

The Arlington Forester



Volume 57, Number 7

Arlington, VA

April 2016

Traffic Issues on AFCA Agenda

Arlington County engineer Sergio Viricochea will discuss neighborhood traffic concerns at the April 20 AFCA meeting at 7 PM in the Barrett School Library. Mr. Viricochea is a design engineer in the Division of Transportation of the Department of Environmental Services.

AFCA has asked him to come prepared to discuss traffic issues around Barrett Elementary School, at the Arlington Forest Club's pedestrian crosswalk, and recurring backups on Carlin Springs Road above Arlington Blvd. Residents who have concerns about traffic issues at other locations are welcome to raise them at the meeting (see related information on page 3). This is your opportunity to discuss traffic issues with a County official who is directly working in that area.

Also on the agenda for the AFCA meeting is an update

on the County Board's April 12 work session that discussed plans to rebuild the Lubber Run Community Center. In addition, we will get an update on planning for the Lubber Run Amphitheater's summer season 2016 (see page 4 for more information).

In this month's newsletter you will also find details on a meeting that AFCA sponsored to explore bringing a farmer's market to Arlington Forest (see page 7) and AFCA's upcoming neighborhood-wide Annual Yard Sale (see page 9).

Next month's newsletter will feature the complete schedule for summer season 2016 performances at the Lubber Run Amphitheater, a map of the May 21 yard sale locations, and photos of the April 16 neighborhood-wide spring cleanup.

Wanted: Your News and Views

This newsletter (the oldest civic association newsletter in Arlington County) is written, produced, and distributed eight times a year by a handful of your neighbors who hope that you find it to be both interesting and useful. As well as reporting on AFCA activities, neighborhood-wide developments, and local school activities, each newsletter features "news you can use" such as reminders about County residential services, the Kids for Hire section, and a calendar of upcoming events.

But we are always looking for contributions from new voices to help keep the newsletter interesting. Thus, we welcome your essays, news notes, letters, and photos focusing on Arlington Forest. For example, events on your block, gardening tips, tree care advice, scout troop update, home repair tips, photos of local wildlife, reminiscences of a long-time resident, profile of a prominent neighbor, or an expression of your views on some neighborhood issue.

So, if you have news or views to share, please send them in. E-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Submissions should be non-commercial, non-partisan, and should focus on events or issues specific to our neighborhood. The deadline for the next issue is May 6.

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. April 20 at Barrett School Library

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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Editor & Advertising: John Naland
703-888-0125, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

Layout & Design: Laura Smialowicz
703-528-3889, smialowicz@hotmail.com

Distribution: John Naland
703-888-0125, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

2015 - 2016 AFCA Officers

President: Allison Kennett
571-277-4441, allison.kennett@gmail.com

Vice President, Northside: Joel Yudken
703-528-8218, joel.yudken@verizon.net

Vice President, Southside: Stacey Zee,
571-241-7832, staceymzee@yahoo.com

Vice President, Greenbrier: Tom Smialowicz
703-528-3889, smialowicz@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary: Char Mahoney
571-241-9866, char.mahoney@verizon.net

Co-Secretary: Esther Bowring
erbowring@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lauren Mikoy
703-906-8218, LaurenDYork@gmail.com

Neighborhood Conservation Plan:
Karen Burst, 571-242-9942, burstfamily@yahoo.com
Liz Kauffman, 571-327-6497, lizkauffman@yahoo.com

