



The Arlington Forester

Vol. 66, Number 3

Arlington, Virginia

November 2024

Virtual AFCA Meeting—Arlington’s Stormwater Management Program

AFCA invites you to join our monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, November 20, at 7 p.m. An Arlington County representative will outline the stormwater challenges facing residents and the county’s response through its Stormwater Management program. You will be able to ask questions, including about the county’s stormwater utility fee and how it works.

To join the meeting, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday,

November 20: <https://tinyurl.com/yckdzp5t>. (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 816 5354 1733 and passcode 469609. 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.

How Do AFCA Dues Benefit You?

Your annual AFCA dues help get this newsletter delivered to your door as a service to you and the entire neighborhood, with information on trees and parks, trails and bridges, the Lubber Run Amphitheater, traffic and pedestrian safety, and more. Dues pay for our annual picnic and holiday party and for donations to our neighborhood schools. Dues also support the AFCA website (www.arlingtonforestva.org), which contains a detailed neighborhood map, a history of Arlington Forest, back issues of this newsletter, and more. Please pay your dues promptly this year.

AFCA October Meeting

On October 16, AFCA President Sal D’Itri opened the meeting by welcoming about 20 households participating. He noted that the November meeting would focus on stormwater management, with a speaker from Arlington County presenting information on county stormwater planning and management, including impacts on Lubber Run. Sal asked for volunteers to help with the AFCA Santa Party scheduled for Thursday, December 5, at the Lubber Run Community Center (see the article on page 5). He also noted that construction of

...continued on page 2

AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL DUES \$20 PER HOUSEHOLD

Pay online on the AFCA website through PayPal or deliver this form and your check payable to AFCA to your respective AFCA section representative:

Greenbrier: Tom Smialowicz, 26 N. Granada St. 22203

Northside: Liz Grossman, 128 N. Columbus St. 22203

Southside: Julie Kirchhoff, 4828 Arlington Blvd. 22204

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AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. **November 20** Through Zoom

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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 and photos focusing on issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish monthly from September to November and January to May. The deadline for submissions is the first of the month. Email your submission of up to 400 words—preferably with a photo—to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Articles on controversial issues are welcome but do not necessarily reflect the views of AFCA and will be marked as opinion.

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AFCA Meeting ...from page 1

the new stoplight at N. Park and N. George Mason Dr. is scheduled to start in late October and run through the end of the year.

Janet Irwin presented an update on Arlington's Deer Management Program. On October 19, the Arlington County Board approved the process of amending county gun ordinances to allow for sharpshooting, the primary method of controlling excess deer populations in county parks. The program will supplement sharpshooting with fencing and deer repellents, where feasible. Arlington is one of the few jurisdictions in the region lacking a deer management program; the final program, to go into effect in about 14 months, will resemble programs already in place in surrounding jurisdictions.

A discussion about the invasive spotted lanternfly included reminders to squash or otherwise kill these pests wherever you see them. Their favorite habitat is tree of heaven (ailanthus), an invasive tree that is extremely difficult to remove or eradicate. The website of the Blue Ridge Partnership for the Removal of Invasive Species has useful information on ailanthus and how to eradicate it on your property.

Participants were reminded about volunteer opportunities to remove invasive plants in our local parks. Forester Stephanie Martin leads volunteer workdays for pulling invasives in Lubber Run Park, with no prior experience needed. The next workday is Saturday, November 23 (1-3 p.m.); volunteers will meet at the Lubber Run Amphitheater. Cheryl Roessel mentioned the ongoing effort to maintain the Northside traffic circles by tending the native plants recently installed there and helping to keep out nonnative and other undesirable plants; more volunteers are needed. For those who garden with native plants, the Virginia Native Plant Society planned to offer information and advice at the Lubber Run Farmers Market on Saturday, November 2.

