



The Arlington Forester

Vol. 62, Number 8

Arlington, Virginia

May 2021

Virtual AFCA Meeting: Officer Elections for 2021-22

AFCA invites you to join our monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, May 19, at 7 p.m. We will hold elections for next year's AFCA officers, including president; vice president for Greenbrier, Northside, and Southside; recording secretary; corresponding secretary; and treasurer. The current office holders have agreed to stand for reelection. If you would like to run for an AFCA office, please contact Art Schwartz at arthur.edward.schwartz@gmail.com.

To join the meeting, enter the following URL into

your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19: <https://tinyurl.com/kjaur5x9>. 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 number 851 3147 2567 and passcode 323096. 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 April 2021 Meeting

On April 21, 2021, AFCA President Esther Bowring hosted a remote AFCA meeting with more than 25 participants by phone and video. The guest speaker was Samia Byrd, Chief Race and Equity Officer for Arlington County.

Ms. Byrd discussed this new county position and her goals in the role. She wants to move Arlington beyond diversity (representation) and inclusion (participation) to equity. Equity is not equality (when everyone has access to the same things in the same way) but presumes that lack of access is systemic. Racial equity closes the gap so that race is no longer a predictor of success. For example, a recent study showed a 10-year difference in life expectancy by race/community in Arlington and that nearly all white workers in the county earn at least \$15 per hour, not true for Latinos and Blacks. Ms. Byrd noted that people of color make up 38 percent of Arlington's population, up from 21 percent in 1980.

Arlington County adopted an Equity Policy to pinpoint systemic issues of inequity and resolve partnership with the community. Ms. Byrd is playing a leadership role. Each department is establishing an equity team and an action plan. Because racial inequities are systemic, overcoming them will take time. Ms. Byrd and her team can be reached at RaceAndEquity@arlington-va.us.

Another guest speaker was Duke Banks, vice president of the Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center, who spoke about benefits to residents from the nature centers' educational and conservation programs and services. He asked AFCA to urge the county board for nature center funding in future capital improvement plans.

Sal D'Itri, AFCA representative to the Arlington County Civic Federation, reported on the federation's April 20 meeting. Attendees discussed community relationships with the police department. The federation passed a resolution for increased funding for the county auditor's position to improve its audit function. You can find video and audio recordings of the meeting on the federation website. Liz Kauffman, AFCA coordinator

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AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. **May 19** Through Zoom

The Team

Editor: Hutch Brown

703-855-1732, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

Advertising: Hutch Brown

703-855-1732, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

Layout & Design: Leo Horwitz

newsletter@leohorwitz.com

Distribution: Joan Blake

703-358-9549, joanblake43@gmail.com

Contact Joan if you do not receive a newsletter.

The Arlington Forester is the official publication of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, Arlington, VA. A nonpartisan, nonsectarian publication serving the residents of Arlington Forest, the *Forester* welcomes articles, newsbits, letters, and photos focusing on noncommercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish eight times per year (Sep to Nov and Jan to May). The deadline for submissions is the first of the month. Email your submission of up to 400 words—less, if you include a photo—to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

2020-21 AFCA Officers

President:

Esther Bowring

703-243-0433

afcaprez@gmail.com

Vice President, Southside:

Sean Lyons

sean.mculty.lyons@gmail.com

Vice President, Northside:

Joel Yudken

703-980-8122

joel.yudken@verizon.net

Co-Secretary:

Natalie Roisman

202-744-3757

natalie.roisman@gmail.com

Neighborhood Conservation Plan:

Liz Kauffman

571-327-6497

lizkauffman@yahoo.com

Karen Burst

571-242-9942

burstfamily@yahoo.com

Historian:

John Naland

nalandfamily@yahoo.com

Vice President, Greenbrier:

Tom Smialowicz

703-528-3889

tsmialowicz@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:

Char Mahoney

571-241-9866

char.mahoney@verizon.net

Treasurer:

Jeffrey Horwitz

703-243-2395

afca@ironstate.me

Arlington Civic Federation Rep:

Salvador D'Itri

703-350-2183

sditri@yahoo.com

Website: www.arlingtonforestva.org

Join AFCA listserv by emailing address to:

arlingtonforestva@gmail.com

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AFCA Meeting

...from page 1

for the Neighborhood Conservation Program, reported that the draft revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan will be reviewed by the county prior to a final vote by residents at the AFCA meeting in September (see the article on page).

