

The Arlington Forester



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Arlington, VA

April 2015

Top Officials Address AFCA Meeting

County Board Member John Vihstadt and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Director Jane Rudolph will speak at this Wednesday's AFCA meeting on April 15 at 7 PM in the Barrett Elementary School library. Please take advantage of this opportunity to hear from, and share your views with, these two key County officials.

DPR is responsible for all County parks and community centers. Ms. Rudolph will discuss ongoing DPR initiatives, including plans to rebuild the Lubber Run Community Center, and will be available to answer questions.

Mr. Vihstadt, who this month completes one year on the County Board, will speak during the second half of the meet-

ing. He will update residents on key issues and will respond to questions.

This month, AFCA issues its second notice that orders are being accepted for the 75th anniversary Arlington Forest history. Place your order now using the form on page 7 to reserve a copy. The book will be printed and distributed in early summer.

Finally, see page 8 for details on the fifth annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup to beautify public spaces around our neighborhood on Saturday, April 25. See page 6 for info on the annual Community Yard Sale on May 16.

Help Decide the Future of LRCC on April 29 By Esther Bowring

County officials and your neighbors will explore options for a new Lubber Run Community Center (LRCC) on April 29. Come to LRCC to share your ideas for the types of services and amenities you would like to see at the center – both inside and outside. Take a self-guided tour from 6:30 to 7 p.m. County staff will be there to answer questions and explain how the space in the facility is currently used. Then, from 7 to 9 p.m., a facilitator will guide us through a process to envision what a new center could provide.

Last year, the County Board allocated up to \$28 million to replace the existing community center with a new facility to meet the needs of our growing community. The facility design process, which begins this spring, will include a community engagement process.

To learn more about the timing and procedure for resident input, the Coalition for a New and Better Lubber Run Community Center, which formed following the April Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) meeting to develop support in

adjacent neighborhoods, met with County staff on March 3. Representatives from AFCA, Cathcart Springs Home Owners Association, Bluemont Civic Association, Barrett School PTA, Arlington Parks Coalition and the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation attended. County representatives included Deputy County Manager Mark Schwartz, Department of Parks and Recreation Director Jane Randolph, Recreation Division Chief Laura Lazour and other staff.continued on page 3

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. April 15 at Barrett School Library

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes articles, news notes, letters, and photos focusing on non-commercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish eight times per year (Sept to Nov and Jan to May). Deadline for submissions is the first of the month. E-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space often fills up before the deadline.

Around the Forest

E-CARE: Do you have half-empty paint cans gathering dust in your basement? What about unneeded car fluids, household cleaners or garden chemicals? Or maybe an obsolete computer monitor or television? Arlington's semi-annual E-CARE event allows residents to safely get rid of hazardous household materials and electronics which cannot be discarded with your regular trash. The next E-CARE is at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in the West Parking Lot (one block east of Glebe Rd.) between 8:30 AM and 3 PM on Saturday, April 18. Just load up your car and then drive through the various stations -- dropping off paint cans at one station, TVs (\$20 recycling fee) at another station, and so on. The non-profit Bikes for the World will collect serviceable bikes to be sent to countries where they are needed for basic transportation. For more info, search "E-CARE" on the County website.

Reporting Potholes: Has a pothole formed on your street? If so, get it fixed by reporting it via the County's "Report a Problem" online application.

AFCA Listserv: The AFCA listserv is a great way to stay informed on news directly impacting our neighborhood. If you are not signed up, e-mail your address to arlingtonforestva@gmail.com requesting to be added.

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Help Decide the Future of LRCC on April 29

...continued from page 1

County staff stated that they are moving forward with the LRCC design process with the assumption that affordable housing will not be part of the project. This of course could change depending on direction from the County Board and the results of the Community Facilities work group.

The County is already in the process of contracting with an architectural firm to develop a conceptual design for LRCC based on a “bubble diagram” model – a graphic means of organizing spaces within a design context – derived from current uses at LRCC plus other historical uses that were moved because of accessibility concerns. As of the March meeting date, County staff was assessing their projected needs for administrative facilities as well as the modern requirements needed to provide appropriate space for LRCC’s current recreation uses. This analysis is a first step in determining what could be included in the new building while keeping the project within budget. Staff stated that this conceptual process would be ready to share with the community in the fall.

LRCC Coalition members challenged that time-line and suggested that the community must be involved much earlier in the process. County staff agreed to conduct a vision planning process for residents most likely to use LRCC,

including those from Buckingham, Bluemont, Cathcart Springs, GlenAyr apartments, the Madison and others nearby. The April 29 meeting is a special opportunity to weigh in before any conceptual bubble diagrams are created. This gives our community the chance to expand on its vision for the community center and to address the current needs of our changing community.