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Littles Halloween Parade in Arlington Forest



At 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, kids and parents in Halloween costume, some with four-legged pets, met at Edison Park and paraded up N. Edison St. Turning onto 4th St. N. and entering Lubber Run Park, they ended up at the Lubber Run Amphitheater. A party awaited them, with music for the costumed little ones to help

them strut across the stage and dance! Kids enjoyed candy (while supplies lasted) and stickers for decorating their Halloween buckets. Thanks to Meghan Dowker and to everyone else who helped organize and put on the parade!

Mapping Discriminatory Deeds in Northern Virginia

The piece is based on an article in ArlNow on 7 May 2024.

Thousands of Arlington deeds from the 1900s contain language that bars people of certain races, nationalities, or religions from buying property, whether for a residence or for a business. A recent study shows how discriminatory covenants segregated neighborhoods across northern Virginia, with effects that are still with us today. The most commonly used exclusionary phrase was “any person not of the Caucasian race,” and the earliest restrictive covenant discovered in northern Virginia was recorded in 1900 for a property in Clarendon.

To help people visually trace the impact of these policies, the researchers used public land records from 1900 to 1968 to construct maps displaying neighborhoods with restrictive covenants (online at documentingexclusion.org/). The goal was to show that segregated neighborhoods in northern Virginia were not simply the result of individual choices but mainly due to systemic discriminatory practices. Racial and other discriminatory covenants are no longer enforceable because of the 1968 Fair Housing Act. Still, the language in these covenants remains part of public land records for many neighborhoods, including for most homes in Arlington Forest (see the AFCA website at arlingtonforestva.org).

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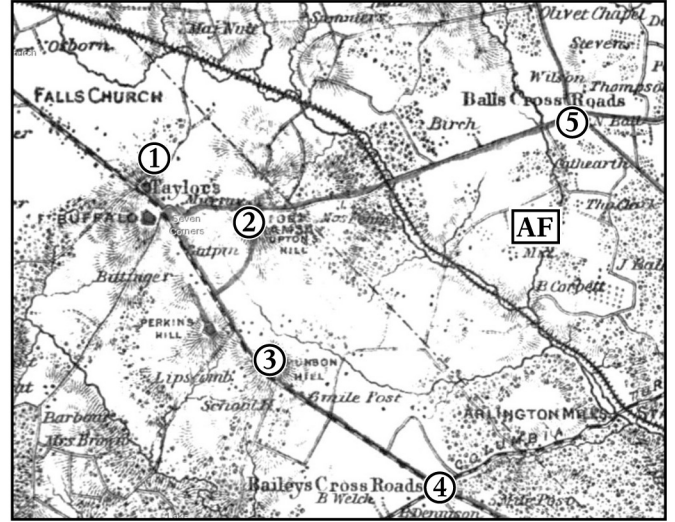
WASHINGTON, Thursday, Aug. 29

A messenger from the Virginia side this morning states that our picket forces advanced to Bailey's Crossroads yesterday, and drove those of the Secessionists a mile and a half beyond, where, it is said, the latter have taken possession of a commanding eminence, and are throwing up entrenchments. There was much firing during the day, but without fatal results. The inhabitants generally of that section have removed elsewhere—some of them to this city.

A dash of secession cavalry, it is reported by the messenger, was made at what they supposed to be a deserted cannon, after about twelve rounds had been fired at it from one of the howitzers. On a nearer approach, however, they discovered it to be a sham; some of the Michiganders having deceived the enemy for sport, by mounting an old stove-pipe on wheels.

It is extremely difficult to obtain reliable intelligence respecting the result of the picket encounter on the other side of the river, but there seems to be truth in the reports that several of our troops were killed and others wounded along our lines yesterday and last night.

From: "Military Map of N.E. Virginia, 1865, War Dept."