Meeting participants agreed to cancel an in-person AFCA meeting on May 19 due to pandemic-related risks, even spread out at the Lubber Run Amphitheater. Esther will consider how to conduct the vote for AFCA officers electronically. Natalie Roisman volunteered to help coordinate family-friendly fun neighborhood activities to take the place of the picnic this year.

Free Native Plants!

Susan Graham of Greenbrier is potting up and giving away little native plants during the summer months, taking them from her lovely garden of native plants. Native plants support native wildlife. If you would like some native plants for your yard, email Susan at sujigraham@gmail.com.

Faces of the Forest:

Tell Us About Someone You Know!

With well over 800 households, Arlington Forest has residents known for their accomplishments, whether in our neighborhood or in their careers. 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? Send an email or text/call 703-855-1732.

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.

Homegrown National Park

By Susan Graham



233 N Galveston St

Many of you have read about dwindling populations of bees, butterflies, other insects, and birds. Rather than focus on the damage, I would like to take concrete steps to improve our natural habitat. Even if you don't care for most insects, they are absolutely essential for life as we know it. For example, the caterpillars that depend on native trees are baby food for 90 to 95 percent of our native birds. That's where Dr. Douglas Tallamy's proposed Homegrown National Park comes in.

Dr. Tallamy is a professor of agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. In his latest book, *Nature's Best Hope*, Tallamy quotes Albert Einstein: "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." He goes on to make four points: (1) Confined to parks, conservation will not preserve species in the long run because parks are too small and isolated. (2) We must continue to protect good habitat but also expand our thinking to include the ecological value of land outside of our preserves. (3) Restoring habitat where we live and work will build biological corridors that connect preserved habitat fragments. (4) Millions of acres now covered by lawn can be quickly restored to viable habitat by untrained citizens at minimal expense.

If you have walked by my house at 233 North Galveston Street, you have seen my garden. You don't have to kill all your grass, but if we all dedicate a portion of our yards to native plants, we can create what Tallamy

calls a Homegrown National Park here in Arlington Forest.

I'm planning to write a series of articles for *The Arlington Forester* to help you get started. For now, start by planting a tree! Go to www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder and search the list of trees that are native to our zip code. You will see that some trees have more habitat value than others. Oaks, river birch, and maples are just some of the trees that support the moths and butterflies that in turn support our native birds. More on how this works in the next article.

Second, if you are able, I would like to help create several small gardens in front yards of volunteers where passersby can see how a beautiful native plant garden can be established. These gardens can be in sun or shade and will likely involve removing grass. I'm happy to guide you in creating the space and choosing the plants. If you are willing to give it a try, please email me at sujigraham@gmail.com.

Finally, this is the last issue of the *Forester* until fall, but I plan to continue potting up and giving away little native plants during the summer months. So far, I have sent notices and information about the plants to the Arlington Forest Garden Group. Email me or join the garden group if you would like to receive these notices.

I'm really excited about establishing our own Homegrown National Park right here in Arlington Forest. I hope you will join me!

They're Coming!



You might remember the last time the 17-year periodical cicadas appeared in Arlington Forest. In 2004, millions of the inch-long winged insects emerged from underground. This year, when soil temperatures warm to about 64 °F, the 17-year brood will be back.

With black bodies, orange wings, and red eyes, many cicadas will survive long enough to mate, although predators (especially birds) will feast on many more. The males sing to attract mates, making a cacophony of sound. After mating, the females climb trees and shrubs to find pencil-size branchlets, where they slit the bark and lay eggs. Up to 10 weeks later, juveniles will hatch and drop to the ground, burrowing into the soil. They will remain underground as nymphs that look like white grubs, feeding on roots for the next 17 years.

Damage to woody plants occurs when females split the bark; the affected branchlets sometimes droop and die. Healthy trees and shrubs usually heal, but some can die if the damage is too great. You can protect small trees and shrubs with fine netting, cheesecloth, or row-cover fabric tied securely at the base to keep out cicadas. It's best to remove damaged branchlets to keep eggs from hatching and future populations low. And delay planting at least until adult cicadas are gone, usually by mid-July. Planting in fall is best. Learn more at Arlington Cicadas 101.

