

The Arlington Forester

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Arlington, Virginia

February 2021

Virtual AFCA Meeting: Schools-Related Issues

AFCA invites you to join our monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, February 17, at 7 p.m. Charles Head of Arlington Municipal Broadband will give a presentation on problems schools face with remote learning during the coronavirus pandemic and efforts by Arlington County to extend broadband connectivity to low-income households.

To join the meeting, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m.: <https://tinyurl.com/y226zbtw>.

If you have never used Zoom, you can view a short tutorial at <https://zoom.us/resources> by clicking on Joining & Configuring Audio/Video. Alternatively, you can dial in to the meeting at 301-715-8592, where you will be prompted to enter meeting ID 892 8333 2420 and passcode 391362. You might also be prompted to hit the # sign one or more times. This call-in number will be active starting at 6:50 p.m.

AFCA January 2021 Meeting

On January 20, 2021, AFCA Northside Vice President Joel Yudken (standing in for President Esther Bowring) hosted a remote AFCA meeting with about 25 participants by phone and video. Joel opened with a report on January 6 break-ins at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center, apparently related to similar criminal activity elsewhere in Arlington. Arlington Forester Annelise Dickinson created a GoFundMe account raising more than \$30,000 to help the vandalized businesses recover. Joel also noted that the Metro will not make planned cuts to the 4B bus route, thanks to new funding in the recently passed federal COVID relief bill.

Treasurer Jeff Horwitz reported on annual dues and donations received from 280 out of 800-plus households in Arlington Forest, for a total of \$3,800, close to the budgeted amount of \$4,000 for 2020–21. Newsletter invoices to advertisers in the amount of about \$1,700 will cover most of the \$2,100 in newsletter expenses so far this year. For a \$600 fee, AFCA is asking the Internal Revenue Service to reinstate its tax-exempt status. AFCA has \$16,500 in the bank plus another \$900 in the PayPal account. Tax notifications are now up to date.

The focus of the meeting was on traffic safety issues on North Carlin Springs Road, an issue AFCA has been working on for at least 7 years. Liz Kauffman spoke about neighborhood engagement in a proposal by the Bluemont Citizens Association to calm Carlin Springs traffic (see the article on page 7).

Lora Strine and Beverly Johnston noted the progress already made, including rapid flashing beacons and new technologies at North Harrison Street. The county has removed parking spaces, added bollards to improve lines of sight, increased the number of crosswalk signs, and added car speed indicator signs and signs warning of \$200 fines for speeding violations. Ongoing concerns include continued speeding, a postpandemic return of high traffic, and the ineffectiveness of rapid flashing beacons in stopping about 30 percent of the cars. Next steps include monitoring safety following upgrades at North Harrison and North Edison Streets, raising the issue at county board Open Door Mondays, and contacting the new community outreach police officer for the county, Sergeant Tom Rakowski.

...continued on page 2

Contents

Faces: Ron Neumann ... 3	Carlin Springs proposal ... 7
NCP: Zoning Issues..... 4	Parks/county news 9
NCP: Street Conditions ... 4	Around the Forest 10
ACCF Update 5	Barcroft news 12
Historic preservation .. 6	Barrett news 13
Shopping center breakin .. 6	Kids for hire 14

AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. **February 17** Through Zoom

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AFCA Meeting

...from page 1

Arlington County Board member Takis Karantonis spoke about the Carlin Springs safety issue, affirming safety as a common goal. He echoed concerns about the efficacy of flashing beacons, wondering whether a second beacon might help. He noted that pedestrian counts are relatively low and that installing a traffic light would cost \$500,000. He said that staff was committed to adding lighting at zebra crossings and that he was open to other ideas, such as a 25-mile-per-hour speed limit, a speed-sensitive traffic signal, and more rigorous enforcement of speed limits. The county has asked the Virginia General Assembly for the right to use automatic ticketing in areas other than school and construction zones, and this zone might qualify. Takis also observed that the pedestrian refuge in the median is too narrow for a bicycle; Lora and Beverly will follow up with him on the issue. Takis committed to sharing a more comprehensive concept in the context of Vision Zero.

Liz Kauffman and Hutch Brown noted that the draft neighborhood conservation plan is almost complete. A vote on the recommendations in the plan is anticipated at an AFCA meeting in the spring.

Claire Bedat described the work of an AFCA committee of neighbors in reviewing the county's Missing Middle Housing Study. The MMHS documents do not give a full understanding of the impacts of the "missing middle housing" approach on Arlington Forest. By raising new questions with county and staff, the committee hopes to gain a better understanding to share with our neighborhood.

Joel announced a new feature for AFCA meetings, introduced by President Esther Bowring: "Honoring Unsung Arlington Forest Neighborhood Heroes." For this month, the "unsung heroes" included Annelise Dickinson and everyone else who supported the Arlington Forest Shopping Center tenants (see the article on page 6); John Naland, former newsletter editor, who organizes support for the care of our neighborhood parks; Hutch Brown, who contacted the county when contractors made a mistake in felling oaks in Arlington Forest Park; and Alli Korman, for organizing families to repair damage by kids to the rock garden on the grounds of the Lubber Run Community Center (see "Around the Forest" below).