- 1. Taylor's Tavern
- 2. Riley's (Upton) Hill
- 3. Munsen's Red Hill
- 4. Bailey's Crossroads
- 5. Ballston
- 6. Present-day Arlington Forest

*Thanks to Larry Bowring for
this piece of local Civil War history!*

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Traditional AFCA Santa Party

By Allison Kennet



The AFCA Santa Party, an Arlington Forest tradition dating to the 1940s, will be held Thursday, December 5, in the Oak and Hickory Rooms at the Lubber Run Community Center. Santa will arrive at 7 p.m. sharp in front of the community center riding a firetruck with sirens blaring and lights flashing! Make sure to be there promptly to welcome him, then come inside and walk all the way back to the Oak/Hickory Rooms. Once inside, kids will line up

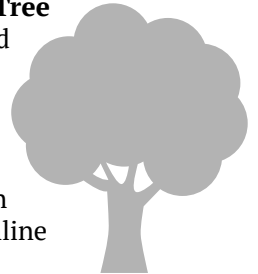
to have a brief chat with Santa and relay their wishes for the holiday. There will be live holiday music played by Arlington Forest neighbors as well as a few crafts and water/juice to drink. Please bring a snack to share with the other families.

We could use a couple of volunteers for setup and cleanup. This is an ideal way to get community service points for a teenager! Also, any Girl or Boy Scout troop (or just a group of kids) who would like to sing carols is more than welcome! Contact Allison Kennett at allison.kennett@gmail.com to volunteer.

Plant a Tree in Your Yard

Help keep the “forest” in Arlington Forest! Fall is the perfect time to plant, but spring works too. If you have lost a tree or want to add a new one, you might be able to get one through the **Arlington Tree Distribution Program** next spring. Arlington County gives away 500 young native trees each spring and fall. The trees, 2-6 ft tall, come in 2-gal containers. The fall season is over, but you can watch for opportunities to register for a free tree next spring online at <https://tinyurl.com/3z6jzhhr>.

Alternatively, through the **Tree Planting Program** administered by EcoAction Arlington, you can get a native tree planted on your property at no cost to you, but the number of trees is limited. For more information, check out EcoAction Arlington Tree Planting Program online at <https://tinyurl.com/4xfxehbz>.



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PTA/PTSA Updates

By Samantha Bell

Barcroft Elementary School: The PTA hosted the annual Chalk for Peace event on October 5 in front of the school with donuts and lots of chalk art to show off school spirit. Three 5th-grade students from Germany visited Barcroft on October 16. The students, part of the Aachen-Arlington exchange program, stayed with Barcroft families who participated in the program on October 11-17. Barcroft held its annual traditional schoolwide parade on Halloween, with the kids walking the large block around the school in costumes.

Upcoming events include the Chipotle Restaurant Fundraiser on November 19 and Thanksgiving Break on November 27-29. You can support the Barcroft PTA by linking your Harris Teeter card (www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education). The Harris Teeter Barcroft code is 4238; you need to relink every year. Follow us on X and Instagram at @BarcroftEagles and on Facebook at Barcroft Elementary School PTA. You can contact barcroftptapresident2024@gmail.com if you would like to support the PTA or have any questions.



Barcroft Chalk 4 Peace

Kenmore Middle School: On October 10, the PTSA hosted an Outdoor Family Movie Night with a view of the Northern Lights and lots of popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones, and hot chocolate. On October 18, the PTSA also hosted a lunch with the custodial crew to show our appreciation for the work they do for Kenmore. Without their help, we would not be able to do many events for our school community.

Upcoming events include the Cougars Care Campaign fundraiser during the month of November (<https://kenmorepta.givebacks.com/>) and Cookies and Cocoa for staff appreciation on December 17. You can support the Kenmore PTSA by linking your Harris Teeter card (www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education). The Harris Teeter Kenmore code is 3954; you need to relink every year. Follow us on X at @KenmorePTA or on the PTSA page of the Kenmore Middle School website at kenmore.apsva.us/pta/. You can contact kenmoreptapresident@gmail.com if you would like to support the PTSA or have any questions. Volunteers are always needed, and donations to the PTSA are always appreciated at kenmorepta.memberhub.com/store.