Arlington Civic Federation Rep: Salvatore D'Itri

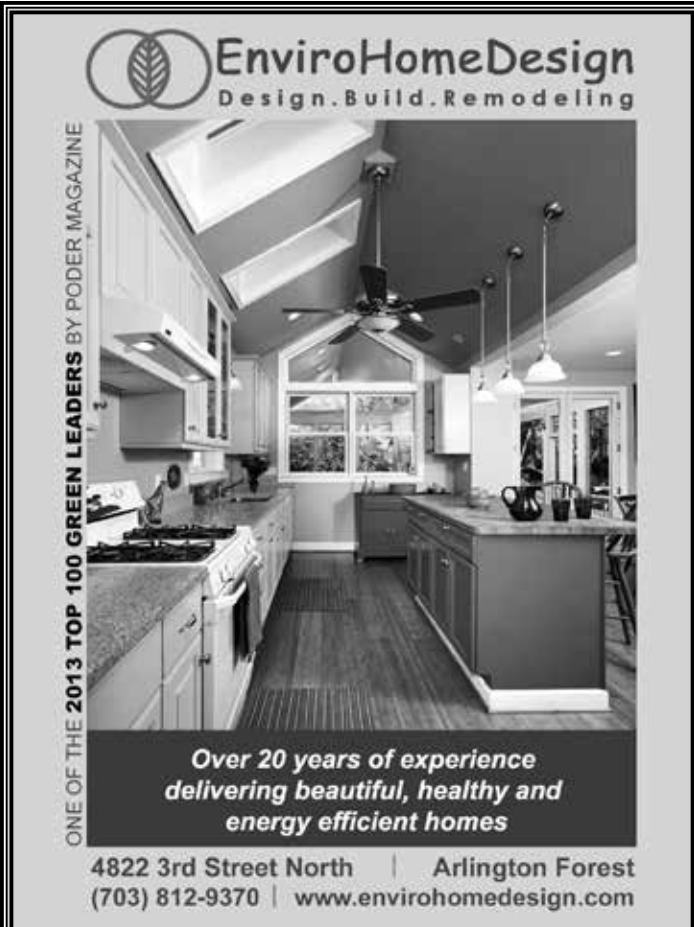
Historian: John Naland

Website: <http://www.arlingtonforestva.org>
Join AFCA listserv by e-mailing address to:
arlingtonforestva@gmail.com

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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.



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Neighborhood Traffic Issue

By John Naland

As detailed on page 1, the guest speaker at the April 20 AFCA meeting will be Arlington County traffic engineer Sergio Viricochea. AFCA asked him to come prepared to discuss traffic at several specific locations in our neighborhood. At the meeting, residents will also have the opportunity to raise any concerns about other sites.

Having paid attention to traffic issues during the 17 years that our family has lived in Arlington Forest, I offer these observations as background for the meeting.

Balancing Interests: Government officials often must balance conflicting interests. For example, some pedestrians might want additional stop lights along Carlin Springs or George Mason, but vehicle drivers obviously want to get to their destinations without additional delays. So, while residents can certainly propose additional stop lights, cross walks, speed bumps, traffic circles, or restrictive traffic signage, we should recognize that County officials must consider the impact of any new traffic infrastructure on all modes of transportation.

Empirical Data: Long-time residents might recall "numerous" accidents at a given intersection or estimate that "most" cars are speeding on specific street, but before the County decides to install new traffic controls they might reasonably want to consult vehicle accident records or put traffic measuring devices in place for several weeks in order to obtain empirical data to determine the actual situation.

Technical Expertise: In 2012, the County installed a traffic-calming median at the intersection of Arlington Blvd and S. Columbus Street in response to advocacy by neighbors living near that location. I am told that the median


has improved the situation. If so, I would note that the residents originally proposed a different solution. Thus, we should recognize that County engineers may judge that the best way to improve traffic at some other location is to utilize a solution different from what we might first propose.

Bad Drivers: Having lived in other parts of the U.S., I observe that drivers in our region are, on average, worse than drivers in many other places. So, if we have concerns about vehicles speeding, running stop signs, etc., then I am not sure if there is a quick, permanent way to fix that problem. For example, while we can ask for more traffic enforcement efforts along roads such as Carlin Springs, as soon as the police depart the speeders will return.

Human Nature: Some outside drivers cut through residential streets in the Greenbrier Section to avoid the busy intersection at Carlin Springs and Arlington Blvd. Our residents obviously do not like additional traffic on quiet residential streets, especially when some of those cars speed. While I support seeking ways to reduce dangerous speeding, I am not sure if new signage could convince drivers to add time to their trip by not cutting through the neighborhood.

Set the Example: Traffic safety begins with us. All Arlington Forest residents should keep the speed down and halt at stop signs when driving on our neighborhood streets.

These are my observations. If you have views, submit them for printing in a future issue (see page 2 for details). And please come to the April 20 AFCA meeting to discuss traffic issues with a County official who is directly working in that area.



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Lubber Run Amphitheater Summer Season 2016

How do you top last year's banner season of free summer entertainment at the Lubber Run Amphitheater? Find out at this summer's series opening weekend June 17-19 featuring a cabaret evening presented by Arlington's Tony Award winning Signature Theater on Friday; the Afro-Pop band Elikey on Saturday; and jazz vocalist Nicole Saphos on Sunday.

The Lubber Run Amphitheater summer series runs June 17 through August 14 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 6 pm (or as listed). The season continues with children's shows after a 2 week break and goes through September 24.

This summer's schedule melds fresh surprises with familiar faces and runs the gamut from traditional jazz to world music. Renowned Nigerian Afro-Pop legend Orlando Julius is among several international artists making their debut at the Lubber Run Amphitheater located at North Columbus and 2nd Streets in the heart of Arlington Forest.

Additional summer series highlights include: Arlington's Bowen McCauley Dance Company (Friday, June 24); regional favorite Mary Ann Redmond (Saturday, July 2); Brazilian vocalist Cissa Paz (Saturday, July 9); Malian trio Cheick Hamala Diabate (Saturday, July 16); internationally-renowned

renowned Nigerian Afro-Pop pioneer Orlando Julius (Saturday, July 23); and the rock/reggae band Caz (Saturday, July 30).