Kids for Hire—New Category!

People often need help with streaming movies, connectivity issues, computer software, and more. If you're tech savvy and willing to help, let editor Hutch Brown know at hutchbrown41@gmail.com and we'll add that to the list of Arlington Forest Kids for Hire.

Faces of the Forest: Ron Neumann

By Hutch Brown

The residents of Arlington Forest, as you might expect, include many government employees. One is Ron Neumann of Southside, a veteran U.S. diplomat. He grew up in Los Angeles, where his father was a university professor before being named as ambassador to Afghanistan. In time, Ron would follow in his father's footsteps, serving as ambassador to Afghanistan himself from 2005 to 2007. Only two other father/son pairs have ever served as ambassadors to the same country—John Adams and John Quincy Adams to Great Britain; and John M. Francis and Charles Spencer Francis, who both spent time heading the mission to the Austro-Hungarian Empire near the turn of the 20th century.

But Ron's Afghanistan posting would come 40 years later, capping a storied diplomatic career.

In 1967, on a break between finishing his M.A. at the University of California at Riverside and entering the U.S. Army, Ron and his wife Elaine spent nearly 4 months in Afghanistan, sparking Ron's longstanding interest in the Middle East. "Elaine and I started dating in high school," Ron explained, "and were married my senior year in college. Our son was born while I was in Vietnam. I wasn't sure if starting a family before I went to war was a good idea, but Elaine finally won the argument when she said, 'If you don't come back, whose problem is this?'"

In 1970, Ron joined the foreign service. His first posting was in Senegal. In the 1970s–80s, Ron served in Yemen, Iran, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates, focusing on Middle East and Persian Gulf issues. "Our daughter Helen was born in northwest Iran in the city of Tabriz, where I was the American consul," he said. "The lights went off a dozen times during the delivery, but the British-trained Iranian doctor had a propane lamp and said it was no problem."

On rotation back to Washington, DC, Ron served in various positions with the State Department. In 1994, Ron was named as ambassador to Algeria before accepting a position in 1997 as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. He went on to become ambassador to Bahrain from 2001 to 2004, then moved to the embassy in Iraq to serve first with the Coalition Provisional Authority under Ambassador Paul Bremer and then as liaison with the Multinational Command in the U.S. Embassy in Iraq.

Through it all, Ron and Elaine raised their two children, and Elaine took various teaching and other positions. She ran a kindergarten in Tabriz, was a teaching assistant in Abu Dhabi, ran a home daycare business in Arlington, and worked as an office manager. However, some of Ron's missions brought long separations from his family. "We were separated by violence for 6 of the



last 12 years I was a diplomat," he said. "I was in Algeria for 3 years during a violent insurgency, with a death threat out for all foreigners. At one point, I came home for vacation, and the same flight I'd been on to Paris was hijacked 3 days later."

Ron's family joined him on his mission in Bahrain but left again when he went to Iraq, followed by his service in Afghanistan. However, Elaine did visit on occasion. "One time I flew her in a C-130 aircraft to the middle of Afghanistan," Ron recalled, "where we spent the night on a base in a shipping container turned into a bunker. The stars were incredible. We'd driven together through the same area nearly 40 years earlier. It still looked the same."

Ron has received many awards for his diplomatic service. In addition, he has authored articles, editorials, and two books—*The Other War: Winning and Losing in Afghanistan* (2009) and *Three Embassies, Four Wars: A Personal Memoir* (2017). He currently serves as president of the American Academy of Diplomacy. Founded in 1983, the academy is a nonprofit organization that builds support for the foreign service's critical role in defending our national interests. As he has for the 47 years that he and Elaine have lived in Arlington Forest, Ron still rides his bike to his office.

Recommendations: Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan

The following recommendations to Arlington County are from our draft neighborhood conservation plan. The full plan, posted on the AFCA website, gives the rationale for each recommendation. Send comments to plan coordinator Liz Kauffman at lizkauffman@yahoo.com or editor Hutch Brown at hutchbrown41@gmail.com.

Land Uses/Zoning



Arlington Forest strongly supports all existing land uses and zonings in our neighborhood, and we urge the county to keep them in place, in accordance with its promise in the 2020 General Land Use Plan to “preserve and enhance existing single-family and apartment neighborhoods.” That includes the current R-6 zoning for our residential areas; the S3-A zoning for Barrett Elementary School, the Lubber Run Community Center, Lubber Run Amphitheater, Lubber Run Park, Arlington Forest Park, and all other public lands and facilities in our neighborhood; and the C-1 zoning for the Arlington Forest Shopping Center. We oppose any expansion or buildout of the shopping center, and we urge the county to work with AFCA and with the present owners to preserve its historical character and to revitalize it as needed in accordance with its current uses, dimensions, and configuration.