Kenmore Outdoor Movie Night



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Fall Leaf Collection

Arlington County trucks will pass along streets in Arlington Forest collecting leaves during the weeks of November 19-22 (first pass) and December 9-13 (second pass). If you leave your leaves on the ground, of course, they will decompose for the benefit of plants and animals in your yard. But if you choose, you can rake your leaves to the curb on the weekend before the pass through our neighborhood and the trucks will vacuum them up for conversion into mulch.

Stormwater Utility Fee

Arlington's Stormwater Management Program reduces stormwater threats to public health, safety, property, and more. To fund the program, homeowners pay a utility fee for using Arlington's stormwater system based on a property's impervious area. The fee is part of your real estate tax bill. Homeowners can reduce next year's bill through a stormwater utility credit program open from November 1 through January 31, 2025, for eligible activities in 2024. You can find out more online at Arlington Stormwater Utility Fee.

Pedestrian/Biker Safety Report

A private safety advocacy organization, Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets, released a summary of "near misses" reported by pedestrians and bikers in Arlington both before and after January 2023. Most near misses came from drivers failing to yield to people in crosswalks. One hotspot of reported near misses was the Ballston area; the three "most problematic road corridors" were North Quincy St., Fairfax Dr., and Langston Blvd.

Judge Overturns Missing Middle

In a lawsuit, a circuit court judge has overturned Arlington's Missing Middle zoning changes, siding with plaintiffs on four of six counts. The judge found that the county failed to follow proper procedure; failed to adequately consider localized impacts on traffic, infrastructure, and more; and violated state tree canopy requirements. Pending the outcome of a possible appeal, the county can no longer issue permits to allow for the construction of two- to six-unit buildings on properties previously zoned for single-family homes. Projects with permits already issued may proceed.

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Around the Forest

New Traffic Lights Coming to Northside

Plans are proceeding to replace the pedestrian-activated flashing beacon at the corner of N. Park and N. George Mason Dr. with four-way traffic lights for better driver and pedestrian safety. Construction should be completed by the end of this year, with intermittent closures of travel lanes during work hours, along with crosswalk and sidewalk closures and detours for pedestrians. Speed cameras in the school zone along N. George Mason Dr. are now activated, resulting in potential tickets for speeding vehicles. The speed limit in school zones is 20 mph.

Letter to County Urging Safety Improvements

AFCA joined the Bluemont citizens association in sending a letter to Arlington County urging expedited action on pedestrian safety improvements in the N. Carlin Springs Rd. corridor. The intersections in question include N. Carlin Springs Rd. at 2nd St. N. Safety improvements would mitigate dangerous speeding on N. Carlin Springs Rd., a walking



route for Kenmore Middle School students and for others going to the pool or to Bluemont Park. Incidents include a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of N. Carlin Springs Rd. and N. Greenbrier St. on October 29, resulting in an overturned SUV.

Invasive Plant Removal Workdays

In September and October, volunteers turned out in Lubber Run Park to plant trees or pull invasive weeds. In September, they pulled Japanese stiltgrass. This Asian plant was infesting lower Lubber Run Park, so Arlington County sprayed it with herbicide, leaving a blue residue on the dying plants. Volunteers focused on patches of mature stiltgrass missed by the treatments to keep seeds from spreading. In October, volunteers followed up by helping the county plant native trees and other plants in the lower floodplain area previously infested by stiltgrass. On another day in October, volunteers also pulled invasive English ivy in the upper part of the park. You can volunteer for one more workday this year on Saturday, November 23 (1-3 p.m.). Registration is required; contact Stephanie Martin at stephmartin60@aol.com.



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Around the Forest (cont'd)

Sparrow Pond Project Wrapup



The county project to renovate Sparrow Pond has wrapped up. Sparrow Pond is the stormwater retention pond in Glencarlyn Park below Southside, designed to retain and filter stormwater runoff from Arlington Forest Branch.