The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation will also sponsor local favorite Rico Amero and the following kids shows at the end of the summer: Saturday, August 27 at 11 am - The Great Zucchini; Sunday, September 11 at 11 am - Rocknocerous (rain date September 25 at 11 am); Saturday, September 17 at 11 am - Mr. KnickKnack - (rain date September 24 at 11 am); and Sunday, September 18 at 11 am - Captain All-Star (rain date September 24 at 4 pm).

The complete amphitheater schedule will be included in the May Arlington Forester. You can keep up with amphitheater news on Facebook which will post schedules, information about performances and rain dates or cancellations. Last minute changes or cancellations will also be listed on the County's hotline at 703-228-1850 or visit arlingtonarts.org on the Web.

If you haven't attended a free summer program at the Lubber Run Amphitheater, this is the summer to give it a try. Families and dogs are welcome, along with picnic baskets. This is a unique under-the-trees-and-stars venue and it's FREE. See you at Lubber Run!

Market Update - According to the monthly Credit Suisse agent survey, the buyer traffic index in the DC area jumped higher in March with a reading of 62 (vs. 39 in February) and the highest reading in 3 years. Consumer confidence is growing, and in most sectors homes priced right in affordable price points are getting multiple offers. Single family homes and townhouses seem to be the most desirable commodity. March and early April trends in the local area indicate that demand is outpacing supply. 5 properties have sold and settled so far this year in Arlington Forest, several with additions, yielding an average sold price of \$770,000.

Remodeling Trends - For almost 20 years, Remodeling Magazine has created home remodeling project estimates. They survey over 6,000 realtors nationwide (I've participated in the survey) along with RemodelMAX, a publisher of remodeling cost

estimating tools. Variance exists nationwide as all remodeling costs will be different in regions of the country, and few of them will attain 90% ROI. In the 2016 DC area Cost Vs. Value report, a Minor Kitchen remodel costing \$20,742 returned 96.4% at \$19,999 was the fourth highest return. Fiberglass attic insulation was number two on the list at a cost of \$1,287, yielding a 99.4% return at \$1,279. The industry report focuses on paid labor, not DIY. For owners looking to improve to sell sooner than later, kitchens and baths are traditionally the preferred improvements over furnaces and roofs. If you are looking to sell it can be a hard decision choosing which areas to invest in to make the best impact on resale. One consideration in making upgrades is how long you will be in the home, and your budget. Contact me for a copy of the report, and if you need advice on home improvements I would be glad to help!



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Naturalist Essay

by Cliff Fairweather
Park Naturalist,
Long Branch
Nature Center

A Portable Fort: Despite Arlington's urban character, box turtles manage to hold on, especially in our parks. One of their most obvious features is their most obvious features is their dome-shaped upper shell, or carapace, with its often brightly-patterned covering of specialized scales called scutes. Each scute grows out from a center point as the shell grows, forming concentric rings.

Both the scutes and the skin of box turtles are patterned, sometimes quite dramatically. Each individual has its own unique pattern. Their patterning, even though it often includes bright yellows or oranges, is very effective camouflage in the leaf litter on the forest floor. That makes them a challenge for predators to find.

Turtle shells are composed of bone and the carapace includes the backbone and ribs. The bones forming the shell of most turtles, especially aquatic ones, are not completely fused, leaving gaps between the bones. The scutes cover the gaps, but those are fairly easy to penetrate. Aquatic turtles get an extra measure of protection by living in water. The bones of the land-dwelling box turtle shell are fused to create a solid shield, at least in adults. Young box turtles have softer, more vulnerable shells.

The flat lower shell, called the plastron, has a hinge that allows the box turtle to close both ends against the carapace and form a tight seal like a box. Few predators can penetrate the closed shell of a healthy adult box turtle, making the shell a portable fort. Sometimes, if a box turtle is too slow to close up, or a little too fat to close tightly, a predator might bite off a foot or tail or, more fatally, the head. Usually, though, the predator just ends up with a frustrating puzzle.

A box turtle's shell can protect it from many dangers in nature, but danger from humans is another story. Roads and traffic pose a particularly difficult challenge; even the box turtle's portable fort is no match for a sedan. They are also vulnerable to lawn mowers. If you have box turtles in your neighborhood, check for them in your lawn before you mow.

Sick and injured turtles can find help at the Long Branch Nature Center, but we need your help to provide that care. One way to help is by participating in the Turtle Trot 5k in Bluemont Park on Sunday, May 15 at 10 AM. Funds raised will go to pay for the veterinary services for injured turtles, medications, animal care, and educational programming. \$30 for adults and teens; \$15 for children (or you can just donate). Register at www.active.com. For info call 703-228-6535 or email Cliff Fairweather at cfairweather@arlingtonva.us.

To get on the Yard Sale map,
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Around the Forest

Arlington Blvd & Park Drive Intersection: County staff reports that the start date for this project has slipped again. While the County passed the milestone of receiving a VDOT permit in March, bid documents still need to be approved. The County expects to put the project out to bid by early June. Advertising the project and receiving County Board approval of the construction contract will take approximately four months. Construction is expected to begin in October. The project will create better access and crossings for pedestrians, transit users, and bikers.