Neighborhood Conservation Program News By Liz Kauffman

In 2018, Arlington County launched a review of the Neighborhood Conservation Program (NCP). Program coordinator Anthony Fusarelli, county staff, and interested citizens explored the program's history, costs, impact, and role in community development. Recommendations included increasing program funding, broadening the participant base beyond mostly single-family neighborhoods, and rebranding the NCP (possibly as the Neighborhood Improvement Program). You can find the final report online at Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Program Review.

The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

(NCAC) held a meeting on April 29. The meeting included a briefing on the county's review of the NCP. The committee also approved a letter to the Arlington County Board urging deer population management measures. In addition, the NCAC approved Lyon Park's proposed neighborhood-funded memorial plaque in honor of the late Erik Gutshall, former county board member. The plaque will be installed on a boulder in Zitkala-Ša Park (formerly Henry Clay Park) in Lyon Park. The park's new name honors a nationally recognized American Indian author, activist, and musician who was also known as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan Delayed By Liz Kauffman

We've completed the draft update of the Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan, with much credit due to editor Hutch Brown, the authors, contributors, reviewers, and all neighbors who completed the survey last May. However, we need to postpone the vote at the May AFCA meeting in order to give the Neighborhood Conservation Program staff time to review the draft.

Program staff will ensure that the required plan components have been included, and they will offer editorial and substantive comments based on their technical expertise and experience. They'll offer suggestions only,

not required changes. Any remaining unresolved issues between staff and the neighborhood will be flagged to the Arlington County Board and footnoted as such when the plan is published. The goal is to work out as many issues as possible to make the plan an effective policy guide for the board.

After receiving staff comments, we'll publish any substantive suggestions in the September issue of *The Arlington Forester*. At the September meeting, we can then discuss any unresolved issues and decide whether to vote to approve the plan.

Shopping Center Changes

By Dan Kirby

Stories have recently circulated about successive businesses over the years at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center. Here's one of them.

My parents, Jim and Lillian Kirby, were original owners of the house at 367 North Edison Street, purchased in 1942. I was born in 1944 and lived there until we moved to 229 North Columbus Street in 1946. Our new home had a front entry, a side porch, and a fireplace, something my folks always wanted.

I remember the shopping center, especially Jack's Delicatessen (OMG, the poorboy sandwiches!), the bakery, the barber shop, Bruffey's hardware, and the drugstore. When Peoples Drug left, the store was bought by an independent pharmacist we all called Doc. Some of my friends worked at the soda fountain, but my favorite was Mrs. Thomas, who would not put up with our teenage shenanigans. I went to St. Thomas More elementary school and then to O'Connell for high school, graduating in 1962. My parents retired to Bradenton, FL, in 1975.

I never expected to return to Arlington Forest, but my wife and I were looking for a single-family house and saw a listing at 200 North Emerson Street. We decided to



investigate and immediately fell in love with the home. Surprisingly, I knew the families on either side, who still lived there—the Pessaud family on the left and the Earhardt family on the right. We purchased the home in 1985 and have been very happy here ever since.

Plant a Tree in Your Yard

Help keep the “forest” in Arlington Forest! If you have lost a tree or want to add a new one, you can get financial assistance.

AFCA Tree Grant Program: AFCA provides up to \$125 to help cover the cost of buying and planting a canopy tree (including delivery). You can qualify for grants on up to two trees, with various native trees to choose from. To qualify, all you need is to be paid up on your 2020–21 AFCA dues. For the application form, go to www.arlingtonforestva.org and click on the AFCA tab. Act now—grants are limited.

Tree Canopy Fund: Through a county program administered by EcoAction Arlington, you can get a native tree planted on your property at no cost to you. You can choose from various trees, both large and small. Typically, the application deadline is in June. For more information, check out EcoAction Arlington Tree Canopy Fund.

Saving Neighborhood Trees

Trees originally attracted many residents to neighborhoods like ours, but research by the U.S.