Coalition representatives repeated two requests that had originally been made by AFCA almost a year earlier: that environmental studies be conducted at the earliest opportunity to assess whether underground parking was an option on the site; and that a traffic study be conducted to determine the impact of any site development on vehicular traffic on George Mason Drive, which has experienced an increase in collisions.

Coalition representatives also outlined the results of the February 2015 AFCA survey in which 223 residents expressed their preferences for the size and amenities of the rebuilt LRCC (survey results were in the March Arlington Forester and are posted on the AFCA website www.arlingtonforester.org).

For those who cannot attend on April 29, the County will post a survey based on the visioning session to ensure that the public has an opportunity to weigh in.

In a recent Nielsen Study, Washington DC ranks seventh among cities popular with Millennials and first among East Coast markets and it has been called the fastest growing destination for the Millennial generation. Thousands move to the nation’s capital each year, attracted to its cultural, educational and job opportunities.

The Washington market also ranks among the top markets in the nation in terms of its median family income, which makes it possible for most Washington area families to qualify for more expensive housing. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median income for the Washington Metro is \$65,250. To buy a home at \$372,800, with 20% down and a 30 year fixed rate mortgage at 3.98%, buyers need an annual income of \$77,395, according to the NAR.

There are also loan programs where buyers can purchase with 3% to 5% down payment for those who are cash strapped.

RBI (a division of MRIS) created an index to rank local markets by zip code that incorporates total number of lower priced

listings in the hyper local market’s inventory and median price of active listings. Among the 25 most affordable neighborhoods are Manassas, VA; Montgomery Village, MD, Columbia MD and Falls Church, VA.

Buyers can also shop for bargains in higher cost areas and compare what their purchasing power buys them in different territories. Some folks compromise by buying smaller homes to be closer to DC.

Do you know of someone who is in the market for a home? We specialize in helping first time buyers with guidance and advice with the home buying process. Put my 30 years of local market experience and knowledge to work for you and obtain the best outcome!

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Around the Forest

Arlington Forest History Book: The 150-page 4th edition of AFCA's history of Arlington Forest went on sale last month. So far we have received 50 orders, including from former residents now living in other states. We will print as many copies as we receive orders for, so act now if you want a copy. See page 7 for an order form.

Turtle Trot 5K: Help fund the care and feeding of turtles at Long Branch Nature Center by participating in the 2015 Turtle Trot 5K -- a chip-timed run on a certified course attracting both serious and casual runners. This year's Turtle Trot is on Saturday, May 16 in Bluemont Park. Check-in starts at 9 a.m. and the race starts at 10 a.m. at Lower Bluemont Park Picnic Shelter North St. entrance. Festivities include a "real" turtle race, educational booths, games and fun for the whole family! Each year Long Branch Nature Center receives injured turtles and other wildlife that need our help. Proceeds from the race help give them medical attention and a place to live until they are strong enough to be released back into the wild. Register at Active.com or visit our event page. Adults \$30; Kids 12 and under \$15.

Spring Yard Waste Collection: The spring yard waste collection continues through April 24. Collection includes most types of yard waste except grass clippings and large branches: acorns, bamboo trimmings, dead plants, straw, ivy, leaves, pine cones, shrub trimmings, small tree limbs, weeds, and wood chips. Place them in biodegradable paper bags or your own 32 gallon trash container on the day after your regular trash pickup. Do not use plastic bags.

Native Plant Sale: Saturday, April 25, 1-4 pm at Long Branch Nature Center. Attend the annual native plant sale! There will be a variety of spring and summer bloomers along with ferns, vines and shrubs. Prices as marked; plant advice is free! Rain date: Sunday, April 26, 1-4pm. Info: 703-228-6535.

St. John's Annual Tea: St. John's Episcopal Church at 415 S. Lexington in Glencarlyn is having their Annual Tea on Saturday, May 9, 1-3 pm. In addition to a wide choice of teas, attendees are treated to an impressive array of scones, finger sandwiches, pastries, cakes and cookies. \$25 for adults; \$10 for children 12 and under. See stjohnsarlingtonva.org or call 703-671-6834.