Arlington Forest Shopping Center: Crystal Thai, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year, underwent an interior renovation in early April. Drop by soon to see their refreshed décor. See page 15 of this newsletter for a money-saving coupon. Subway Sandwiches closed in February after three years of trying to turn a profit. No word yet on a replacement tenant. As always, AFCA encourages Arlington Forest residents to think first of our local merchants and our newsletter advertisers when you need a meal, product, or service that they offer.

Crime Watch: At 8:34 PM on Tuesday, March 22, two males approached a female from behind near the entrance to the Lubber Run Amphitheater. One subject attempted to place an unknown object over her head while the other subject touched her inappropriately. The victim was able to break free and the subjects fled on foot. The suspects are described as Hispanic males. Around 2 AM on Friday, April 8, several unidentified males were observed breaking into cars in the Greenbrier Section. The police were called, but the subjects fled. However, the police did take fingerprints.

Online Crime Mapping Tool: The Police Department now has an online crime map called RAIDS Online which displays criminal incidents along with basic information such as the type of crime, block-level address, date and time. Residents can view a map and grid with the crimes in their area and sign up for crime alerts that automatically email a breakdown of recent crime activity. For more info, search "RAIDS" on the County website. Please note that the online tool has several limitations. First, it only displays a small fraction of reported criminal incidents unless the user takes the added steps of clicking on "Event" and then "Select All." Second, the location shown on the map of each incident is "randomly offset to protect victim privacy."

Nuisance Parking: Several residents succeeded in getting rid of a brightly-painted moving van and a disabled car that had been parked for months on the Arlington Blvd service road between N. Pershing and N. Henderson. County Code 14.2-3 states that vehicles left on public property are subject to tow after 10 days or after 4 days if without a valid license plate, inspection or County decal. The residents reported the vehicles to Police Department's Parking Enforcement Unit (703-228-4144) which tagged them with a notice that they would be towed in 10 days if not moved. The truck relocated half a block, but a resident re-contacted the County which re-tagged the truck starting another 10 day countdown. The owner then removed the truck from the area.

Arlington Neighborhood Village Social Gathering: The members and volunteers of Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) who live in Arlington Forest, Glencarlyn, and Boulevard Manor are planning a social gathering at one of our homes on May 1. We will be serving hors d'oeuvres and desserts with a variety of beverages. Come join in the fun and find out more about ANV from your neighbors who are members and volunteers. If you are interested in attending the gathering, please let your neighborhood contact, Linda Reck, know at 703-892-5178 or lindajreck@comcast.net. ANV is a non-profit organization serving Arlington residents aged 55 and older. Through ANV, neighbors help neighbors to live in their homes and stay engaged in their communities as they age. To find out more, go to www.arlnvil.org, call 703-509-8057, or email info@arlnvil.org. We hope to see you at the social gathering.

Ball-Sellers House: The oldest surviving building in Arlington is just across Four Mile Run from Arlington Forest in the Glencarlyn neighborhood. Built around 1742, the Arlington Historical Society has preserved John Ball's cabin and shows it free on Saturdays 1-4 PM, April through October. On Sunday, May 1, the house will co-host "Glencarlyn Garden Day" with the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden and the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) from 10 AM to 3 PM. 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. Located at 5620 3rd St. South, the house 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. For more info, see www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

*Community Yard Sale
Saturday, May 21*

*Next AFCA Meeting:
April 20, 7 p.m. at Barrett School*

Farmers' Market

By Allison Kennett

On Wednesday, April 6, Robert Swennes and Steve Cunningham from the organization Field to Table met with a group of citizens from the Arlington Forest and Barcroft communities. Field to Table (online at www.field2table.org/) is a 501c4 organization (Social Welfare Organization) responsible for helping to organize farmers' markets in the area such as the Fairlington, Westover, and soon-to-open Marymount location.

Mr. Swennes emphasized his vision of each farmers' market being a community-based market and not a subpage on some organization's webpage. They each have their own site, design, vendors, and other details that reflect the community and volunteers that make it happen.

The potential site currently being considered is the Barrett Elementary parking lot. It meets requirements for traffic flow, parking, sufficient space for vendors, and a central location a fair distance from the nearest other farmers' market. One downside is the lack of bathroom facilities but this could be remedied by installing a port-a-potty maintained by Field to Table. The lack of a nearby ATM machine is also a negative, but may not be significant.

The Barrett site (likely to be called the George Mason Farmers' Market) would be a Saturday market so as to compliment the Sunday market at Westover. The Westover site set the precedent for gaining buy-in from Arlington Public Schools and navigating the permitting required to do so. The Barrett market would likely run from late April to just before Thanksgiving though perhaps not quite that long in the first year. It would likely start out with a minimum of 12 vendors and possibly have up to 30.