Forest Service shows rising impervious surfaces and declining tree cover in urban areas. In neighboring Glencarlyn, worried about tree loss, residents formed a neighborhood tree committee and held a “tree tour” in 2019 to teach tree care, such as cutting back English ivy, which can choke a tree. Residents also appealed to developers, telling them that “we don’t want to live in a neighborhood without mature trees.”

If you are interested in joining a tree committee for Arlington Forest and helping to organize a neighborhood “tree tour,” contact Jan Hull at jkh999@verizon.net. You can find a story about the Glencarlyn committee online at Washington Post Glencarlyn Tree Tour.

Spring Cleanup

On April 24, dozens of neighbors participated in a spring cleanup in three locations, including Lubber Run Park and the Southside Arlington Boulevard buffer strip. In Southside, 23 neighbors gathered to clean up trash.

In the park below the North Greenbrier Street trail-head, two dozen neighbors worked along Four Mile Run. They filled over a dozen trash bags and removed several large metal objects from the floodplain, leaving them for county pickup. They also freed a large log that was wedged under the concrete ford over the stream.



More housing inventory came on the market in March, yet those listings were snapped up quickly; there are simply more buyers than available homes for sale. The average March sales price increased 7% across Northern Virginia compared to last year as prospective buyers often found themselves in multiple offer competitions, pushing the limits of what they can afford. Buyers competed vigorously for new listings that came on the market, particularly single family, detached homes & townhouses, with an average sold price to original list price ratio of 101.4% in March. Some strategically priced desirable properties have sold from 6% to 8% over list price, and one home just sold for nearly 20% over asking price! As of this writing in early May there are more homes coming on the market, which is good news for buyers.

As a buyer in today's real estate market, your offer to purchase will likely be up against offers from other motivated buyers. Based my experience and perspective as a buyer's agent and seller's agent in multiple offer scenarios, I've written a guide called "**13 Ways to Write a Winning Offer**", to make your offer stand out from the competition and be the one that gets accepted. Of course, the strategies you use will depend a lot on the type and condition of the property, your level of motivation, and how much competition you have from other parties. You can download a FREE copy of the guide on our website.

Are you living in your ideal home now? If you are thinking of a new lifestyle, I'm glad to help you research and discuss options.

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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Going Solar

By Katherine Roberts

In June 2020, we joined the Virginia Solar United Neighbors (SUN) Arlington 2020 Solar and EV Charger Co-op, and by Election Day we had solar panels installed on our roof and an electric vehicle charger installed on our house. All were installed by the same company over the course of a couple days. We installed a 5.18-kilowatt array with high-efficiency panels (14 panels total: 12 on the south-facing roof of the original house and 2 on the east-facing back-addition roof). In addition, an inverter and other hardware were installed on the side of the house. Our home, which includes two work-at-home adults and an online high school senior, immediately uses the power produced by the solar panels. Any excess power flows back to the grid and is used by nearby neighbors. We receive a 1:1 credit on our Dominion bill for the surplus power. Despite some shade from a few mature trees and our chimney, the panels supplied 52 percent of our power in February and 81 percent in March, which will increase during the longer summer days. Through an app, the solar inverter company tracks how much power the system produces daily, monthly, and yearly.

Congress extended the 26-percent federal Investment Tax Credit for 2 years, so 2021 or 2022 is a great time to go solar and save 26 percent on the entire system! If you are interested, the 2021 SUN Arlington Solar and EV



Charger Co-op is open until August 1, 2021. The SUN website has a wealth of information about going solar at <https://tinyurl.com/xzrbapt6>. The SUN co-op is free to join and members are not obligated to buy solar panels. As a member, you get a free review of your roof to see if solar panels make sense, one-on-one support, and an individualized proposal for installing solar at a bulk rate.

If your roof is near the end of its life, you should replace it before installing any panels because it is expensive to remove the panels/racking system. High-quality panels have a 20-year product warranty and a 25-year power output warranty (for at least 92 percent of power production after 25 years); however, today's panels can last up to 40 years. The inverter will need to be replaced sooner, but it typically has a 12-year warranty. In the DC area, strong rainstorms wash pollen and dirt off of the panels, so little maintenance is required. Feel free to reach out to me at kenkatroberts@verizon.net if you have any questions about the process!