Ball-Sellers House: Did you know that the oldest surviving building in Arlington is just across Four Mile Run from Arlington Forest in the Glencarlyn neighborhood? John Ball's 1750s cabin is open to the public Saturdays from 1 to 4 pm from April to October. Located at 5620 3rd St. South, it is a few blocks off the WO&D Trail (albeit uphill) and is thus walkable from our Greenbrier and Southside sections. The house allows visitors to see how ordinary Virginians lived in colonial times. On Sunday, May 3, the house will co-host "Glencarlyn Garden Day" with the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden and the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour the house and then visit an AFAC Plot Against Hunger designed to resemble the kitchen garden the Ball family would have planted in the 1750s. Get tips from the gardeners about how to get the most out of vegetable gardens. Then stroll through the tranquil library garden for a plant sale of locally sourced tropicals, ferns, shrubs, trees, and annuals. For more info, see www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Recycling Tips: Some materials simply cannot be recycled. The County offers these tips: Place recyclables loose in the blue cart; if they are enclosed in black or white plastic bags they will be collected as trash. Place non-recyclable packing materials (Styrofoam/polystyrene, packing peanuts, other non-paper packaging) in the trash; if they are left in cardboard boxes that cardboard cannot be recycled. Place extra recyclables in a cardboard box, paper bag, clear plastic bag, or a reusable labeled container next to your cart. Before you recycle, rinse off food residue and flatten cardboard boxes. For oversize pieces of cardboard, remove all packaging material and lean it against the cart or lay it on the ground.

English Ivy is Destructive: While many people find English Ivy's 3-pointed, dark green glossy leaves to make pretty groundcover, if left unattended this invasive plant can kill trees. If allowed to cover fences, it can invade adjacent lawns and public parkland. But you can easily remove ivy from trees and fences by cutting all vines at the ground level. Cut them again several feet up the trunk and then carefully peel away the cut section of ivy. Do not pull off the remaining upper portion as that could harm the tree bark. That remaining ivy will eventually dry out and die. Pull ground ivy back a few feet from the base of the tree to slow regrowth up the tree trunk.

Street Sweeping: The County street sweeping machine will visit Arlington Forest on Wednesday April 15. Park your car in the driveway if you want your curb cleaned.



Electronic versions of this newsletter are available:
www.arlingtonforestva.org

Lubber Run Amphitheater Summer 2015

The 2015 Lubber Run Amphitheater summer season of free live entertainment opens Friday, June 12. This year's schedule of Friday and Saturday evening shows (with some added Sunday and Wednesday special shows) runs through August 16. It includes many of last year's favorites including Mary Ann Redmond, The Grandsons, Ted Garber, and Halau O'Aulani plus some performances new to Lubber Run Amphitheater.

Thanks to the community's generous donations to the Wishing Well last season, the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation will be able to fund an unprecedented FIVE extra performances this season: Rico Amero's August 15 performance and four family-oriented Saturday performances extending well into September!

-- Groovy Guy-Guy Collins: Sat. August 22nd 4pm (if rain delayed 6pm) - Guy Collins is an international comedy sensation, performing at Renaissance Fairs and wowing audiences with extraordinary juggling tricks and improbable feats of balance. With a little help from the audience he even walks a tight rope juggling deadly sharp knives! This show is funny and spectacular to adults and kids alike. groovyguyshow.com

-- Groovy Nate (a.k.a. Elnathan Starnes): Sat. August 29th 4pm (rain date Sun. Aug. 30th 4pm) - Back by popular demand! Nate has been a popular children's performer in DC/VA/MD for close to a decade, often performing at Busboys and Poets and Doodlehoppers 4 kids. He blends music, puppetry, movement, and comedy into a great experience for the younger set encouraging participation with his wonderfully wacky handout instruments. Nate's the perfect entertainment for all those tiny Lubber Run Amphitheater "mosh pit" dancers. www.groovynate.com

-- Banjo Man: Sat. Sept.12th 4pm (rain date Sun. Sept.13th 4pm) - Frank Cassell is endearing and charming as the Banjo Man. His performance last season was lively and engaging! He includes folk, bluegrass and original music for all audiences. This talented, award-winning musician has performed at Strathmore Music Center and the National Theatre in Washington. www.banjomanfc.com

-- Rocknoceros: Sat. Sept.19th 11am (rain date Sept.20th 11am) - These three bandmates "grew up" (if they ever did) in Northern Virginia, and have been making award-winning music for the whole family since 2005. They have gained

significant national recognition performing at the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap. Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits and perform regularly at Jammin' Java. <http://rocknoceros.com>

The accompanying chart lists the performance schedule which is subject to change. The May *Arlington Forester* will have additional information on each act. Any last-minute schedule adjustments will be posted at www.arlingtonarts.org.