Questions from the attendees varied and concern was expressed as to whether there were enough vendors to supply all the markets, and what the business model is for

Field to Table in getting a new farmers' market stood up. Mr. Swennes assured the group that there was no lack of vendors out there (perhaps dairy being the exception).

He also explained that, aside from interfacing with the County for permits, there is no other County support for setting up a farmers' market. The vendors pay a fee to participate and Field to Table handles all of the legal and financial aspects and provides assistance in set up and breakdown of the market in addition to the volunteers. Setting up a new market costs \$5,000 to \$10,000 and Field to Table provides that capital along with equipment such as market tents, weights, permits, trash bags, and other equipment.

Mr. Swennes emphasized that, despite the assistance from Field to Table to provide oversight to get the market going, it cannot be created or survive without a set of dedicated volunteers. At least five to six solid volunteers are required to identify vendors, sample their wares, orchestrate publicity and social media support for the market, work out schedules for market day support, and potentially serve on the Board of Directors.

For additional support, local businesses can be tapped for funding and may advertise at the market. In addition, market day support can be drawn from the pool of volunteers or teenagers looking to earn community service hours. Left over food can be donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).

Next steps: Collect emails from potential volunteers and find out what their skill sets are (e.g. carrying things, writing, technology, soliciting donations, negotiating with vendors). If you are interested in hearing more about the potential farmers' market at the Barrett site or are willing to volunteer to make it happen, please write to info@field2table.org.



St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, April 17 - Between Hope and Fear - A Conversation with Islam - 11:30 am

Come learn what Christians need to know about Islam from Zeyneb Sayilgan, Ph.D and Salih Sayilgan Ph.D candidate. Join in the conversation as the Sayligans share their years of experience in Muslim-Christian relations. Bring your friends! See website for more info.

Saturday, April 23 - Spaghetti Supper 6 - 7:30 pm Everyone is welcome. Choice of sauces, salads, and desserts. \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 3-6, under 3 free. We encourage you to bring a non-perishable food item for AFAC.

Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

Sunday Christian Education

Adults 9 am - Youth 10:00 am

703-671-6834

stjohnsarlingtonva.org



Nature News

Spring Cleanup: Thank you to those who participated in our fifth annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup on April 16. We will print a report with photos in the May newsletter.

Street Sweeping: With winter over, street sweeping machines are returning to remove debris and pollutants such as sand, salt, petroleum products and bacteria before they wash into streams, the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. Upcoming sweeping dates for Arlington Forest are April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, and Aug 17. Sweeping is more effective if residents will relocate their cars from curbside between 7:30 AM and 3 PM on those days.

Native Plant Sale: Long Branch Nature Center, Saturday, April 30, 1 to 4 PM. Want to beautify your yard and make a home for birds and butterflies? Then it is time to go Native! LBNC is offering a great selection of plants that are accustomed to local climate and wildlife. They have gorgeous natives for sun to shade, and even deer resistant plants. Choose from Blazing Star, Wild Geranium, Foamflower, and many more! See the order form for more information and to pre-order your plants. Pre-order deadline is April 18. Pick up the order form at the nature center or order online at <http://registration.arlingtonva.us>. On the day of the sale, there will be a wide selection to choose from on-site. For info call 703-228-6535.

Turtle Trot 5k: Sunday, May 15, 10 AM, Bluemont Park. Come to the South Bluemont Park Shelter (parking lot at the intersection of 4th St. N. and Manchester St) for the Turtle Trot 5k supporting the Long Branch Nature Center and local wildlife. Registration begins at 9 AM; race starts at 10 AM. This is a chip-timed race on a 5k course certified by USA Track and Field. Funds raised will go to support local turtles by paying for the veterinary services for injured turtles, medications, animal care, and educational programming. \$30 for adults and teens; \$15 for children (or you can just donate). Register at www.active.com. For info call 703-228-6535 or email Cliff Fairweather at cfairweather@arlingtonva.us.

Master Gardeners: Residents interested in becoming a Master Gardener are invited to attend a session to learn about the training program and the kinds of projects local Master Gardeners are engaged in to deliver horticulture education to the community. Orientation sessions are Tuesday, May 17, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, and Saturday, May 21, 10 AM to noon at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The training program will run September 6 to November 15. To register for an orientation session and find out more about the training program, go to <http://bit.ly/VCEMasterGardener>.

Mulch Delivery: Need mulch for your yard? Residents can obtain mulch made from recycled leaves from the County's fall leaf collection or from wood made from tree trimmings and tree removals in Arlington. Leaf mulch: 2.5 cubic yards for \$40 or 5 cubic yards for \$50. Wood mulch: 2.5 cubic yards for \$40 or 5 cubic yards for \$50. The fee will be applied to your next quarterly utility bill. Order online at <http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/mulch-dirt/> and receive immediate confirmation of your scheduled delivery date.