Our recommendation for maintaining the current R-6 zoning for residential areas dovetails with the county’s General Land Use Plan for 2020 but might conflict with outcomes of the Missing Middle Housing Study. Arlington Forest has mobilized resources to work with the county to help align study outcomes with the General Land Use Plan through twin participatory initiatives: an AFCA committee to study housing issues in Arlington and an AFCA initiative together with adjoining neighborhoods to take part in all three phases of the Missing Middle Housing Study.

Street Conditions



Arlington Forest is ready to work with the county through AFCA to engage utility and cable companies as well as Dominion Energy in meeting neighborhood needs regarding street, sidewalk, and streetlight conditions. In particular, we urge Arlington County to continue its excellent service on residential roads; continue its current approach of eliminating sidewalk unevenness by grinding the uneven panels without damaging tree roots; help neighbors get utility or cable companies to repair sidewalks after tearing them up and to remove unneeded bundles of cabling from utility strips; eliminate the pooling of water and ice on South Columbus Street where it meets South Park Drive; seek Dominion Energy’s full participation in a centralized streetlight malfunction reporting system to optimize repair efficiency and minimize outage time; and encourage Dominion Energy to work with AFCA to inform and engage residents in choosing replacements for aging streetlights.

COVID-19 Cases

The World Health Organization tracks global cases, with U.S. figures reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. You can find out more online at WHO COVID Dashboard. As of January 13, 2021:

Global cases: 90,064,813
#1: United States (22,428,591)
#2: India (10,495,147)
#3: Brazil (8,131,612)

Global deaths: 1,945,610
#1: United States (373,329)
#2: Brazil (203,850)
#3: India (151,529)

Arlington County Civic Federation Update

The Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) unites more than 90 civic and other groups, including AFCA, in interactions with Arlington County. In January 2021, the ACCF invited county board members to attend its monthly meeting to answer questions. Notes from the meeting are summarized here by topic.

County Acquisition of Open Space



The county has considered acquiring the 9-acre Rouse property (on Wilson Boulevard and North McKinley Road), but the owner is concerned about historic preservation of the onsite mansion. A developer might go forward with building single-family detached homes.

Missing Middle Housing Study

Q: *If it won't increase affordable housing, then why take this approach?*

A: The low housing density outside travel corridors fails to meet community needs for more diverse housing. The "missing middle" approach would give middle-income subsidy programs a chance to work. The goal is for developers to come up with a viable economic model for affordable "missing middle" housing.

Q: *Has there been any discussion of alternative ownership models, such as land trusts?*

A: That approach faces challenges when land is costly. Land trusts need to build at least four units per parcel of land to make a go of it. However, if the county can loosen zoning restrictions, then the land trust approach might work.

Broadband

The county has been focusing on connectivity for distance learning. Ninety-six percent of the students in Arlington can now participate, but the goal is 100 percent. The county also wants to make broadband more affordable to lower income households. Federal funding might be available in the latest COVID relief bill (passed in December 2020). The board believes that the internet should be a public utility.

County Finances

The county manager is asking for proposals for roughly 6-percent cuts from every department due to COVID-related shortfalls in county budgets. The board will also work with the county auditor to realize savings.

Equitable Distribution of Affordable Housing

Recognizing the need, the county is working with Housing Arlington to explore alternatives for creating affordable housing throughout Arlington. The county wants to preserve affordable units in addition to building new ones to help distribute diverse income levels across the county.

Thanks to Rick Epstein and Joel Yudken for the update.

Neighborhood Listserv Wants To Connect With You!

Howdy, neighbor! Did you know there is a neighborhood listserv in Arlington Forest? It's a great way to get information that is neighborhood specific, to find a kid to shovel your sidewalk, or to find a new home for things that are awesome but don't belong in your house anymore. Beets? Snowboots? Accordions? Yep, they've all been on there recently. Ever wonder what that screechy sound at 3 a.m. is? It's the fox—we've talked about it. It doesn't have mange and it does like to wander through backyards.

The list—called Arlington Forest Families—is open to anyone who lives in or owns property within the official boundaries of Arlington Forest. And only open to these folks. The rules are pretty basic—no politics and play nice; they are enforced by two co-moderators, Liz Vance and Lora Strine.

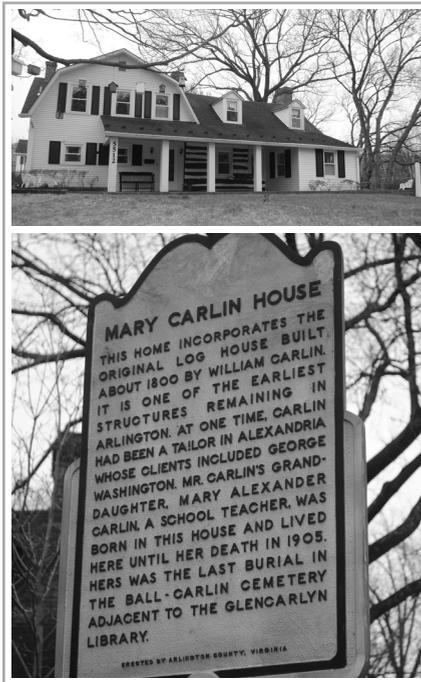
Several other listservs and groups are connected with Arlington Forest, so this is by no means the only one. They are all great ways to stay in touch with each other. This is a private group, with no commercial connections, and your name, address, information, and anything you post will not be shared with anyone outside the list.