LUBBER RUN AMPHITHEATER SCHEDULE

Friday	June 12	8 pm	Bowen McCauley
Saturday	June 13	8 pm	La Unica
Sunday	June 14	6 pm	Lean and Hungry Theater-- <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>
Monday	June 15	8 pm	The Metropolitan Chorus
Wednesday	June 17	8 pm	Potomas Harmony Chorus
Friday	June 19	8 pm	The Army Blues
Saturday	June 20	8 pm	Signature Theater
Sunday	June 21	6 pm	Shane Gamble Trio
Wednesday	June 24	8 pm	The Arlingtones
Friday	June 26	8 pm	Mary Ann Redmond
Saturday	June 27	8 pm	Andrea pais Duo
Sunday	June 28	6 pm	The Arlington Philharmonic
Friday	July 3	8 pm	Andrew Acosta and the New Old Time String Band
Sunday	July 5	6 pm	Halau O'Aulani
Friday	July 10	8 pm	Ted Garber
Saturday	July 11	8 pm	Acappella Festival hosted by The Tone Rangers
Sunday	July 12	6 pm	Levine School of Music--Jazz Faculty
Friday	July 17	8 pm	The Grandsons
Saturday	July 18	8 pm	CAMMO--Center for American Military Musical Opportunities
Sunday	July 19	6 pm	Shenandoah Run
Friday	July 24	8 pm	The Traveling Players-- <i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>
Saturday	July 25	8 pm	Russkie Mussikanti
Sunday	July 26	6 pm	Levine School of Music--School of Rock Faculty
Friday	July 31	8 pm	Pebble to Pearl
Saturday	Aug 1	8 pm	Sara Gray
Sunday	Aug 2	6 pm	The Project
Friday	Aug 14	8 pm	Wytold Lebing Quartet
Saturday	Aug 15	8 pm	Rico Amero
Sunday	Aug 16	6 pm	BG & the Mojo Hands
Saturday	Aug 22	4 pm	Groovy Guy--Guy Collins
Sunday	Aug 23	4 pm	Levine School of Music--Interactive Family Concert
Saturday	Aug 29	4 pm	Groovy Nate
Saturday	Sept 12	4 pm	Banjo Man
Saturday	Sept 19	11 am	Rocknoceros

Community Yard Sale on May 16

Arlington Forest's long-running annual Community Yard Sale takes place Saturday morning, May 16 (rain date May 17). With over 50 Arlington Forest households participating each year, the event attracts many bargain hunters drawn to the convenience of cruising through one area to visit many sales.

Next month's newsletter will publish a map of sale sites. **To get on the map, e-mail your address to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by May 1.** Residents can use the map to locate nearby sales. Sellers are encouraged to make photocopies (or print copies from the online Arlington Forester at www.arlingtonforestva.org) so shoppers can pick up a map leading them to other sites.

Past experience suggests these strategies for success:

-- Prepare in advance. Sort clothes by size. Group similar items together. Use shopper-friendly ways to display merchandise (tables, clothes rack). Have grocery sacks on hand. Accumulate dollar bills and coins to make change. If selling electronics, set up an extension cord to show that the items work.

-- Price items reasonably. Savvy shoppers will buy elsewhere if prices are too high. Be prepared to negotiate down from the listed price.

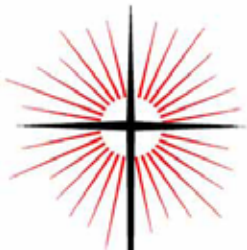
-- To snag buyers who make yard sales their business, start setting up at 7 AM. In late morning, people come out looking for close-out prices and even freebies. If left with furniture or other large items that you simply want to get rid of, leave them at the curb with a "free" sign and they will probably be gone by Sunday.

-- Keep your cash in a pocket, purse or fanny pack. If you do use a cash box, have someone assist you so it is not left unattended while you are with a shopper. Decline personal checks. If you go indoors, have someone watch your merchandise.

Sellers near Arlington Blvd, Carlin Springs Rd., George Mason Dr. and Henderson Dr. are encouraged to post signs along those thoroughfares pointing into the neighborhood to their sale (please remove signs at day's end).

For many people, yard sale success is not measured by profit, but by how much unwanted stuff is moved out instead of left cluttering the house. The sale is also a great community event. Families can say hello to neighbors down the block and snag their own bargains. Kids can set up a lemonade stand.

So, whether you are a seller, a buyer or both, please join us on May 16.



Want to make a connection with God?

