiary group or left undesignated. Undesignated gift cards are especially welcome and will be used where they’re needed most.

Include the value of the gift card (if it’s not printed on the card), a return address so we can acknowledge your gift and send a tax form, and a beneficiary designation if you choose one.

Holiday Happenings from Parks and Recreation

Whether you want to create a personalized gift, visit St. Nick, explore nature, relax with loved ones or sneak away for last minute shopping, we have you covered.

Winter Wonderland Dance Party: Grab the kids and dance the night away on Dec. 5 at Arlington Mill Community Center, 7-9 p.m.

Visit with Santa in the Old Log House: At Gulf Branch Nature Center Dec 6, 7 and 13. Make special holiday crafts, watch the toy trains or take a walk through the winter woods.*

* Registration required; times for Santa visit are given after registration.

Make Holiday Crafts: Adults and kids 12 and up are invited to Long Branch Nature Center, Sat., Dec. 6, 1-4 p.m. to make holidays crafts. Enjoy music, refreshments, basic instruction and enough materials for each participant to make at least two decorative crafts.

* Registration required.

Families Unplugged: Put down your cell phone and computer and recharge your internal battery. Make gingerbread houses and participate in holiday story time. Dec. 13, 3-5 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center.

New Year’s Eve Stroll and Campfire: Explore Gulf Branch Nature Center Dec. 31, 6-7:30 p.m. and celebrate the last night of the year.

* Registration required.

Walk ‘Til You Shop

This holiday season, use two feet instead of four wheels to find that perfect gift for everyone on your list — by doing your holiday shopping right here in Arlington. You’ll save money you would have spent on gas, gain time you would have wasted looking for a parking space, and spare yourself the ordeal of holiday traffic.

Most of the County’s most walkable, shoppable neighborhoods are featured in WalkArlington’s series of self-guided neighborhood walking tours, known as Walkabouts. Each of the featured Arlington neighborhoods has its own self-guided Walkabout map so you can plot out your route and bundle your outings. After you’ve made your purchases, you can use the time you saved by shopping locally to explore the rest of the neighborhood on foot.

Here are just a few of the Walkabout routes that offer pedestrian-friendly shopping opportunities:

- Arlington Ridge/Aurora Highlands
- Ballston-Virginia Square
- Clarendon-Courthouse
- Columbia Pike (Pike Hike I and Pike Hike II)
- Crystal City
- Fairlington-Shirlington
- High View Park/Waverly Hills/Cherrydale
- Nauck
- Rosslyn
- Westover

* Registration required.
Board Awards Streetcar Engineering Contract

Engineering and design of the 7.4-mile Arlington streetcar system is getting underway following the County Board’s approval, at its September meeting, of a $26 million, multiphase contract. The County awarded the contract to a multi-disciplinary team led by HDR Engineering, Inc. HDR Engineering has extensive experience in designing and engineering streetcar and light-rail projects, including streetcars in Salt Lake City, Kansas City and Washington D.C. “The County has picked a highly experienced team to cost-effectively move the streetcar project from concept to reality,” said Arlington County Board Chair Jay fisette. “It is exciting to see the streetcar project, which will bring so many benefits to our community, move forward.” Preliminary engineering, expected to take 18 months, will include developing 30 percent design plans for the roadway, track alignment, power, signals, stations and facilities; vehicle specifications; and updated construction cost estimates.

Funding for the streetcar comes from state grants, commercial real estate tax revenues that can only be spent on new transportation projects, and a fund dedicated to infrastructure investment in Crystal City.

Arlington-Fairfax project agreement

Also in September, the Board approved an update to the cost-sharing agreement with Fairfax County. Under the agreement, Arlington will continue to pay 80.4 percent and Fairfax will pay 19.6 percent for costs related to the Columbia Pike streetcar, which the two counties are building together. The percentage is based on the length of the streetcar segment in each jurisdiction, as well as ridership expected for each.

Visit arlingtonva.us/streetcar for more details about the streetcar and sign up for monthly email updates.

2015-2016 Decal Competition

High school students — send us your designs

Are you an Arlington high school student? Are you artistic? Send us your design ideas for decals. The competition is open to all high school students living or attending school in Arlington.

The design should have an Arlington County theme. The winner will be displayed on more than 160,000 vehicles. Additionally, this year’s decal finalists will be featured in Founders Art Gallery in the Founders Hall on the Arlington campus of George Mason University Dec. 11, 2014-January 20, 2015.

A Citizens’ Panel will vote to narrow down the submissions to four finalists and the winner will be selected in a countywide vote. Cash prizes, sponsored by John Marshall Bank, will be awarded to all four finalists. First place will receive $750 and the other three winners will each receive $500. Submissions are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014. For more information visit www.arlingtonva.us/treas.