If you're interested in joining Arlington Forest Families, send an email to LizVance@gmail.com with the subject line: Listserv. Include your name and your street address somewhere in the message. The messages will be read individually, and invitations will be sent out from the server within a day or so. Looking forward to meeting you!

Arlington's Historic Preservation Master Plan

Arlington County is updating its Historic Preservation Master Plan from 2006 and asking for public input. You can find the webpage for the update at <https://tinyurl.com/y2ozkms6>. On page 7, the 2006 plan has two images showing the origins of Arlington Forest, reflecting the unique historical character of our neighborhood—which was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 2005.

As the 2006 Historic Preservation Master Plan shows, buildings in Arlington were often sited for a sense of place, with nearby trees and natural resources in mind. For proper historic preservation today, the natural environment should figure in wherever possible. The county is also updating its Natural Resources Management Plan and Urban Forestry Master Plan while folding them together into a single Forestry



and Natural Resources Plan. Both plan revisions (for natural resources and for historic preservation) should acknowledge the connection between the built environment and historic structures so that preservation applies to the entire historic site.

Arlington County's Missing Middle Housing Study professes to take both historic preservation and natural resources conservation into account. In view of the study, the update for the Historic Preservation Master Plan offers residents another way of holding the county accountable for the entire built environment, including historic structures as well as our canopy cover and local parks. AFCA might have an opportunity to participate in the revision process to help keep the county's "missing middle housing" policy development within reasonable bounds.

Shopping Center Vandalized—Neighbors Pitch in To Help

On the night of January 6, the Arlington Forest Shopping Center was vandalized. The doors were smashed in at the New Forest Valet Cleaners, Brick's Pizza, and Crystal Thai Restaurant and the businesses were ransacked. Vandals also damaged the Sense of Place door but did not get in. Through a GoFundMe initiative organized by Forester Annelise Dickinson, neighbors raised more than \$30,000 to help the affected businesses, who responded with gratitude:

Thank you for being so kind to all of us! What we wanted to say to our community is from the heart ...

We are humbled by the support and love from the Arlington Forest neighborhood. It's an honor to own a business here because we get to get know everyone who lives close by and those neighbors who used to live here who still patronize all of us. The help from the GoFundMe page that Annelise started will make our businesses healthier during such a hard time. This burglary has made us a more close-knit community. Many, many thanks to all who gave, visited, called, talked, cried, laughed, checked in, and supported all of our businesses. All of the tenants



Photo: Daniel Brown

and employees of the Arlington Forest Shopping Center love being here ... come see us!

New Forest Valet: Chris, Violet, Pam, Ron, Tim, Ana, our children, and our incredible staff

Bricks: Jeff, Shelton, his sister, and cool staff

Crystal Thai: Ann, her family, and awesome staff

Proposal: Fewer Lanes on Carlin Springs

By Liz Kauffman



Thanks to residents who commented on the Bluemont neighborhood's proposal for reducing North Carlin Springs Road from four to two lanes for motorists. The proposal is for one lane in each direction, with a left-turn lane replacing the median strip and bicycle lanes (if space allows) between North Edison Street and North Kensington Street (see the November 2020 Arlington Forester). All who commented agreed that additional safety improvements are needed for pedestrian crossings because some motorists ignore yellow flashing beacon lights.

Reasons for **favoring** lane reduction included: (1) Single-lane traffic would keep speeds lower than two-lane traffic. (2) Single-lane traffic would keep one vehicle from stopping at a pedestrian crossing while another raced by the stopped car, endangering those in

the crosswalk. (3) Uninterrupted bike lanes from North Glebe Road to North Kensington Street would encourage cyclists to commute. (4) Fewer traffic lanes would reduce noise.

Reasons for **opposing** lane reduction included: (1) Before COVID, rush hour traffic already backed up on Carlin Springs; reducing two lanes to one would only worsen the backups, making it harder for residents on Carlin Springs to exit or enter their driveways. (2) To avoid backups, even more motorists would cut through at high speeds on North Granada and North Edison Streets, endangering children and adults who walk, cycle, play, and get off school buses. (3) Drivers would be tempted to use the left-turn lane as a passing lane, still putting pedestrians in danger. (4) Loss of the median strip would remove the pedestrian refuge.

If you would be interested in having a Zoom discussion about this issue just before February's AFCA meeting, please email lizkauffman@yahoo.com.

Historically low interest rates helped to fuel the 2020 seller's market, driving prices up throughout the region as buyers competed for available homes. The 2020 average home price in Northern VA was \$670,408, up 9% above the 2019 average.

December is usually a month marked by lower new contract activity, as consumers pause making decisions about buying or selling properties during the holidays. But this year we saw an extension of the busy fall market right up through the years end.

During the last week of December 2020, showing activity was up 252% in NOVA compared to showing levels during the same week in 2019. A total of 1,955 homes sold in December 2020, a 28.2% increase above 1,525 sales in December 2019.