Sunday Worship Services
8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education
Adults 9 am - Youth 10 am

All are welcome to all services and activities!

Saturday, April 25 - Spaghetti Supper 6 - 7:30 pm

Choice of sauces, salads, bread and desserts.

Only \$5 - Kids under 3 free.

We encourage you to bring a non-perishable food item for AFAC.

Saturday, May 9 - St. John's Annual Tea 1 - 3 pm

Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with a friend, child or grandchild. There is a wide selection of fine teas and an impressive buffet of scones, sandwiches, and scrumptious desserts. Adults will also be offered a glass of champagne.

Adults \$25 - Children 12 and under \$10

Book Club - Tues. May 5 7:30 pm *Death comes to Pemberly* by P.D. James

St. John's Episcopal Church

We welcome everyone including believers, seekers and doubters to share God's love and acceptance in a community of worship and service.



415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

stjohnsarlingtonva.org

-- Order Your Copy Now --

History of Arlington Forest

(4th Edition)



To mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Arlington Forest, the history of our neighborhood that was published in 2000 has been updated and expanded. The new 150-page book features:

- a year-by-year listing of events in our neighborhood from 1939 to 2015
- articles on Arlington Forest origins, architecture, landmarks, and geology
- maps (historical and current) and vintage photographs
- 20 first-hand remembrances of daily life in Arlington Forest by original Foresters as well as residents in recent decades

Anyone who has lived in Arlington Forest for more than a few years will find much of interest in this book. Anyone who is concerned about the future of Arlington Forest will benefit from learning about past controversies and advocacy.

History of Arlington Forest, 4th Edition

Send this coupon and check for \$15 per copy payable to "AFCA" to John Naland, 100 N. Granada St., Arlington VA 22203. Books will be hand delivered to Arlington Forest addresses. Others should include \$5 per copy for mailing.

Amount enclosed: _____

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To pre-order your copy for delivery upon publication this summer, just fill out and return this coupon and your check by June 1, 2015.

Spring Cleanup on April 25

by John Naland

The fifth annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup is Saturday, April 25, from 9 to 11 AM. Please join this effort to beautify public spaces around our neighborhood if you enjoy walking, jogging or biking in our local parks; if you want to help protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed; if you have children who you want to learn to care for the environment; or if you just want to get out in the fresh spring air to benefit from some light exercise. Organized groups will focus on three areas:

--Lubber Run Park: remove trash from the streambed

--Arlington Blvd southside buffer strip: remove trash and clean up the area

--N. Granada/N. Greenbrier trailhead area: remove trash

In addition, individual residents who live near the following areas are encouraged to grab a garbage bag from home and make a quick sweep picking up trash:

--Lubber Run just south of Arlington Blvd: remove trash from upper slopes

--Arlington Blvd northside buffer strip: remove trash along roadway

--Four Mile Run near foot of S. Park Drive: remove trash from streambed

Many hands make for light work, so the more volunteers who participate, the more progress can be made to improve community spaces for our spring and summer enjoyment. Even if you can only help for an hour, please do so. Again this year, we welcome the participation of Arlington Forest's Cub Scout Pack 548.

We start at 9 AM, rain or shine. If you arrive late, look around for those who are already at work. Wear old clothes and sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. Wear garden or work gloves if you have them.

Whether or not you help out April 25, you can protect our environment any day by doing a quick sweep of the curb in front of your house to pick up plastics and other trash that may floated down the street or fallen from a trash truck. That will keep the next rainstorm from carrying the debris into our streams and rivers.

If you have questions about the cleanup event, e-mail John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com.

Update on County Projects

by John Naland

Sidewalk Repairs: Last spring, volunteers Larry Bowring, Todd Lee, Brett Mikoy, and John Naland conducted a comprehensive survey of Arlington Forest's sidewalks and documented 104 sections presenting serious tripping hazards or having a badly-crumbled surface. Last fall, Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services (DES) started repairing or replacing the worst sections. After a winter hiatus as County crews focused on snow removal and pothole repair, DES tells us that they will resume sidewalk repairs in our neighborhood in the coming months. Some 61 sections of sidewalk with a vertical displacement of over 1.5 inches will receive an asphalt wedge to bridge the displacement between sidewalk panels. Some residents may not find that to be an eye-pleasing repair, but asphalt wedges are a cost-effective way to eliminate a tripping hazard while allowing DES to ameliorate as many problem areas as possible within its limited budget.