Mosquito Control: Mosquitoes are making headlines and Arlington County has a number of recommendations to help you "fight the bite." Mosquitoes can carry diseases including West Nile and Zika. Prevention is the key to controlling mosquito-borne disease in people. You can protect yourself and your family by following the 4-Ds, a set of simple reminders to help keep mosquitoes at bay:

--The first "D" is for Drain. DRAIN all standing water. Water in flower pots, gutters, pet bowls, inflatable pools, and birdbaths is a common mosquito breeding ground. They can breed in anything that can hold water for a few days – even a leaf or a bottle cap.

--Even though it might be warm, DRESS in long sleeves and pants. This will help protect your skin from mosquito bites. Also clothes that have been treated with permethrin will help.

--DAWN and DUSK are favorite times for mosquitos to eat. Stay inside at these times to avoid bites or use insect repellent if you are outside.

--That brings us to our final "D." Use insect repellents containing DEET to keep mosquitoes away; but remember to avoid spraying them in your eyes and mouth. Apply and re-apply according to the directions on the product. The American Academy of Pediatrics has reported that products containing up to 30% DEET are safe to use on anyone over two months of age.

Your New Green Yard Waste Cart: What can go in: acorns, bamboo, dead plants, flower and vegetable bed debris, grass clippings, hay/straw, ivy, invasive plants, leaves, mulch, pine cones and needles, shrub trimmings, small tree limbs, twigs, vines, weeds, wood chips. What cannot go in: dirt, construction debris, kitchen food waste, rocks, sand, sod, treated or coated wood, pet waste.

Native Plant Sale: Sunday, May 1, 10 AM to 3 PM. Glencarlyn Library Community Garden, 300 S Kensington St. Native plants, tropicals, trees, herbs, ferns, perennials, shrubs and annuals. Master Gardeners, who maintain the community garden as a demonstration garden, will be on hand to help with plant selection and answer garden-related questions.

Community Yard Sale on May 21



Arlington Forest's long-running annual Community Yard Sale takes place Saturday morning, May 21 (rain date May 22). 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 6. 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, shoulder 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.

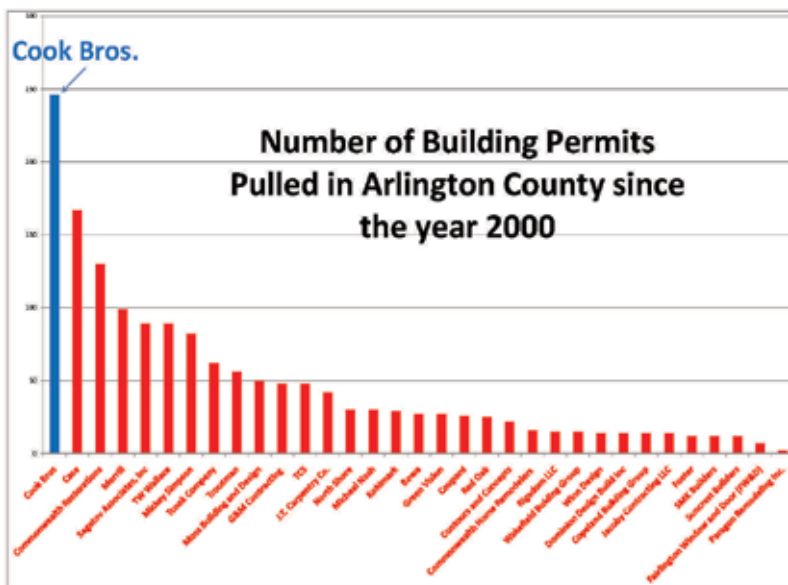
Sellers near Arlington Blvd, Carlin Springs Rd., George Mason Dr. and Henderson Dr. are encouraged to post signs along those thoroughfares pointing into the neighborhood to their sale (please remove signs at day's end).

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 21.

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Update on High School Capacity Pressures

By John Naland

W-L PTA President-elect 2016-17

On March 28, the PTAs of Washington-Lee High School (W-L), Jefferson Middle School, and Swanson Middle School sent a joint letter to the School Board regarding looming overcrowding at W-L (the Kenmore Middle School PTA was invited to sign but did not).

APS projections are that W-L will be 227 students over capacity in Fall 2017 (when today's 9th and 10th graders are juniors and seniors). W-L will be 407 over capacity in Fall 2018 (when today's 6th to 9th graders are in high school) and will be 527 over capacity in Fall 2019 (when today's 5th to 8th graders are in high school). Projected overcrowding at W-L only worsens after the 2019-20 school year.

The letter provided input on the high school capacity issues that the School Board is considering as they prepare the 2017-26 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the November 2016 school bond proposal. The School Board will finalize the CIP on June 16. Arlington voters will be asked to approve the CIP bond issue on November 8. Below are excerpts from the letter.