Go Behind the Cameras

With White House photojournalist Dennis Brack

Presidents can stay only eight years but veteran photojournalists like Dennis Brack have spent decades documenting First Family life and fresh history in the White House “fishbowl.”

Having created a museum’s worth of images for the Black Star agency, Brack has now written the book on his craft, Presidential Picture Stories: Behind the Cameras at the White House.

Packed with historic photos and filled with stories from dozens of acclaimed colleagues, Brack’s book charts a history that goes back to the Civil War — and shows how the most unforgettable shots are the result of that close and sometimes tense relationship between press and president.

Dennis Brack is a former president of the White House News Photographers Association who averaged a picture per week in Time magazine for 23 years. He’ll speak at Central Library Auditorium on Monday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m., on the joys and ordeals of such high-profile, high-pressure work.

From JFK to Barack Obama, Brack has known them all, and can vouch for the unique temperament of the men and women President George H.W. Bush called his “photodogs.”

And if there’s time, Brack just might share a non-presidential story or two. Like the time he staged a quick photo-shoot on a snowy National Mall, capturing John, Paul, George and Ringo just hours before their first-ever concert in America.

Photos by Dennis Brack

Our Vision: Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial
## 2014 REFERENDA

Voters to Consider Four Local Bond Referenda on Nov. 4

### Metro and Transportation: $60,240,000

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of $60,240,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and other transit, pedestrian, road or transportation projects?

This proposal would fund a variety of transportation, road, pedestrian enhancement and transit projects, not to include the streetcar, across the County. The largest component of this proposal would fund Arlington County’s share of WMATA/Metro’s capital improvement program, including the Metro Capital Improvement Program to improve regional mobility and accessibility and relieve traffic congestion. This proposal would also provide matching funds for certain transportation projects that receive state and federal funding. Proceeds of this proposal would also fund a portion of the costs for paving local streets and roadways, as well as WALKArlington, BikeArlington, and Neighborhood Complete Streets programs. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

### Local Parks and Recreation: $13,070,000

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of $13,070,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation, and land acquisition for parks and open space?

The proposed Local Parks & Recreation program would fund park improvements and enhancements, and land acquisition for parks and open space. Approximately $2 million for the Land Acquisition and Open Space programs is expected to fund strategic park acquisitions. This proposal would also fund maintenance capital improvements such as playgrounds, courts and other parks infrastructure improvements. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

### Community Infrastructure: $39,900,000

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of $39,900,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for County facilities, information technology, and infrastructure?

This proposal would provide funding for Board-approved Neighborhood Conservation projects. The Neighborhood Conservation Program provides funding for a variety of neighborhood-identified capital improvement projects, including street improvements (sidewalk, curb and gutter, drainage, paving), traffic management and pedestrian enhancements, park improvements, street lighting, recreational facilities, landscaping, and beautification.

This proposal will also provide funding for the County’s information technology and public safety needs through installation of a public safety network; planning for Lubber Run Community Center and the 26th Street & Old Dominion site, and construction funding for replacement of the salt facility only after completion of the planning process; improvements to the Trades Center, including a new parking deck and wash bay; critical infrastructure upgrades to 24/7 facilities; and facilities maintenance capital improvements, including design and construction of projects, including but not limited to roofs, electrical and heating/cooling systems and other facilities infrastructure. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

### Arlington Public School Projects: $105,780,000

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of $105,780,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the costs of various capital projects for Arlington Public Schools?

This proposal would make funds available for the Arlington Public Schools’ capital improvement program. The proposed bonds will fund the design and construction of various School facility projects including, among others, new elementary, middle, and high schools, building additions and or renovations to existing schools, and maintenance capital projects. The School Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.
AIRE
Change of season – change a bulb

As we shift gears into winter, consider switching some of the lights in your home to LEDs. As the days get shorter we keep our lights on longer which is the prime time of year to receive the most savings from more efficient lights.

Take a look at our infographic that shows some technical benefits of LEDs over CFLs and incandescent bulbs.

Lighting costs typically account for 12-20 percent of your electric bill. Changing a light bulb is one of the easiest actions to start saving energy at home. LED options are available in a variety of shapes and sizes.

Still have questions about lighting? Join AIRE online at www.arlingtonenergy.us and www.facebook.com/ArlingtonAIRE.