Arlington Blvd. at Park Drive: This safety improvement project will create better access and crossings for pedestrians, transit users, bikers and those traveling on the shared-use paths parallel to Arlington Boulevard. The project will include new sidewalks, crosswalks, curbs, gutters, trees, and other improvements. After various delays over the past two years, the County's consultant is close to finalizing construction documents for the project. County staff anticipates that the construction documents will be

complete by July 2015. Staff then expects to spend at least five months developing bid documents, receiving VDOT permits and approval of bid documents, advertising the project and receiving County Board approval of the construction contract. Construction is expected to begin in December 2015. For more info, search "Arlington Boulevard" on the County website.

Carlin Springs Bridge: After several years of preparatory work, plans are now complete to build the new bridge and demolish the old one in a manner that will maintain traffic access while minimizing negative impacts on the community. The new bridge will feature wider sidewalks on the bridge, add bicycle lanes along Carlin Springs Road, and enhance lighting. The cross-section will be 69 feet wide, a slight increase from the existing bridge width of 65 feet. Construction is now scheduled to begin in fall 2015 with completion anticipated in fall 2016. For more info, search "Carlin Springs Bridge" on the County website.

WO&D Trail-Carlin Springs Road Connector Path: This project will install a 275 foot long, 8 foot wide asphalt connector path linking the WO&D trail with east side of Carlin Springs Road. This is in the western corner of Arlington Forest below the historic Mary Carlin House. The project was initially projected for implementation this past winter, but construction is now planned for early summer.

Good Neighbor Profile: David Mog

By Mary Ann Strawn

In 1989, David Mog left California on a cross country bicycle trip with his two sons, Joel and Justin. He definitely ranks the three month adventure as one of the highlights of his life. In addition to forging a better relationship with his sons, he honed his passion for environmental causes. But there have been other highlights as well. For instance: retirement in Washington DC. He likens it to being a kid in a candy shop, "there's so much to do, so much to be involved in."

And involved he has always been. Even before he owned a home in Arlington Forest, David was active in the civic association and he has been a force ever since. David and Gloria and their two small sons had found a house on North 3rd Street but they hadn't actually closed the deal.

David showed up to check out what he already knew was a strong civic association. He was immediately drafted to be AFCA vice president from the Greenbrier section. He served as president from 1984 to 1985 until the demands of his job took him out of the country too frequently.

Like most of the population, he came to Washington for a career opportunity. With credential in chemistry, David began teaching at Oberlin College and later working in science administration at Princeton. When he began work at the National Academy of Sciences, "We wanted to live in an area that would offer our children a good education as well as a diverse population." Equally important, he needed to live where he could bike to work or take public transportation.

Years later searching for a way to respond to concerns about climate change, he answered an ad for a teacher at Sidwell Friends school. "You need to start educating students at an early age, before college. I never dreamed I would be there for 19 years."

Retirement has also meant opportunity to travel more extensively, although Gloria is still working. She is a clinician in private practice. The two have been married for almost 50 years. They cut their teeth on civic activism during the first year in the Forest, going door-to-door collecting signatures when the school board proposed shutting down the school the boys were attending.

Always on the look for options, David sees retirement as an opportunity to be open to spontaneous possibilities -- leading bicycle trips, organizing family reunions, working with the US Institute of Peace, and involvement in climate change, conflict resolution, and travel.

YARD SALE INFO:
To get on the yard sale map, e-mail your address to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by May 1st



Adam RT Tnaib
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Nature News

By
Cliff Fairweather
 Park Naturalist,
 Long Branch
 Nature Center

Arlington Salamanders:
 Lurking beneath old logs, in woodpiles, underneath stream rocks, or in quiet ponds, salamanders manage to hang on in our urban

county. Small, with relatively limited mobility and no protective scales or shell, urban life is a challenge for these amphibians. As with their relatives the frogs, most salamanders start life out in the water and live on land as adults.

A salamander might be easily mistaken for a lizard because it has four legs and a tail. Unlike lizards, which are reptiles with dry, scaly skin, salamanders have soft, moist skin. Their skin is permeable, meaning that water and chemicals can pass through it relatively easily, making them vulnerable to pesticides and other pollutants in the urban environment.

The most common salamander in Arlington is the eastern red-backed salamander. As the name suggests, many have a broad reddish (sometimes yellow) stripe down their backs. Others, though, are all dark gray or black and are called lead-backed forms. Red-backs can sometimes even be found in backyards and gardens, especially in old wood piles. Unlike most salamanders, they lay their eggs on land and the young hatch out looking like miniature adults.