Letter from W-L, Jefferson, and Swanson PTAs

On March 9, the W-L PTA e-mailed to you the results of its February 2016 survey of options to address future capacity pressures at W-L. That survey garnered 839 responses, including from 494 parents of elementary and middle school children residing in the W-L attendance zone. Below please find highlights of that survey as they relate to the options that you discussed at your March 14, 2016 CIP work session.

Mid-Term Capacity Pressures (Fall 2020 to Spring 2025)

We urge that the November 2016 school bond proposal include funds to start planning and design for a high school construction project that will add significant permanent capacity in Fall 2020. Unless planning starts soon, it will be impossible to complete the new facility by 2020. Unless additional permanent capacity is added by Fall 2020, W-L will be seriously over capacity.

Of the options to add permanent capacity at the high school level by Fall 2020, the W-L survey shows that 84% of current and future W-L parents favor building a 1,300 seat countywide high school at Career Center. However, that support presumes that APS could create one or more choice programs there that would attract at least 600 students from the W-L attendance area. If APS doubts that such programs could be created, then we would urge you to turn to another option.

The second-most popular option to add permanent high school capacity is to build a 700-seat 9th grade annex at W-L that would raise permanent capacity to 2,900. That option is favored by 70% of future W-L parents, 66% of current W-L parents, and 64% of W-L teachers and staff. The survey did not specify the location of such an annex, but most parents likely envisioned the site of the current relocatables which are immediately adjacent to the main W-L building. If, instead, the more distant Education Center site were to be selected, we would urge that an ADA-compliant, climate-controlled walkway be built to connect the annex to main building.

Short-Term Capacity Pressures (Fall 2017 to Spring 2020)

Below is our input regarding the options discussed at your March 14 work session to relieve short-term capacity pressures at the high school level.

Rebalance Attendance Areas: The W-L survey found that boundary changes between W-L, Wakefield, and Yorktown are supported by 60% of future W-L parents, 48% of current W-L parents, and 79% of W-L teachers and staff. However, the survey question presumed the shifting of 300 W-L students in Fall 2017, including rising sophomores who had been freshmen at W-L in 2016-17. The proposal discussed at your March 14 work session was more modest (redraw high school boundaries effective Fall 2017 but apply them only to freshmen; the new attendance districts would apply to new rising 9th graders in subsequent years). We presume that a higher percentage of parents would support this more modest proposal.

Add Relocatables: Adding many more temporary relocatables was supported by only 26% of future W-L parents, 34% of current W-L parents, and 33% of W-L teachers and staff. The survey question presumed adding 20 additional relocatables. While parents would likely not object to putting back in the four relocatables that were removed last summer, our community is clearly against solving W-L's capacity pressures entirely with relocatables.

Other Options: The W-L survey found strong support for partnering with higher education to allow some students to take college classes (75% support). However, most other options were strongly opposed: online education (25% support), extend the school day (23% support), multi-track year round school (15% support), and double shifting (10% support). The common denominator to the options that parents oppose is that they would leave students unsupervised for at least part of the day -- clearly a significant concern for parents.

Forest Exchange

Spaghetti Supper: St. Johns' Episcopal Church in Glen-carlyn is hosting a Spaghetti Supper open to everyone on Saturday, April 23, from 6 to 7:30 pm. The cost is only \$5 per person; children under 3 eat free. Come enjoy spaghetti with a variety of sauces, bread, salad and dessert and enjoy talking to old and new friends. St John's is located at 415 S. Lexington St. Enter through the doors on 5th street. For more info, go to www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

Walk for the Animals: On Saturday, May 7, (rain or shine), the Animal Welfare League of Arlington will host the 2016 Annual Walk for the Animals at Bluemont Park. Lace up your walking shoes, leash up your favorite pup and join hundreds of animal enthusiasts for a stroll through Bluemont Park to benefit AWLA shelter animals and support the services and programs that the League provides to the community. Support the Walk for the Animals so that together we can reach our fundraising goal of \$100,000 and continue to provide professional and compassionate care for the animals entrusted to us and the people who adopt them. For details and to register, see www.awla.org/.

Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, April 20, 7 pm at Barrett Elementary.

Taste of Arlington: May 15, Noon to 6 PM. Local food showcase in front of Ballston Mall.

Democratic Caucus for School Board: May 19, 7-9 PM at Drew Model School or May 21, 11 AM to 7 PM at Washington-Lee High School.

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 21. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

Democratic Primary for County Board: June 14, 6 AM to 7 PM at regular polling place.

Lubber Run Amphitheater: Live entertainment under the stars resumes in June. See page 4 for preview.

Arlington County Fair: August 17-21. Rides, food, displays, and racing pigs.

General Elections: November 8. President, Congress, County Board, School Board, State constitutional amendments, and County and School bonds.