Tracy C. Taylor, Author

W-L High School Graduate

George Mason University Graduate

DeVry University Graduate

United States Army Veteran

Writer of Adventure Books, Children's Books,

Christian Books, Dental Fiction,

Poetry, and Young Adult Fiction.

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Ahhhs

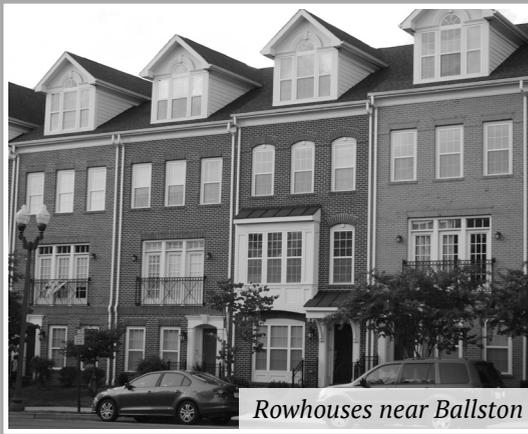
Financial: Good Habits to Have (Financial Help Book)

Missing Middle Housing Study: Unanswered Questions

Arlington County's Missing Middle Housing Study raises the issue of rezoning Arlington neighborhoods like ours to allow for replacing single-family detached homes with duplexes and townhouses. The study includes multiple documents that leave key questions unanswered, including these (identified by a committee of neighbors).

What are Arlington's goals for new housing? How many new units of what type are needed where? What does success look like for Arlington in meeting regional housing needs?

Without clear county goals for the number, type, and location of new units, residents have no clear idea of what to expect, how to assess the potential impacts, or what constitutes success. The Missing Middle Housing Study suggests more duplexes and rowhouses near transportation corridors but offers no specifics. Building more duplexes and townhouses near Arlington's major transportation corridors might add up to a thousand new units by 2030. Would that meet county goals? Would it meet regional goals? The county should give residents a full and detailed accounting of its role in meeting the regional need for new housing, including



any commitments made to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Can the county point to other communities that have made housing more affordable by replacing single-family detached units with duplexes and rowhouses?

The Missing Middle Housing Study suggests that the answer is yes. In Portland, OR, one of the examples it cites, another study found that seniors were "surprised to see that a newly constructed

rowhouse or duplex is no less expensive than the larger, single-family home they are hoping to leave." An Arlington study found that new duplexes affordable to median-income buyers would be limited to six Arlington neighborhoods (Arlington View, Claremont, Columbia Forest, Fairlington, Green Valley, and Shirlington). "The market," the study's author concluded, "does not seem



Paul Cachion, MBA

571-216-6802

CachionHomes@gmail.com

Arlington Forest Club Swim!

Having missed last season due to Covid, it's doubly exciting to see the AFC teams – swim, dive, and tennis – starting up in early June. Our girls, Zoe and Mia, have spent 22 summers (between the two of them) on the swim team, enjoying many, many laps, pancake breakfasts, ice cream socials, meets, plenty of volunteering (Sylvie and I), and most of all great friendships. It's our family's penultimate season, so I am sure it will also be pretty nostalgic next year.



Two little swimmers, more than a couple of years ago

I hope everyone gets to enjoy getting back to a closer sense of normalcy this summer. Go AFC Tigers!



Member Long & Foster Executive Club.

Unanswered Questions (cont.)

to generate units at the price points that advocates are looking for.” An article on legacy zoning in Berkeley, CA, put it this way: “It is important to clarify that new Missing Middle housing will not yield housing accessible to these groups [low- and middle-income households] unless specifically reserved at below-market rates.”

Can the county clearly state the tradeoffs from rezoning and redevelopment? Would residents and the county itself be willing to accept the tradeoffs?

The county should conduct a cost/benefit analysis to evaluate whether the benefits from “missing middle housing” would offset its adverse impacts on a neighborhood like ours. The upzoning and densification required to replace single-family detached units with “missing middle housing” might sacrifice “components that contribute to the livability and vitality of residential communities,” to borrow a phrase from the Missing Middle Housing Study. Would the addition of relatively few pricey new units for high-income buyers be worth the tradeoffs in terms of the county’s own goals for trees, stormwater, historic preservation, and more?