Switch to LED
Save Energy & Money

LED Bulbs Last 25 Times Longer

1 LED
4 CFL
25 INCANDESCENT

Number of light bulbs necessary for 20,000 hours of use

Same Brightness, Less Energy

800 LUMENS = 10 Watt
15 Watt
60 Watt

10 Watt
15 Watt
60 Watt

Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR Program

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Events Around Arlington

OCTOBER

29
100 Homes Celebration/Community Meeting on Homelessness: We worked together as a community to find homes for 100 homeless Arlingtonians. Join us to celebrate this remarkable achievement — and help launch an exciting new initiative that will bring us even closer to ending homelessness in Arlington. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. NRECA Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Blvd. Free parking underneath the building. publicassistance.arlingtonva.us/100hp

DECEMBER

5
Improvise Shakespeare Company: Artisphere invites audiences to laugh their arse off with the renowned Improvised Shakespeare Company. Based on one audience suggestion (a title for a play that has yet to be written), The Improvised Shakespeare Company creates a fully improvised play in Elizabethan style. Each of the players has brushed up on his “thee’s” and “thou’s” to bring you an evening of off-the-cuff comedy using the language and themes of William Shakespeare. 8 p.m. Sat Dec. 5, 7 & 9 p.m. Dome Theater at Artisphere. artisphere.com
Preventing the Flu
Some helpful tips

Arlington’s Public Health Department created this checklist to help keep your family healthy this fall and winter.

- **Get your annual flu vaccine.** Vaccination is recommended for everyone six months of age and older. It’s especially important for those with chronic medical conditions, healthcare workers, pregnant women and caregivers of infants. Find a location near you at health.arlingtonva.us/flu.

- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.** Germs can enter the body through these areas.

- **Avoid unnecessary contact** with sick people.

- **Disinfect frequently touched surfaces** regularly (i.e., toys, doorknobs, tabletops), especially if someone is sick.

- **Cough or sneeze into the crook** of your elbow or cover your nose and mouth with a tissue.

- **Limit contact with others** as much as possible if you or your child become sick to help prevent spreading illness. Stay home (or keep your child home) for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to seek medical care.

**Free Flu Shots**

**When:** Election Day, Nov. 4, 2014, 8-11 a.m. or while vaccine supplies last.

**Where:** Yorktown High School, 5200 Yorktown Blvd., Door #1 (Main Entrance); Atrium area across from Cafeteria

**Who:** Vaccine available for persons 3 years old and up. Persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

**Why:** The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year.

**Donate Blankets for Syrian Refugees**

To build on the success of last year’s effort, Northern Virginia is once again undertaking a blanket drive to help those families who left their homes with only what they could carry on their back. This year’s blanket drive will take place Nov. 1-21.

**Where to donate**

Bring your clean, folded blankets (no sheets) to:

- Stambaugh Human Services Center, 2100 Washington Blvd. (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Lobby of Courthouse Plaza, 2300 Clarendon Blvd. (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Our goal is to fill several shipping containers that will then be delivered to Turkey, where a local relief agency will distribute them to the refugee families.

Make your donations no later than Nov. 21. Those wishing to make a financial contribution can do so by supporting our partner organization Embrace Relief. For more information, visit www.arlingtonva.us; search “blanket.”

**Christmas Tree Collection**

Christmas Tree Collection will begin Jan. 5-16, 2015. Residents can place trees at the curb on their scheduled trash day for pick-up. If you do not have curbside service, bring your tree on the first Saturday of the month to the Solid Waste Bureau, located at 4300 29th St. South, or schedule a drop-off appointment by calling 703-228-6570.

Before dropping off your tree for recycling, remember:

- Remove the tree stand and decorations
- Do NOT put the tree in a bag
- Place your tree curbside before 7 a.m. on collection day

For more information, visit www.arlingtonva.us; search “Christmas tree collection.”

Seeking Human Rights Heroes

Nominations are now open for Arlington County’s annual James B. Hunter Human Rights Award. Each year, Arlington honors County residents, community groups, non-profit organizations and businesses that have made a difference by championing human rights.

The award is named for the former County Board Member who, during his many years of public service, worked tirelessly on behalf of individuals with little access to government.

Applications are due by Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014.

If you know an organization or individual with significant human rights achievements, visit arlingtonva.us; search “James Hunter” to learn more about the award criteria and guidelines, and how to submit your nomination form. You may also call the Human Rights Commission Office at: 703-228-3929, or 703-228-4611 (TTY) to ask for a paper copy of the nomination form.

James B. Hunter, photo courtesy of Center for Local History at Arlington Public Library

Arlington is participating in and supporting the Northern Virginia Regional Commission’s efforts to collect blankets for Syrian refugees who have fled to Turkey.

In 2013, with the generous support of many citizens and businesses, the Northern Virginia community collected nearly 18,000 blankets (about 12 tons) to help Syrian refugees in Turkey who fled their homes due to the violence in their country.