Another common salamander in Arlington is the northern two-lined salamander. This species lives in and near streams and lays its eggs in water. The young have gills and remain aquatic for two to three years before maturing. The adults have a yellow to reddish orange back and two dark stripes along their sides.

Spotted salamanders are relatively large, sometimes reaching eight inches and can live for a decade or more. They have dark bodies spangled with bright yellow to orange spots. They spend most of their lives underground

but come to small, temporary breeding pools in late February or early March to mate and lay eggs. Small populations occur near Long Branch Nature Center (LBNC).

A small population of northern red salamanders lives in and near a little spring in the northern part of the county habitat is on private land protected by the property owners. This is the only known remaining population in Arlington. They are spectacular orange to red salamanders with black spots and can grow to up to seven inches long. Two other salamanders recorded in Arlington in recent years include three-lined and northern dusky salamanders, though these are rare.

LBNC is conducting a Reptile and Amphibian bio-blitz on Saturday, May 9 and you can participate. We will look for and count species of reptiles and amphibians, including salamanders, in Arlington parks. Check The Snag or call 703-228-6535 for details.



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Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Thursday, April 15, 7 pm in the Barrett School Library. See page 1 for details.

E-CARE: April 18, 8:30 AM to 3 PM. Semi-annual recycling event at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. See page 2.

Neighborhood-wide Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 25. See page 8.

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 16. Turn unwanted items into cash.

Taste of Ballston: May 17. Local food showcase. For info go to www.ballstonbid.com/taste/

Primary Election for County Board: June 9.

Lubber Run Amphitheater: Live entertainment under the stars resumes in June.

Arlington County Fair: August 5 to 9. Rides, food, displays, and racing pigs.

Future AFCA Meetings:

May 13: Picnic and Membership Meeting

June to August: No meetings over summer break

September 16: A new year of advocacy begins



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Barcroft School News

After a long winter, warmer weather and Spring flowers are a welcome relief to everyone at Barcroft Elementary. Events in March included the Third Quarter Leonardo da Vinci Learning Night Open House on Monday, March 9, which showcased student learning during the third quarter. For example, families visiting Grade 2 classrooms were treated to a Wax Museum that featured talking statues of Helen Keller, Jackie Robinson, Abraham Lincoln and other important historic figures. A special celebration of the arts in honor of "March is Arts in the Schools" month was also hosted that Monday evening.

The Girls on the Run program that trains girls in Grade 3-5 for a 5K race also began in March. Two weeks of Spring Intersession classes were held on March 16-27, followed by Spring Break. Over 300 students attended the morning and afternoon Spring Intersession classes, learning how to make new and exciting food recipes, exploring the world of robotics, and performing plays on stage. Some students even learned how our continent was discovered and famous explorers from the past.

Students returned to school on April 6 for the beginning of the fourth quarter. On Tuesday, April 7, the PTA hosted its monthly meeting with special guests from the Arlington Partnership on Affordable Housing (APAH). APAH President, Nina Janopaul, and her associate, Carmen Romero

gave a presentation on APAH's properties, residents, and programs. On Wednesday, April 15, students celebrated Leonardo da Vinci's birthday and received a free book from the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program. Thursday, April 23 is Spring Picture Day for students.

Please join us for the following events this Spring! A **School Information Session** is scheduled for Thursday, April 9 from 9:15-10:45 a.m. for parents interested in learning more about Barcroft Elementary. Barcroft **International Night** will be held on Thursday evening, April 16. Barcroft students will submit a rain barrel for auction in the **Go Gaga for Green Operation Rain Barrel Silent Auction** to be held on Saturday, April 25 from 5-8 p.m. at the Arlington campus of George Mason University. The **Barcroft Spring Concert** will be held on Tuesday, May 5 at 7 p.m. The **Barcroft Spring Fair** will be held on Saturday, May 9 from 4-6 p.m. and will feature international themes and a plant sale just in time for Mother's Day! We hope that you can join us!

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Jim

Barrett School News

Finally! Spring has sprung! And these last months of the school year are packed full of exciting events. But first, a very BIG thank you to all who came out and so generously supported the PTA's **Silent Auction**, which netted an incredible \$24,000 for the school! These funds will fund classroom libraries, special instruction, and teacher grants.

The **5th Graders vs. Barrett Staff Basketball Game** is scheduled for Friday, April 17th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Washington-Lee High School gymnasium. This is a free event so grab your family and friends and come cheer on our 5th graders as they challenge their teachers and staff. This event was a blast last year, so come join in the fun.