Trees: The larger lot coverage sizes needed for duplexes and townhouses would decrease the open space needed for large trees, mitigating against county goals for canopy cover.

Stormwater: Larger lot coverage sizes and the need for more offstreet parking would increase the area of impervious surfaces and reduce open space for absorbing precipitation into soils. It would exacerbate the countywide problem of stormwater runoff and mitigate against county goals for reducing pollution runoff into Chesapeake Bay.

Historic preservation: Converting housing types would change the distinctive neighborhood character of Arlington Forest, undermining its listing as a historic neighborhood in the National Register of Historic Places and mitigating against county goals for historic preservation.

Quality of life: Rezoning would invite more construction in our neighborhood. The resulting noise, disruption, canopy tree loss, and other effects would disrupt quality of life for many residents. (The fact that tear-downs and renovations have similar adverse effects simply begs the question of how to prevent them.)

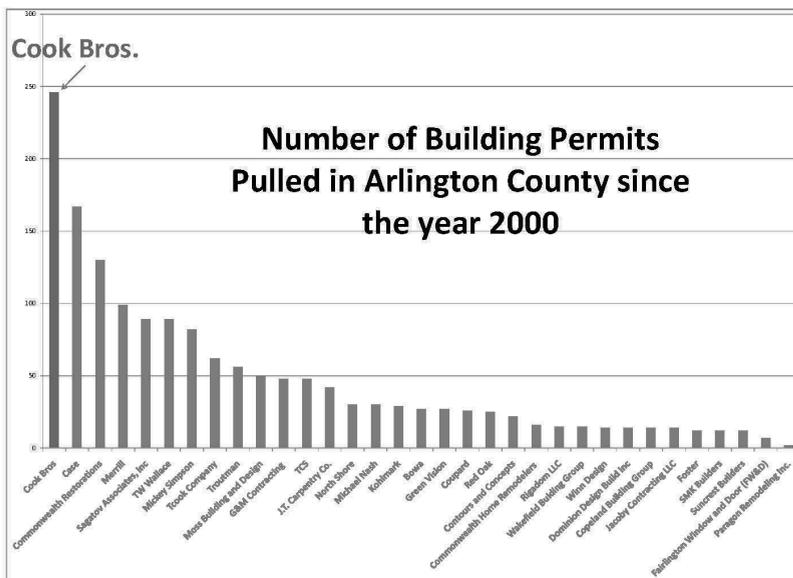
Parks, parking, schools, transportation, and other public services: Higher density housing would increase the number of residents, raising demand for more public services and exacerbating existing problems such as overcrowded schools and the growing scarcity of street parking in our neighborhood.

You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But...

Why Wouldn't You?

For a larger Graph image and more information about the Graph, visit our website at

www.CookBros.org/ArlForest



Parks Update

ArlinGnomes Scavenger Hunt

Kids and nature-loving families can visit the trail at Long Branch Nature Center through May 24 for a fun, free self-guided scavenger hunt with cute gnomes and fun facts. This art-and-nature-themed hunt is a fun way to connect with and learn about our natural environment. Bring your smartphone to scan QR codes to get clues or use the onsite pamphlet as a guide.

Nature Centers Reopen

The Gulf Branch and Long Branch Nature Centers have reopened with limited hours and exhibits. You can see animal exhibits at both centers, and Gulf Branch has a Native American room. Gulf Branch: Thu–Sat, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Long Branch: Tue, Wed, Sat, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Lubber Run Bridge Project

Arlington County plans to rebuild one of the Lubber Run bridges washed out by the flood of July 8, 2019. A community engagement webpage (now in place) has project information and timeline, an educational video, and a link residents can use to furnish information. The county will use the information to assist in bridge design and location. For more information, contact Jerusalem Solomon with the county at jsoloman@arlingtonva.us.

Stones Piled in Lubber Run Park

The stones near the bridge at the north entrance to the park are for backfilling areas of trail damaged by floods. The remaining stones will be used for trail sections below Greenbrier. For questions about the stones, contact Lyndell Core with the county at Lcore@arlingtonva.us.

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County News

Coronavirus Vaccinations

Virginia has entered phase 2 for COVID-19 vaccines, which means that anyone living in Virginia who is 16 years of age or older is eligible for a free vaccine. To learn more or to preregister for an appointment, visit vaccinate.virginia.gov or call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682).