Since that time, matters have only grown worse with more than one million Syrian refugees living in Turkey alone; many do not live in refugee camps.

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Eenie, meenie, minie, moe.

Don’t know which Arlington transportation option to choose? CarFreeAtoZ™ can help.

There are countless ways to get around Arlington without a car – bus, rail, biking, walking and more. But only CarFreeAtoZ lets you compare all of them, for any trip you want to take! With turn-by-turn directions, travel times, costs and calories burned for all the travel options available in Arlington, CarFreeAtoZ has everything you need to plan your trip, from A to Z. Try the beta version now and tell us what you think at carfreeAtoZ.com.
CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Arlington Boulevard Bridge Project Complete

On Sept. 17, Arlington County and the Virginia Department of Transportation celebrated the completion of a years-long $40 million project. The project rebuilt two interchanges at Courthouse Road and 10th Street to make them safer, more accessible and to improve traffic flow for our regional transportation network. Cyclists and pedestrians can now enjoy a new shared-use path on the eastbound side of Arlington Boulevard and an extension of the existing one on the westbound side as part of the overall infrastructure improvements. Public art was also successfully incorporated into the interchanges, greatly improving the aesthetics of the area and creating a unique user experience for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway

Construction on Arlington’s Transitway continues to progress steadily. Work started in Potomac Yard, where new dedicated transit lanes and stations are being built, and will progress toward Crystal City during the fall. For a glimpse of what Arlington’s Transitway stations will look like, visit the work being done on South Glebe Road between Clark and Ball Streets. If you have questions or comments regarding construction, call 703-638-0165. For more information and to sign up for updates, visit www.arlingtonva.us; search “Transitway.”

Columbia Pike Street Improvements and Utility Undergrounding

Verizon and Dominion Virginia Power continue to transfer their respective overhead utility lines to the underground duct system, between South Wakefield Street and Four Mile Run Drive. New signals poles and streetlights are being installed and activated. Removing the existing utility poles will allow for completion of the Four Mile Run realignment. Construction on this section of Columbia Pike is anticipated to be complete in fall 2014. For more info visit www.arlingtonva.us; search “Columbia Pike Utility Undergrounding.”

Call for Nominations

2014 Bill Thomas Awards

K now an individual or group who have dedicated time, expertise or funding to make Arlington County Parks and Recreation flourish? Nominate them for a 2014 Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Award. This award was established to pay tribute to lifelong parks volunteer Bill Thomas, and to honor and encourage residents who share in his mission to support Arlington’s dynamic Parks and Recreation programs, facilities and natural resources. Nominations are due Feb. 6, 2015. To make a nomination or for more information visit parks.arlingtonva.us; search “Bill Thomas.”

Use 3 Feet to Pass

W hile Arlington road users already know that the best way to share the road is by being a PAL—Predictable, Alert and Lawful, an update to Virginia law will help. The law now states that a motorist “shall pass at a reasonable speed at least three feet to the left of the overtaken bicycle.” Virginia joins 23 other states and the District of Columbia in having a three-foot passing law.

So when you are driving a car, what does it feel like to pass a person on a bike and give them the safe three-feet minimum? For most road situations, a safe and legal pass will have the driver adjusting the position of the vehicle so the driver’s seat straddles the center line. When we all give each other a little more room, we can be more comfortable, regardless of whether we are driving, biking or walking.

Visit www.bikearlington.com for more useful tips.

Can the Grease to Prevent Sewer Backups

W e all know that fats, oils and grease (FOG) should be consumed sparingly because they can clog your arteries, but did you know that FOG can also clog sanitary sewer pipes as well?

• FOG includes materials like butter, cooking oil, lard, meat scraps, shortening, and margarine. When these materials are dumped down the drain, they form large, thick clumps of grease that clog the sewer pipes. Clogged pipes from improper disposal of FOG, can result in sewage backups, creating environmental and health problems, traffic tie-ups, and even flooded businesses. Cleanup can be expensive.

When backups occur on private property, the homeowner or business owner is responsible for the cleanup.

What you can do to fight FOG:

• Keep an empty metal can and pour cooking grease into the can. Allow grease to cool in the container before throwing it in the trash.

• For greasy pans, use a paper towel to wipe out the remaining grease prior to washing.

• Place liquid oils in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.

• Keep drains clean by pouring 1/2-cup baking soda down the drain, followed by 1/2-cup white vinegar. Wait 10-15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.

Remember, the sewer line that connects your house to the line in the street is privately maintained all the way to the connection point, even the part that runs under the street. Do your part to keep Arlington’s sewers clear.