The pond areas are completed and the pools have refilled with water; minor damage from late September flooding is repaired. Turtles, frogs, dragonflies, and other wildlife have been using the pond. The maintenance access path is finished and the S. Park Dr. spur trail has been repaved and reopened for use. Storm drain infrastructure will be installed at the foot of S. Park Dr. to solve longstanding drainage problems.

Community Calendar

Next AFCA meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.

Lubber Run Farmers' Market: Saturday mornings at the Barrett Elementary School parking lot.

Santa Party: Thursday, December 5, at the Lubber Run Community Center

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: A Saturday in April 2025

Annual AFCA Picnic: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Annual Yard Sale: A Saturday in May 2025

Turnaround Day: June 15, 2025 (tentative)

AFCA Meetings

Topics are tentative.

November 20, 2024: Arlington's Stormwater Management program

January 15, 2025: Traffic and pedestrian safety

February 19, 2025: Arlington Public Schools

March 19, 2025: Arlington Neighborhoods Program

April 16, 2025: Spring gardening

May 21, 2025: Neighborhood picnic



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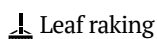
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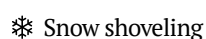
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	Amy Mashkuri		571-643-5883	✓	✓							
	Sabrina Saunders	sabrina_saunders@icloud.com	202-531-2247	✓	✓		✓*			✓	✓	Tutoring
	Brooks Everitt	Ang.everitt12@Gmail.com	571-244-7691	✓	✓				✓		✓	
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Greenbrier	Cece McGrann	snooz_ette@yahoo.com	703-489-7170	✓	✓		✓*			✓	✓	
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	Jacob Nadherny	jacob@nadherny.com		✓	✓						✓	
	Matthew Petruccelli	tony.petruccelli@gmail.com	703-629-0425			✓		✓				
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	Elle Pickard	katiepickard@gmail.com	571-244-6870	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	
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	Matthew Pearl	matthewpearl07@gmail.com	571-531-2348			✓		✓	✓		✓	
	Evie Price		703-402-5138	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	
	Adam Sherzai	adam.sherzai@icloud.com	202-615-9411	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
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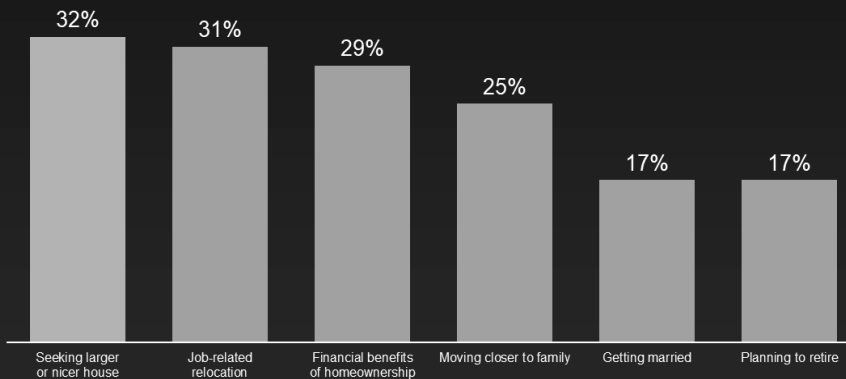
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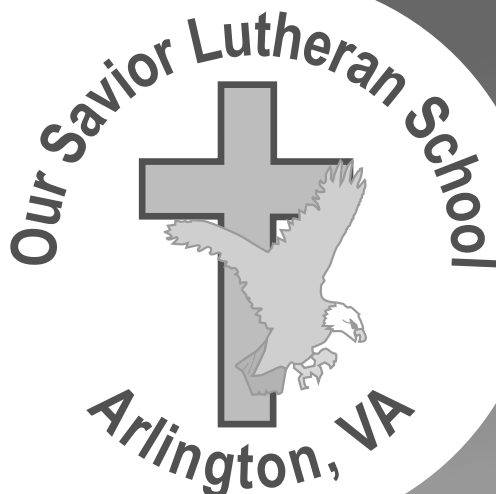
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