Future AFCA Meetings:

May 18: Picnic & Membership Meeting

June to August: No meetings over summer break



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Barcroft School News

After enjoying Spring Break on March 21-25 and Spring Intersession classes between March 28 and April 8, students were ready to return to fourth quarter learning. Classes resumed on Tuesday, April 12 after a Teacher Grade Preparation Day on April 11.

The schedule for April is full. On April 12, the PTA held its April meeting and discussed the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) testing for Grades 3-5. The school offered practical tips for how parents can help to ensure that the SOLs are a beneficial experience for families and children. On April 14, Barcroft hosted the third of three School Information Sessions and Tours for interested incoming kindergarten families. Students will enjoy an Early Release Wednesday on April 20 while teachers received professional development. Students will pose for Spring Pictures, including class pictures, on Friday, April 29.

Our Arlington Forest neighbors are invited to several events in April, including the Dogfish Head Alehouse Fund Raiser on Tuesday, April 19, at 6220 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, in Seven Corners. Visit the restaurant anytime between 11:30 a.m. through 11:00 p.m., and a percentage of your order will benefit the Barcroft PTA (there is no need to identify yourself to the server as being from the Barcroft

community). There will be a special Barcroft Kids menu to order from and raffles galore! The PTA will use the money raised to help fund student field trips, student enrichment opportunities and teacher and classroom resources. To see a menu and to learn more about the Dogfish Head Alehouse, go to <http://dogfishalehouse.com> and click on the Falls Church location.

Barcroft's International Night celebration will be held on Thursday, April 28. A Reading is Fundamental 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run will be held on Saturday, April 30 at 8:00 a.m. at Burke Late Park, Fairfax Station, VA. Neighbors are welcome to participate. The registration fees will benefit the Reading is Fundamental program. To register, go to: <https://potomac.enmotive.com>.

May events include Staff Appreciation Week to be held on May 2-6. All week long, students, the administration, and the PTA will host events to show teachers and staff how much we appreciate all that they do for our children. The Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m. As always, we welcome neighbor participation in PTA and school events!

To learn more, contact our PTA President Tara McCabe at tcs04@gmail.com.



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If you are considering putting your home on the market, I would suggest that you begin getting your home ready as soon as possible. By having your home ready and in great shape for the new owners, the price that you get will be higher than if you don't prepare the home for sale. I have a list of things that owners should do in preparation to market their home. If

you would like to meet with me to see your home and give you some ideas on how to prepare it, please call me for a free, no obligation consultation. With the inventory low, it is an ideal time to sell your home. I look forward to meeting with you.

Jim

Barrett School News

Students at KW Barrett Elementary came back from Spring Break excited to finish out the school year strong!

On Friday, April 8, the 5th Graders pulled out an overtime win over the faculty in their third annual basketball game. It was a nail biter, with the two teams tied at 67 at the buzzer, but the feisty 5th Graders rallied to a win (see accompanying photo)!

The month of May will bring the always popular Bike to School Day on the 4th and the rescheduled Spring Musical before students gear up for SOL testing.

But before all that fun, the PTA will host its biggest fundraiser of the year, the Barrett Auction. This year we will be celebrating at St. Ann School (980 N Frederick St, Arlington 22205), on Friday, April 29. The festivities kick off at 7:00 PM with drinks, appetizers and a live band! Tickets are a steal at \$30 per person, free for teachers and staff! Please come and help support our wonderful school community and all the programs that help make Barrett such a special place to learn.



April Madness: Victorious 5th grade team beat the teachers and staff in nail biting overtime at the 3rd Annual 5th Graders vs. Barrett Staff Basketball game. The contest was held in the W-L High School gym.

Important Dates:

- Garden Work Day, April 23 | Digital Learning Night, April 28
- PTA Auction, April 29 | PTA Meeting, May 3
- Bike to School Day, May 4 | Spring Musical, May 18



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Southside:

- Daniel O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, tomara@teamcfw.com, 703-769-3767
- Ethan O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, tomara@teamcfw.com, 703-769-3767
- Sophia Polisar: babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, sophiapolisar@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, jontiernan16@gmail.com
- Liz Tiernan: babysitting (RC certified, references), pet sitting, lizzytiernan@gmail.com

Greenbrier Section:

- CeCe and Zephren Collinson: babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, plant watering, mail collection, 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, Allisonrocket@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
- Bridget Holt: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, 703-465-0580

- Jack Holt: babysitting (RC certified), yard work, snow shoveling, leaf raking, watering plants, tutoring, jackloginname@gmail.com, 703-465-0580
- Anthony Lawson: yard work, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Charlotte Lawson: leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880

Northside:

- Daniel Brancati: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, car washing (in your driveway), daniel@barms.org, 703-243-1916
- Laura Brancati: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, laura@barms.org, 703-243-1916
- Alex Brown: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, alexhutchinsb@gmail.com, 703-314-8840
- 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 (25 lbs. max), 571-277-4441
- Alyssa Luz-Ricca: babysitting (RC certified), 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

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