Two More Arlington Trees Protected for Perpetuity

A post Oak and White Oak were added to Arlington County’s Specimen Tree list by the County Board in October. This designation means that the trees are protected from removal or injury. Alexander Gorny, owner of the Post Oak (Quercus stellata) on 23 Fenwick St., nominated his tree because of its outstanding size. County Staff nominated the White Oak (Quercus alba) as it’s on public land on the former Reeves Property adjacent to Bluemont Park (400 N. Manchester St.). To learn more about the County’s protected trees or to nominate one of your own trees, visit park.arlingtonva.us; search “specimen tree.”
### Leaf Collection

The beautiful colors of the autumn season are upon us. Do you know the best way to dispose of your leaves? Staff analyzes historic data, weather forecasts, and tree types/density to determine the leaf collection schedule. Each civic association's canopy has been evaluated by tree species to ensure that we collect the leaves in those associations whose trees lose their leaves first.

**Leaf collection requirements**
- Place leaves out for vacuum collection BEFORE the date indicated on the posted leaf signs.
- Do NOT park on leaf piles. It is a fire hazard.
- Do NOT put leaves under low hanging wires or near parked cars.

**Leaf collection highlights**

Bag Collection Begins Nov. 3
- Collected weekly the day after your scheduled trash day.
- Biodegradable bags are available at County locations. Check online or on your leaf season cart hanger for a full list of locations.
- Always use paper biodegradable bags. NO PLASTIC.

Vacuum Collection Begins Nov. 10
- Two collections for each civic association.
- If you use a lawn service, coordinate with them to ensure that they are aware of the collection schedule and that they use paper biodegradable bags.
- Leaves in plastic bags will be disposed of as trash on your following trash day and not collected for recycling.
- Neighborhood signs placed 3-7 days before each collection.
- Sign up for schedule notifications at www.arlingtonva.us/subscribe and find out when vacuums are in your neighborhood.
- Learn more at www.arlingtonva.us; search “leaf collection.”

### Protect Yourself During the Holidays

**Safety tips from the Arlington County Police Department**

- Robberies and thefts often increase around the holidays. Find out how to ensure that you are not a victim.
- When shopping, don’t leave valuables in your vehicle. Keep packages and shopping bags hidden from view. If possible, place them in the trunk before you park.
- Park in well-lit areas. Lock your car door.
- Be aware of your surroundings when using an ATM.
- If carrying a purse, hold it close to you with the opening or flap to the inside, nearest your body. Never leave a purse in a shopping basket.
- Wallets should be carried in your front pants pocket or in an interior jacket pocket.
- Do not leave your wallet, cell phone, or laptop sitting on a tabletop in a restaurant, food court, or store.
- Carry valuables wisely. Don’t keep cash in your wallet (or only a small amount). Put cash in an inside pocket and only carry the credit cards you plan to use.
- Protect your credit card numbers and other personal information. Only provide credit card numbers over the phone if you initiated the call and know to whom you are providing the information. Don’t let strangers distract you when making a store purchase.
- If you are traveling for the holidays, have a friend or neighbor collect your mail and newspapers. Consider suspending your service while you are away.
- Be aware of your surroundings and exit stores with other people. You are an easier target alone. Report anything or anyone suspicious.
- If you use a lawn service, coordinate with them to ensure that they are aware of the collection schedule and that they use paper biodegradable bags.
- Leaves in plastic bags will be disposed of as trash on your following trash day and not collected for recycling.
- Neighborhood signs placed 3-7 days before each collection.
- Sign up for schedule notifications at www.arlingtonva.us/subscribe and find out when vacuums are in your neighborhood.
- Learn more at www.arlingtonva.us; search “leaf collection.”

### First-Rate Baseball Facility at Barcroft Park

Barcroft Park has long been a favorite recreation spot for Arlingtonians. But what vaulted it to top regional and national rankings? With support from George Washington University (GWU), Barcroft Field #6 was renovated in 2013 into a first-rate facility for the university’s Division I baseball team (Atlantic 10 Conference), With the enhancements, Field #6 became Arlington’s first synthetic turf baseball diamond.

Barcroft Field #6 has recently been ranked by Stadium Journey Magazine — and its corresponding website Stadiumjourney.com — as the top stadium facility in the Atlantic 10 Conference and number 68 in the United States.

The partnership made sense from the start. George Washington University wanted a top-quality facility for its baseball team and Arlington County wanted to enhance our community facility. With GWU’s support, this stadium now has a synthetic turf field, as well as first-class dugouts, press box, ticket box, concessions, and more. The Barcroft facility out-ranked similar facilities at the University of Maryland, Georgetown University, George Mason University, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond.