Arlington Forest had 29 homes that

sold in 2020, with an average sales price of \$833,834, 2019's average was \$788,900 with 19 homes sold.

With rates at historic lows, a strong stock market, and buyer demand unabated, experts don't foresee any conditions that would dampen the market in early 2021. The hi-balance conforming rates for Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac will increase in 2021 to \$822,375, up from \$765,600. Current 30-year fixed rates are in the 2.5% to 2.75% range. Last year at this time 30-year rates were at 3.5 to 3.75%.

Are you living in your ideal home now? If you are thinking of a new lifestyle, I'm glad to help with some strategic planning.

Who you hire matters - put my 36 years of local Arlington market expertise to work for you and your largest financial investment!



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Compass Real Estate

FREE Notary Service
for Arlington Forest Residents

With me as your advisor and project manager, I can help you sell your home faster and at a higher price. **Compass fronts the cost of the services** to enhance your home's value. Visit our web site for details on the Concierge program.

Outdoor Volunteer Opportunities

The 160-volunteer Arlington Regional Master Naturalists program is a great way to learn about local environmental issues and to pitch in and help. An evening training program with weekend field trips leads to volunteer opportunities for stream monitoring, invasive species control, and more. The COVID pandemic depressed volunteer hours in 2020, but opportunities are sure to rebound in 2021. Find out more at armn.org/.

Flood-Resilient Arlington Storymap

“Challenges and the Path Forward” is a county storymap showing Arlington’s 20th-century development: few standards for stormwater management led to heavy flooding in recent years. Also explained are ongoing county efforts to upgrade stormwater infrastructure. The storymap indicates ways that residents and businesses can evaluate flood risks and take action. The storymap is online at A Flood Resilient Arlington.

2021 Virtual MLK Tribute

Arlington County’s 52nd annual tribute to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is available online, including music and dance as well as speeches and community dialogues. Help carry on Dr. King’s legacy by remembering our history and joining his call for a better future. The online feature is at Arlington Parks MLK Tribute.

Free School Meals

During this unprecedented time, Arlington Public Schools is offering FREE lunches and breakfasts to all students 18 and under.

Meals are available for pickup from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays:

Abingdon — ATS — Ashlawn — Barcroft — Barrett
Campbell — Career Center — Carlin Springs
Drew — Glebe — Gunston — Hoffman Boston
H-B Woodlawn — Jefferson — Kenmore — Key
Randolph — Swanson — Wakefield
Washington-Liberty — Yorktown

Visit apsva.us for more locations and information.



Paul Cachion, MBA

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Super-Awesome Arlington Forest Contest!

Since March of last year, Covid has affected all our lives. One silver lining to that rather large cloud, however has been that kids and adults alike seem to be getting outdoors more. My wife and I see more people in the parks and on the streets as we walk our dog. We always say how great this neighborhood is, and how lucky we are to live here!

To that end, CachionHomes is announcing the first-ever...Innaugural Super-Awesome Arlington Forest Contest. The rules are simple: 1) text me (571-216-6802) with a short anecdote about what you have appreciated the most about Arlington Forest in the last year, and 2) the top two entries win a Starbucks gift card. Good luck!



Member Long & Foster Executive Club.

Parks Update

2021 Summer Camps

COVID notwithstanding, the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation is preparing for summer camp. The county is committed to meeting the health and safety needs of campers and staff while making it fun for everyone. An online camp catalog will be posted on March 3, with camp registration opening on March 24. Learn more at [Get Ready for 2021 Summer Camps](#).



Dead Tree Removal

The county completed removal of the dead oaks from Arlington Forest Park (across from the shopping center). After leaving several 2-foot stumps, the contractor followed the county plan of leaving snags 12 feet or more in height to mimic natural processes. The decaying snags will provide habitat for insects, birds, and other wildlife, as will sections of trunk left on the ground to rot.

Protecting Public Spaces

Arlington County will be updating its Urban Forest Master Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan and merging them to guide its future work in improving our natural environment. You can read the current plans online at [Public Spaces Master Plan](#) (of which they are component parts) and get involved in updating them.

Persistence Pays Off

Last year, when John Naland of Greenbrier told AFCA President Esther Bowring about missing trash cans for our neighborhood parks, she wrote to Arlington County. In response, the county replaced the trash cans in Arlington Forest Park and at the Arlington Boulevard entrance to Lubber Run Park—but not the one at the entrance to Bluemont Park at the foot of North Greenbrier Street. John persisted in writing to the county himself, and the county finally replaced the trash can.

Penrose Trading Co Internet Consignment Services

Are you downsizing? Moving? Seeking to de-clutter?
Want some extra cash? Sell your items online!

Clothes, electronics, collectibles, toys, games,
housewares, antiques, etc.

I do all the work - photograph, list, pack and ship, etc.
You sit back and collect the cash!

Contact me, Josh, for a free and friendly consultation.
penrosetradingcompany@gmail.com (571) 271-1543
An Arlington Forest Business!