On Thursday, April 30th **Barrett CREATES** a new initiative of Barrett's music and art teachers will blend various art forms and literacy in an interactive approach. This event (formerly the Arts & Writers Fair) will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The steering committee is looking for volunteers to lead a session based on their artistic talent. For example, do you sing or dance, create balloon animals, or have a love of writing? Then we would LOVE for you to show off and teach others your talent at Barrett CREATES. Even if you do not, please share this with other neighbors with a special talent and who might like to participate. Please email Julie Kaufman at julie.kaufman@apsva.us. The PTA's **Used Book Sale** will also take place this same evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Come browse for great deals and stock up your

summer reading supply.

Members of the U.S. Army Blues (see photo) came to Barrett in March in conjunction with APS' "Arts in the School Month." These outstanding musicians posted at Ft. Myer read a biography of Duke Ellington while alternating Ellington tunes. They also answered students' questions about jazz history, improvisation, being an Army musician, and the many hours of practice required to be musicians of their caliber.



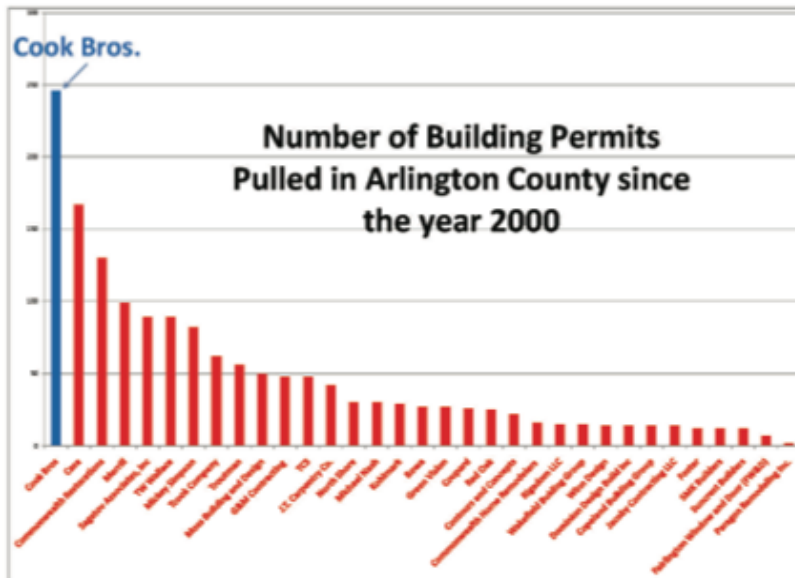
Upcoming Events:

Choral Spring Musical, April 16th, 1:30 and 7 pm

Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4th to 8th

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Southside:

- Daniel O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, t.omara@LTwell.com, 703-769-3767
- Ethan O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, t.omara@LTwell.com, 703-769-3767
- Sophia Polisar, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, sphiapolisar@gmail.com, 571-429-2289
- Caroline Rogers, babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, carolinearogers@verizon.net, 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), yard work, juliaerogers23@gmail.com, 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, Babysitting (RC certified, references), pet sitting, wonton81@gmail.com
- Liz Tiernan, Babysitting (RC certified, references), pet sitting, lizzytiernan@gmail.com

Greenbrier Section:

- Zephren Collinson, babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-528-3595

- Donna Corina, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-248-8885
- Mary Corina, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-248-8885
- Allison Ferrell, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, Alisonrocket@aol.com, 703-276-2840
- Ethan Hall, babysitting (RC certified), snow shoveling, leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, k.hall.b@verizon.net, 302-650-4428
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, Stealers12@gmail.com, 703-243-8777

Northside:

- Laura Brancati, babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, laura@barms.org, 703-243-1916.
- Daniel Brancati, yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, car washing (in your driveway), daniel@barms.org, 703-243-1916
- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting age 4-12, yard work, riittishachoudhary@gmail.com
- Ely Constantine, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, srconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (RC certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013
- Olivia Kennett, babysitting (RC certified), 571-277-4441
- Tenley Kennett, plant watering, dog walking (20 lbs max), 571-277-4441
- Alyssa Luz-Ricca, babysitting (RC cert), dog walking, pet sitting, alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com, 703-740-6972
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), house sitting/chores, 703-276-9046
- Allison Vernon, babysitting (references), pet sitting, catharinevernon@aol.com, 703-522-9147
- Gabby Young, babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, merrywesing@yahoo.com, 703-622-4229

All Neighborhoods:

- Girl Scout Troop 5837 (a group of responsible Arlington Forest 8th graders), babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, leaf raking, snow shoveling, gst5837@gmail.com



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