In 2015, Barcroft Park will host the 2015 Atlantic 10 Baseball Championship. Interested in playing on Field #6? Visit www.arlingtonva.us; search “Barcroft.”
Stop-Sign Cameras Coming to School Buses

Arlington Public Schools will begin installing and operating video-monitoring systems on school buses on Feb. 1, 2015, to record violations by motorists passing stopped school buses.

The high-resolution cameras will be installed on the stop-sign arm on the exterior of the school buses. The cameras will automatically capture images and video of any vehicle that passes the bus, from behind or from the side, when the bus is stopped with a flashing red signal and the bus arm is extended. They will require no action by the bus driver.

Once video cameras are installed on APS school buses, each violation initially will be reviewed by a selected vendor, then sent to the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) for final review. If ACPD confirms a violation, it will issue a citation that will be mailed to the vehicle’s registered owner. The owner of the vehicle will be subject to a civil penalty of $250 that will be payable to Arlington Public Schools. According to the ACPD, about 700 citations have been issued in the past five years for motorists who have passed stopped school buses. Passing a stopped school bus with a flashing signal is a violation of the Virginia traffic code. In 2011, Virginia amended the traffic code to authorize municipalities to adopt ordinances that allow school districts to place cameras on buses to record drivers violating the regulation.

APS & Signature in the Schools Present Anne & Emmett, a One-Act Play

Arlington Public Schools is partnering with Signature Theater’s Signature in the Schools Program to present Janet Langhart Cohen’s one-act play Anne & Emmett in November. Anne & Emmett examines the tragedy of racial and ethnic hostilities symbolized by two famous martyrs—Anne Frank and Emmett Till. The 90-minute play features two APS students and two professional actors, and depicts an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till about the horrific experiences that led to their deaths as teenagers. The suffering and injustice they endured raised awareness and ignited movements to overcome the prejudices they faced.

“Performing arts opportunities create a school and community partnership where students experience learning outside of their classrooms, making connections through history to the present day and fostering a dialogue for social justice and acceptance,” said Superintendent Dr. Pat Murphy.

As part of the APS Cultural Competence Initiative, the play will be performed for all APS administrators, students at each of Arlington’s high schools, and APS middle school social studies students and theater teachers. Next year, APS plans to produce a 45-60 minute classroom version of the play and develop lessons about Anne & Emmett that will become a permanent part of the seventh-grade social studies curriculum.

“Our overall goal is to create tolerance and acceptance in our society, and what better place to start than in our schools with our students, teachers and administrators,” said APS arts supervisor Pam Farrell.

A public performance of the play is scheduled on Sat, Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. at Wakefield High School. Tickets are available online at www.apsva.us/artseducation.

Provide Your Feedback on More Seats for More Students

Throughout October, APS engaged the community through online discussions and community meetings about More Seats for More Students, a process in which various sites were explored for capital projects that increase capacity at both the elementary and secondary level. APS has asked the community to participate and provide feedback on how to build additional capacity to accommodate increasing enrollment at all levels.

Here’s how you can get involved in the discussion:

- Nov. 3: CIP Stakeholder Night at Washington-Lee, 7-9 p.m.
- Nov. 7: Twitter Town Hall #3, 12 p.m. Use hashtag #MSMS
- Nov. 13: Secondary Seats Meeting #3 at Williamsburg Middle School, 7-9 p.m.

For updates on past discussions, check out CIP-TV at: www.apsva.us/moreseats/CIPTV

For additional dates, visit: www.apsva.us/MoreSeats/Calendar

You can email your questions and comments to moreseats@apsva.us. The School Board is expected to make a final decision by early 2015.
Graduation Rates for Arlington’s Class of 2014 increased to 92% for all APS students, up from 91.3% in 2013, and up from 85.2% in 2010. In addition, the On-Time Graduation Rate for students in the three comprehensive high schools rose to a combined overall average of 98.7%, up from 97.5% in 2013. The overall dropout rate has decreased by 65% since 2010.

2014 School Bond Up for Approval in November

On Election Day, November 4, Arlington voters will be asked to approve $105,780,000 in School Bonds to address growing capacity needs for elementary, middle, and high school students throughout Arlington County.

More and more families are calling Arlington home, taking advantage of our outstanding transportation infrastructure, strong neighborhoods, wonderful community assets, and the great education that Arlington Public Schools provides. As a result of our increasing student enrollment, Arlington needs to build more classroom space to help maintain the quality of the education that we provide.

How much is the APS student enrollment growing?