Crime in Arlington Forest

Officer J.P. Montoya, who spoke at the March AFCA meeting, reported crime statistics in 25 categories (ranging from assault to weapons violations) for Arlington Forest in 2019–20. The overall number of incidents rose from 79 to 113, an increase of 43 percent. Vehicle tampering went from 1 case in 2019 to 14 incidents in 2020, the most in any category. Narcotics violations (nine in 2020, up from eight in 2019) and driving while under the influence (eight, up from four) were the next highest categories. For assault and battery, the number of reported cases rose from two in 2019 to six in 2020. The statistics do not include the Arlington Forest Shopping Center breakins on January 6, 2021.

Missing Middle Housing Study

Arlington County has launched a multiyear initiative to gain public support for building “missing middle housing”—duplexes and townhouses—in neighborhoods like ours, currently zoned for single-family detached homes. Phase 1, “Developing a common understanding” of the problem, ends in June. Phase 2, “Focused study of housing types” needed to solve the problem, will be completed in December.

Plant NOVA Natives

Plant NOVA Natives is the joint marketing campaign of a grand coalition of nonprofit, governmental, and private groups, plus hundreds of individuals, all working to reverse the decline of native plants and wildlife in northern Virginia. Our strategy is to encourage residents as well as public and commercial entities to install native plants as the first step toward creating wildlife habitat and functioning ecosystems on their own properties. All are welcome to participate in this collective-action movement! Find out more at www.plantnovanatives.org.

Around the Forest

Benefit Concert

Seventy-five Greenbrier neighbors sat along the sidewalk in the 100 block of North Granada Street on April 25 to hear a concert organized by Forester and former U.S. Army Band musician Tony Nalker. The "Swing Into Spring With Tony Nalker and Friends" concert raised funds for the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Joining Tony were five other musicians who have performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center. Attendees donated over \$700 and filled a box with food for the center.

Caution About Cables

Verizon has a telecommunications cable running from North Columbus Street along the southwestern side of the amphitheater parking lot to a pole in the rear seating area and on across Lubber Run. Cables hanging to the ground next to the parking lot might be dangerous if touched, although there is no way of telling. If you are concerned, contact Lyndell Core with the county at Lcore@arlingtonva.us.

Lubber Run Community Center

Arlington County expects to open the building for public use in summer 2021 (an exact date has not been announced). The grounds have been open for use since fall 2020, and the parking garage is being used for coronavirus vaccinations by appointment.

Parking Issues

Street parking for neighbors near the Lubber Run Community Center is often unavailable due to heavy playground use and use of the parking garage for coronavirus vaccinations. In preparation for opening the building to public use in summer 2021, the county will install signs directing facility users to the entrance of the parking garage.

Yard Sale in the Fall?

Due to risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic, AFCA canceled the annual neighborhood yard sale in May. Improving conditions allow for a tentative postponement to the fall.

Playing in the Bioretention Pond

The Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation asks parents to keep children from playing in the bioretention pond at the Lubber Run Community Center and from moving the rounded river rocks from the bioswales and other locations. The county will soon install signs to that effect.

Community Calendar

AFCA meeting (last until September): May 19, officer elections

Home and Garden Tour: Canceled due to coronavirus

Annual AFCA Picnic and Meeting:

Canceled due to coronavirus. Other outdoor activities might be planned; contact Natalie Roisman at natalie.roisman@gmail.com for details.

Annual Yard Sale: Canceled for the spring due to coronavirus

VA Primaries on Tuesday, June 8
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Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

On Mondays, the Barcroft PTA and Communities in School have been working together to provide a bag of groceries to about 80 Barcroft families in need. We are asking for community support. Every Friday, we will use the Arlington Forest Listserv to email a list of four pantry staples that we will be collecting the following week. Collection bins will be available at Barcroft Elementary on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can also drop off items at 4819 1st Street South. In addition to the pantry staples, we always collect items for snack bags, including granola bars, individual fruit cups/applesauce, and snack-size bags of goldfish, pretzels, Cheez-its, and so on.