County News

COVID-19 Update

In Arlington, the rate of COVID cases per 100,000 residents has been rising since September 2020, mirroring spikes nationwide. Case rates are especially high in the 22203 and 22204 zip codes. Find out more at arlingtonva.us/covid-19/.

COVID-19 Testing

You can get a quick COVID test if you think you're sick or have been near someone who is sick. Find a testing site near you at <https://tinyurl.com/y722ynsy>.

No-Cost COVID-19 Testing Kiosks

Arlington has two no-cost, kiosk-based testing sites in the parking lots of Aurora Hills Community Center (735 18th St. S.) and Tucker Field at Barcroft Park (4200 S. Four Mile Run Dr.), open 7 days a week from noon to 8 p.m. Find out more at curative.com.

Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccines

Arlington is in phase 1 of COVID vaccinations. Residents who qualify can register for the vaccine. Due to short supplies, it might take months to complete phase 1. Find out more, including how to register, at arlingtonva.us/covid-19/vaccines/.

New County Logo

The Arlington County Board will choose a new logo for the county in a 6-month community process culminating in a decision at a county board meeting in June 2021. Find out more at topics.arlingtonva.us/engage/.

Metro

Senator Mark Warner was instrumental in getting Metro funding into the recently passed federal COVID relief package. Metro is forecasting a \$500 million annual deficit, which might be covered for a year by federal funding. Debates are ahead on how to allocate the money to avoid a downward spiral for Metro.

Property Values Rise

Arlington's overall property tax base grew modestly from 2020, despite the COVID-related slowdown in commercial activity. Residential property values increased by 5.6 percent overall. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/yy462yrr>.

Around the Forest

Neighborhood Conservation Plan

Sponsored by the county, the plan is a once-in-generation opportunity for our neighborhood to take positions on issues ranging from schools, to parks, to neighborhood housing and more. You can review the draft plan on the AFCA website by clicking on Neighborhood, then going to the link. You will find email addresses for members of the writing team, who are happy to take comments and make revisions.

Las Abuelitas Tutoring

Las Abuelitas, a group of about 20 retired Arlington teachers and school administrators, have been tutoring English learners in Arlington Public Schools since June 2020. Most students are from Barrett and Key Elementary Schools (grades 1–3). Twice a week over the summer and once a week since September, the tutors have been meeting with students using WhatsApp to build oral language skills. The tutors meet each other twice a month via Zoom to share ideas.

Using WhatsApp has highlighted issues with limited access to the internet for many Arlington families, so some of the tutors are now working with ArlFiber to improve broadband access for all. Check out <https://arlfiber.org/> for more information. If you think you might like to join our tutor group, email Terry Bratt at theresa-bratt@gmail.com for more information.

Lubber Run Winter Food Hub

Vendors from our Lubber Run Farmers Market and the Westover Farmers Market are offering their products through a preorder, prepay, curbside pickup hub on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Forest United Methodist Church. You can order from 1 p.m. Sunday through midnight Thursday at <https://woso.co/lubberrunhub>. Our regular Lubber Run Farmers Market will reopen in April at Barrett Elementary School.



Annual Spring Cleanup

Our tenth annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup is coming up on April 24 from 9 a.m. to about 10:30 a.m., rain or shine. Neighbors will gather in Lubber Run Park (to remove trash from the streambed), on the Arlington Boulevard Southside buffer strip (to remove trash and clean up), and below the North Granada/North Greenbrier trailhead (to remove trash from the streambed). If you have questions, email John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com.

Tribute to Forester Families

The Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation thanked two Arlington Forest families for returning rocks tossed from the upper to the lower level of the Lubber Run Community Center grounds:

Thank you to our great Lubber Run Park stewards, the Korman and Brunton families, for taking the time to relocate rocks that had been displaced back to their home in the rock garden.

Just a friendly reminder to please be sure to supervise your family when out and about in our parks to ensure they are adhering to park rules and aren't engaging in behavior that may be unsafe for them or other park users. Let's make our Arlington parks the best they can be!

Anti-Crime Reminder



A Greenbrier neighbor had a purse stolen from her car on Tuesday, January 19, at 3:30 p.m. Over \$100 was charged to her debit card before she could report the theft. Remember to keep your car doors locked and valuables out of sight, even in the middle of the day.



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AFCFA Meetings

February 17: School boundaries and other schools-related issues

March 17: Lubber Run Park issues

April 21: to be determined

May 19: Picnic and annual meeting (tentative—if conditions allow)

Community Calendar



The coronavirus pandemic has forced AFCA to limit the number of community events, with some down as tentative—to be held if conditions allow.

Next AFCA meeting: Wednesday, February 17, 7 p.m.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 24

Home and Garden Tour: Saturday, May 1 (tentative)

Annual AFCA Picnic: Wednesday, May 19 (tentative)

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 22 (tentative)

Young Foresters Corner: Open Forum for Youth

Many if not most Arlington Foresters are under eighteen, and they have unique ideas and stories to tell about our neighborhood. Had an interesting experience? Know of a particular problem or program that you might want to share? Tell your story in 400 words or less and send it with a photo (if you have one) to Hutch Brown at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Questions? Send an email or text/call 703-855-1732.