We’re soon going to have more students in Arlington than we’ve ever had. Based on current and projected enrollment, APS will grow to an all-time high of more than 30,000 students by 2023, an increase of more than 6,000 students from today’s enrollment. This enrollment growth will leave APS with the following seat shortages by the fall of 2023, based on existing facilities and including projects already approved:

- 1,900 elementary seats
- 1,600 middle school seats
- 2,800 high school seats

How will the 2014 School Bond funds be used?

- $50,250,000 will be used for a new elementary school, with the Jefferson site as the preferred location, adding 725 seats. If the County Board does not approve that site, the School Board will use the funding to build additions at two elementary schools in the southern part of the County. These new schools will be completed by the fall of 2018.
- $28,750,000 will be used for an addition and renovation at Abingdon Elementary School, adding 136 seats, to be completed by the fall of 2017.
- $10,310,000 for Minor Construction & Major Maintenance projects to maintain our school facilities.
- $7,470,000 will be used to complete the addition at McKinley Elementary, which was partially funded with funds from the 2012 School Bond, adding 241 seats. This project will be completed by the fall of 2016.
- $5,000,000 will be used for improvements at Washington-Lee High School, adding 300 seats, to be completed by the fall of 2016.
- $4,000,000 will be used for planning and design to add 1,300 secondary seats at a location or locations to be determined in the northern part of the County. This new capacity, with a focus on middle school, will be completed by the fall of 2019. An extensive community engagement process is underway to assist the School Board in making its decision, by the end of December 2014, about the location(s) of these new seats. In addition to the bond funds, APS has approved $5 million from current revenues for the planning and design of this new secondary capacity.

Full details and answers to other frequently asked questions about the School Bonds are available online at www.apsva.us/moreschools/bondFAQ.

Mark Your Calendar

November

3. Timeframe for applying to any secondary school and H-B Woodlawn through Jan. 16

3. Middle School Information Night Washington-Lee High School, 7 p.m.

4. Professional Learning Day - No School for Students

11. Veteran's Day - No School for Students

Thanksgiving Break through Nov. 28

To view the complete calendar, visit: www.apsva.us/calendar

December

24. Winter Break through Dec. 31

January

1. Winter Break through Jan. 2
Protéjase durante las fiestas
Consejos de seguridad del Departamento de Policía del Condado de Arlington

Los robos y hurtos a menudo aumentan durante las fiestas. Asegúrese de no ser víctima.

- Cuando vaya de compras, no deje objetos de valor en su vehículo. Mantenga los paquetes y bolsas de compras fuera de la vista. Si es posible, colóquelas en el maletero antes de llegar a donde va a estacionar.
- Estacione en áreas bien iluminadas. Cierre la puerta del coche.
- Tenga en cuenta los alrededores al utilizar un cajero automático.
- Si lleva un bolso, manténgalo pegado a usted, con la apertura o solapa hacia el interior, hacia su cuerpo. Nunca deje un bolso en una cesta de compras.
- Las billeteras deben llevarse en el bolsillo delantero del pantalón o en un bolsillo interior de la chaqueta.
- No deje su billetera, teléfono celular o computadora portátil sobre una mesa en un restaurante, patio de comidas o tienda.
- Lleve los objetos de valor con prudencia. No guarde efectivo en su billetera (o sólo una pequeña cantidad). Ponga el efectivo en un bolsillo interior y sólo lleve las tarjetas de crédito que va a utilizar.
- Proteja los números de sus tarjetas de crédito y otra información personal. Sólo proporcione números de tarjetas de crédito por teléfono si usted inició la llamada y si sabe a quién le está proporcionando la información. No permita que extraídos lo distraigan mientras hace una compra en una tienda.
- Si va a viajar para las fiestas, pida a un amigo o vecino que recoja su correo y los periódicos. Considere la posibilidad de suspender el servicio mientras esté ausente.
- Tenga en cuenta los alrededores y salga de las tiendas con otras personas. Considere la posibilidad de suspender el servicio mientras esté ausente.
- Tenga en cuenta los alrededores y salga de las tiendas con otras personas.

Programa Secret Santa de Arlington
Haga que las fiestas sean especiales para alguien

Brende felicitidad en estas fiestas a algunos de los residentes más vulnerables de Arlington participando en el Programa Secret Santa del Departamento de Servicios Humanos.

¿Cómo funciona?
Donne tarjetas de regalo de tiendas de la zona (almacenes, farmacias, tiendas de ropa y Target, todas son excelentes ideas), y el Departamento de Servicios Humanos las distribuirá a más de 1000 personas necesitadas de la comunidad durante las fiestas.