If you would like to make an online donation to the Barcroft PTA to support food distribution, go to give.barcroftpta.org, which will take you to a PayPal site. You



can also mail a check payable to Barcroft PTA to 625 South Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22204 (Attention PTA). Please note on the check that it is for food distribution. We occasionally need volunteer help at the Monday distribution. If you are interested in helping, email the PTA at president@barcroftpta.org. Barcroft is thankful for all the support received from the Arlington Forest community!

We recently celebrated Staff Appreciation Week (May 3–7) at Barcroft. We are thankful not only for our classroom teachers but also for all of the other Barcroft staff in the building—our custodians, front office workers, specials teachers, and food service workers. As the fourth quarter proceeds, we are looking forward to finding additional ways to celebrate all of the hard work by our students, teachers, and staff.



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Barrett School News

By Will Le

Congratulations to our new officers elected to the K.W. Barrett PTA: Colleen Nguyen, president; Jessica Patel, vice president of internal relations; Whitney Minter, vice president of fundraising; and Luke VanBelleghem, treasurer. I am excited about the new group of officers, knowing that they will continue our PTA support for our students and the Barrett school community.

Thank you to our departing PTA officers—Melanie Jones, who has been a PTA officer for 4 years; Aleda Kaufman, vice president of internal relations; Saul Reyes, vice president of community relations; and Erika White, vice president of outreach and communications liaison. Despite the pandemic, we have worked well as a team and enjoyed getting to know each other. I myself have been honored to serve as PTA president for the past 2 years, a role with many challenges but one of the most rewarding experiences I've had.

The pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities of many of our families while proving that we live in a kind and



charitable community. I am proud of the work we did as a PTA, with incredible support from many Arlington Foresters, to help so many of our families who struggled during the pandemic.

In addition, our community came together to fight for the interests of Barrett, including protecting our school boundary during the Arlington Public School (APS) Elementary School Planning/Elementary School Boundary Process and petitioning APS to not go through with proposed cuts to Exemplary Projects. Before the pandemic shutdown, the PTA funded many important initiatives; in addition to our usual annual events and activities, we gave out T-shirts to every Barrett student and provided \$1,000 grants to each of our classroom teachers.

I call on Arlington Forest to do what you can to continue supporting the PTA, including volunteering your time to help out with events and activities, attending PTA meetings, and raising concerns about challenges to our students. Your feedback and suggestions to the PTA show your care for our school, our teachers, and our students. Our school community is only as strong as our involvement with the PTA and the work that we do as a PTA.

Have a safe and joyous summer! We look forward to seeing many of our friends in the Arlington Forest neighborhood.



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	Name	Email	Phone									Other	
Southside	Dylan Heinrich	dylanheinrich@icloud.com		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	Odd jobs	
	Ethan Heinrich	ethan.heinrich27@gmail.com	703-475-8430		✓		✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Emilie Kluge	emieliekluge@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	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓					
	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
Julia Green		joangreen32@gmail.com	703-785-4293	✓	✓				✓		✓		
Trevor Green		joangreen32@gmail.com	703-785-4293	✓				✓				Lawn mowing	
Charlotte Lawson		CharlotteLawsonnn@gmail.com	703-933-8880	✓	✓		✓						
Madeline Lund		madelinelund11@gmail.com	571-447-6968	✓	✓		✓			✓			
Anna McLaughlin		annamc1012@yahoo.com	571-550-1680	✓	✓		✓*		✓		✓		
Ciara McLaughlin		ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com	703-712-9215				✓*			✓	✓		
Reid Messman			703-469-1988	✓	✓								
Shea Messman			703-469-1988				✓*						
Alexandra Orli			703-528-5618		✓		✓		✓	✓			
Matthew Petruccelli		tony.petruccelli@gmail.com	703-629-0425			✓		✓					
Caulder Pickard		katiepickard@gmail.com	571-244-6870	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ava Smialowicz		ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com	703-424-0895		✓		✓*						
Ben Sparks		benchispas@gmail.com		✓	✓								
Emma Weaver			703-875-8185				✓*						
Northside	Natalie Bryant	sarakatherine75@hotmail.com		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
	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	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓		
	Sophie Stewart	sophiestewart4@gmail.com	703-713-5902	✓	✓		✓		✓				
	Name	Email	Phone									Other	



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