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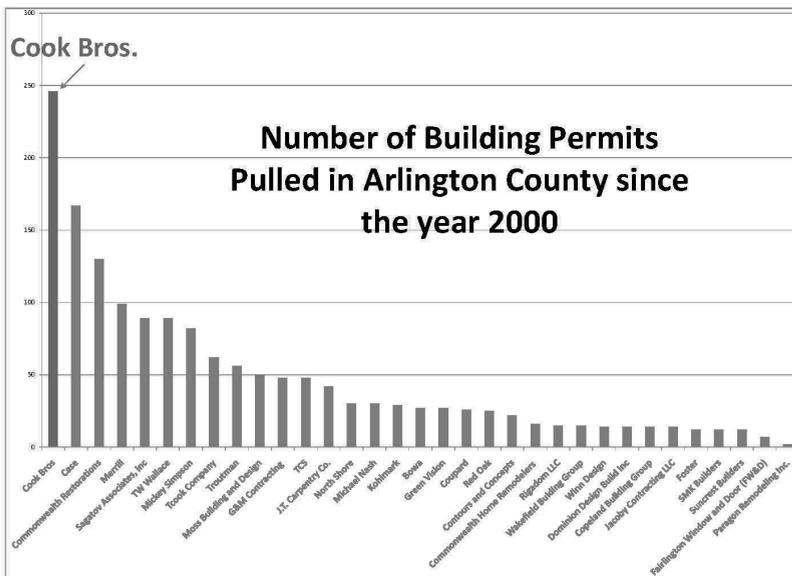
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Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

Barcroft students and teachers returned to classes on January 4. Although the school district continues to prepare for more students returning to school buildings, only a very small number of students with special support needs are physically at school, and the vast majority continue with distance learning. Some teachers and staff recently returned to school buildings to prepare for more students onsite.

Barcroft's teachers and staff have worked hard throughout the school year to make the best of our educational environment while continuing favorite school activities. In addition to an iPad, students received materials and supplies for classes like art, music, and PE. And don't worry—I can personally attest that third graders are learning the recorder this year! Watercolor or clay projects are being added to home art collections each week under the inspiring guidance of our art teachers. Thanks to the ingenuity of our PE teachers, you may find that a PE activity to practice ball-rolling aim explains why your



The PTA provided treats for our amazing staff as they began returning to the school building.

child keeps removing all of your plastic cups from the kitchen.

Virtual field trips, instrumental music lessons, small-group instruction, hands-on math activities, and more are all happening through distance learning. We are thankful for all the ways everyone is working so hard to support our students.

Arlington Public Schools celebrated Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week at the end of January. We are so fortunate to have our principal, Ms. Apostolico-Buck ("Ms. AB")! She has seized opportunities to safely interact with students and families during the pandemic, such as supply distributions at school and a weekly virtual Principals' Hour for families and staff.

The PTA has several events planned for February, including Valentine's Day treats, a bookmark exchange with Discovery Elementary School, and virtual family Bingo night. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @BarcroftEagles and on Facebook at Barcroft Elementary School PTA.



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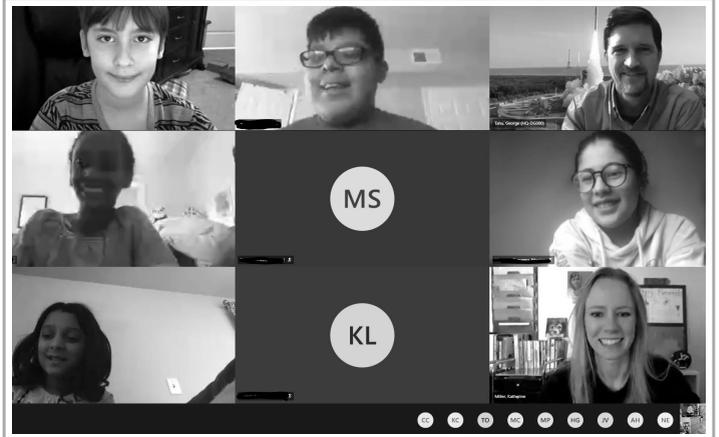
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Barrett School News

By Will Le

Since the pandemic began, the Barrett PTA has looked for ways to support our community, including providing helpful information and resources to our members. At our January PTA meeting, we heard from Ms. Larisa Zehr, a representative from the Legal Aid Justice Center, who spoke about tenant rights. You can find a helpful PowerPoint presentation on the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program at tinyurl.com/o4414k76. At our February meeting, the Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for Arlington Public Schools, Mr. Arron Gregory, led a discussion on diversity and systemic racism, including how the pandemic has impacted his office's work.

As many are aware, the pandemic has adversely affected the mental health of many students and families, and mental health services aren't readily available to many members of our Barrett community. For several months, the Arlington Schools Hispanic Parent Association has hosted mental health Zoom discussions with acclaimed mental health experts in Spanish. These discussions have educated parents about mental health issues and offered solutions to try at home. We plan to invite a mental health professional to a future PTA meeting.