¿A quién ayuda?
Niños en custodia adoptiva: Su contribución de una tarjeta de regalo ayudará a que estos niños tengan unas felices fiestas. La mayoría de los niños en custodia adoptiva son adolescentes, y es casi imposible comprar el regalo perfecto para un adolescente. Las tarjetas de regalo son una excelente opción.

Personas con discapacidad y adultos mayores con bajos ingresos: Llegar a fin de mes puede ser difícil cuando no tiene familia o si tiene un ingreso fijo. Ese es el caso de muchos residentes de Arlington mayores y miembros de la comunidad que tienen discapacidades.

Familias con bajos ingresos: Para las familias que se esfuerzan por poner comida en la mesa, es difícil tener el dinero para comprar los regalos de navidad aunque sean modestos. Para los hogares de bajos ingresos, las tarjetas de regalo de almacenes locales son una gran ayuda; y ayudar a los padres a comprar un regalo especial para sus hijos no tiene precio.

- Las tarjetas de regalo no deben exceder $25 cada una, pero puede enviar todas las que quiera.
- Las donaciones por lo general son libres de impuestos.
- Las tarjetas de regalo sin un beneficiario ya tienen un grupo beneficiario particular o no. Se agradecen especialmente las tarjetas de regalo sin un beneficiario ya que se utilizarán con quienes más las necesiten.

La Junta del Condado otorga el contrato de ingeniería del tranvía

Se pone en marcha la ingeniería y el diseño del sistema de tranvía de 7,4 millas de Arlington, tras la aprobación de la Junta del Condado en su reunión de septiembre de un contrato de varias fases de $26 millones.

El Condado adjudicó el contrato a un equipo multidisciplinario liderado por HDR Engineering, Inc. HDR Engineering cuenta con una amplia experiencia en proyectos de diseño y de ingeniería de tranvías y trenes ligeros, incluidos los tranvías de Salt Lake City, Kansas City y Washington DC.

“El Condado ha elegido un equipo altamente experimentado para que el proyecto del tranvía pase del concepto a la realidad de manera rentable”, declaró el Presidente de la Junta del Condado de Arlington Jay Fisette. “Es emocionante ver que el proyecto del tranvía, que traerá muchos beneficios a nuestra comunidad, avanza”.

La ingeniería preliminar, que se tomará entre 10 meses, incluirá el desarrollo del 30 por ciento de planos de diseño de la calzada, alineación de las vías, energía, señales, estaciones e instalaciones; especificaciones de los vehículos; y estimaciones actualizadas de los costos de construcción.

El financiamiento para el tranvía proviene de subvenciones estatales, ingresos fiscales de bienes raíces comerciales que sólo pueden utilizarse en nuevos proyectos de transporte, y de un fondo dedicado a la inversión en infraestructura de Crystal City.

Acuerdo de proyecto Arlington-Fairfax

También en septiembre, la Junta aprobó una actualización del acuerdo de participación en los gastos con el Condado de Fairfax. Según el acuerdo, Arlington continuará pagando 80,4 por ciento y Fairfax pagará 19,6 por ciento de los costos relacionados con el tranvía de Columbia Pike, que ambos condados están construyendo en conjunto. El porcentaje se basa en la longitud del segmento de tranvía en cada jurisdicción, así como en la cantidad de pasajeros esperada para cada una.

Cómo ser un Secret Santa

Envíe por correo o lleve en persona tarjetas de regalo o cheques antes del 17 de diciembre a:

Secret Santa Program c/o Kurt Larrick
Department of Human Services
2100 Washington Blvd., 4th Floor
Arlington, VA 22204

Las tarjetas o los cheques pueden tener un grupo beneficiario particular o no. Se agradecen especialmente las tarjetas de regalo sin un beneficiario ya que se utilizarán con quienes más las necesitan.

Incluya el valor de la tarjeta de regalo (si no está impreso en la tarjeta), la dirección de devolución para que podamos confirmar su regalo y enviar un formulario de impuestos, y un benefactor o elije uno.

Sólo se aceptan tarjetas de débito, tarjetas de crédito y cheques personalizados.

También en septiembre, la Junta realizó la ceremonia de nombramiento de los reconocimientos de Derechos Humanos.

El premio lleva el nombre de un exmiembro de la Junta del Condado, que durante sus años de servicio público trabajó incansablemente en nombre de las personas con poco acceso al gobierno. Se reciben solicitudes hasta el viernes, 12 de noviembre de 2014. Si conoce una organización o persona que haya tenido importantes logros en materia de derechos humanos, visite la página web arlingtonva.us; busque “premio James B. Hunter” para más información. O llame a Oficina de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos al: 703-228-3929 o 703-228-4611 (TTY) para una copia impresa del formulario de nominación.