Dr. Laurie Sullivan, Barrett Project Discovery/Discovery Lab teacher, reports that students have been participating in Discovery Lab Mondays, an asynchronous program highlighting current NASA accomplishments and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) challenges, in part by using kid-friendly surveys/polls. Barrett is proud to continue our partnership with NASA and honored to have been selected as the first elementary NASA Explorer School in the state of Virginia. Live synchronous lessons this year include interactive presentations by Sam Kirzner, a docent at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum; and virtual field trips through the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

We also hosted George Tahu, lead program executive for Mars exploration in the Planetary Science Division at NASA headquarters (see picture). Mr. Tahu is currently responsible for the NASA Perseverance rover mission to Mars. Last year, a Barrett student was one of 9 finalists out of 28,000 entries in NASA's Mars 2020 Name the Rover contest. Our students are very excited about the scheduled rover landing on February 18, 2021!

Faces of the Forest: Tell Us About Someone You Know!

With well over 800 households, Arlington Forest has residents from all walks of life. Tell us about a Forester you know! Do it in an interview or write a story (with your subject's permission, of course)—or tell us about someone from the past. Send your writeup of 400 words or less with a photo (if possible) to Hutch Brown at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Questions? Email me or text/call 703-855-1732.



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	Name	Email	Phone										 new!	Other	
Southside	Dylan Heinrich	dylanheinrich@icloud.com		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓			Odd jobs	
	Ethan Heinrich	ethan.heinrich27@gmail.com	703-475-8430		✓		✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓			*RC certified; Tutoring, ages 6-13	
	Emilie Kluge	emiliekluge@yahoo.com	571-457-1983	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			Tutoring	
	Colin Mashkuri	cjmashkuri@gmail.com	571-480-2855	✓					✓					Math tutoring	
	Andrew Rogers	andrewmcyt@gmail.com	703-892-0226	✓	✓									Yard work	
	Caroline Rogers	carolinearogers@verizon.net	703-892-0226	✓	✓		✓								
	Cecilia Brennan	christybren@yahoo.com	703-475-3809	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
	Donna Corina		703-248-8885	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓							*RC certified
	Atalie Dempsey	atalie.dempsey@gmail.com	571-317-9216	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓			
	Evan Dempsey	Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com	703-559-9690	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
	Anna D'Itri		703-346-3467	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓				
	Greenbrier	Gabriel D'Itri		703-346-3467			✓		✓						Lawn mowing
Charlotte Lawson		CharlotteLawsonnn@gmail.com	703-933-8880	✓	✓*		✓*							*References	
Ciara McLaughlin		ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com	703-712-9215				✓*			✓	✓			*Safe Sitter certified, references	
Reid Messman			703-469-1988	✓*	✓									*References	
Shea Messman			703-469-1988				✓*							*Safe Sitter certified, references	
Alexandra Orli			703-528-5618		✓		✓*		✓	✓*				*References	
Matthew Petruccelli		tony.petruccelli@gmail.com	703-629-0425			✓		✓							
Carsten Schoer		carstenschoer@gmail.com	703-209-0905			✓		✓							
Ava Smialowicz		ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com	703-424-0895		✓		✓*							*RC certified	
Ben Sparks		benchispas@gmail.com		✓	✓										
Emma Weaver			703-875-8185				✓*							*Safe Sitter certified, references	
Northside		Niittisha Choudhary	Niittisha@gmail.com	703-981-1229	✓			✓		✓					Tutoring
	Riittisha Choudhary	riittishachoudhary@gmail.com					✓							Tutoring, yard work	
	Ely Constantine	cpconstantine@comcast.net	703-841-9229		✓	✓		✓						Lawn mowing	
	Casey Dinan	chrisbettdinan@aol.com	703-525-5763	✓		✓	✓	✓						Lawn mowing	
	Tyler Dinan	chrisbettdinan@aol.com	703-525-5763	✓		✓	✓	✓						Lawn mowing	
	Evan Eng	dcharveydc@yahoo.com	703-861-1890	✓	✓	✓		✓							
	Jeremy Fagen	jeremy.fagen@gmail.com	571-645-3475	✓	✓					✓					
	Evie Price		703-402-5138	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓			*Pediatric training	
Sophie Stewart	sophiestewart4@gmail.com	703-713-5902	✓	✓		✓		✓							
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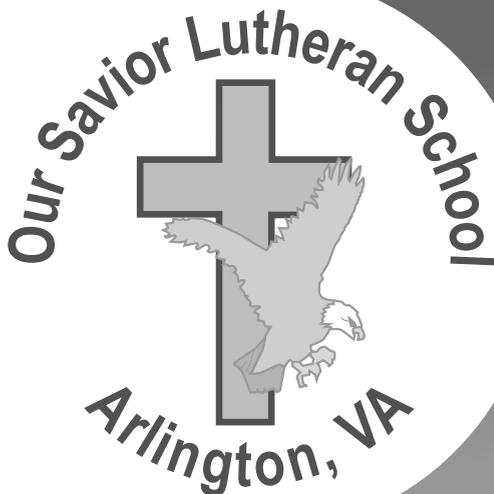
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