

The Arlington Forester



Volume 52, Number 7

Arlington, VA

April 2011

Amphitheater Update

By Patricia Freeman

Arlington Forest made a strong impression on County Board members at the March 22 budget hearing when several dozen residents turned out in enthusiastic support of the effort to reopen Lubber Run Amphitheater (LRA). Foresters Julie Kirchhoff, Chris Scheer and Janet Irwin each spoke of the importance of making the repairs necessary to this special place that has been part of Arlington's cultural heritage for over 40 years. Kathy Fredgren, whose Center Dance Company shows were a highlight for many seasons, described the role this unique venue had for both performers and audiences.

That energy helped launch an unprecedented series of site visits by all five County Board members to LRA the first week of April. On April 7 LRA Foundation representatives conducted tours of the complex for Barbara Favola, and later Mary Hughes Hynes and J. Walter Tejada. Chris Zimmerman and Jay Fisetto attended a similar presentation on April 8. Civic Federation members and

....Continued on page 2



SITE VISIT: County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman and Board Member Jay Fisetto meet with Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation members.

Spring Cleanup on April 30

The first annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup is set for Saturday, April 30, from 9 to 11 AM. The map on Page 3 of this newsletter shows the five meeting points and their associated cleanup focus areas: Lubber Run Park, the 2nd St. traffic circles, the buffer strip on the southside of Route 50, and Four Mile Run near the foot of N. Greenbrier Street. Depending on the site, we will pick up trash, remove debris and/or cut invasive plants.

The County Parks Department is providing supplies and guidance. Boy Scout Troop 648 and Cub Scout Pack 648 will participate. The only thing else we need is you! Even if you can only come out for the first hour, please do so. 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, summer and fall enjoyment.

So, please join in this effort if you enjoy walking, jogging or biking in our neighborhood parks; if you have children who you want to learn to care about the environment; if you want to get out in the fresh spring air to benefit from some light exercise; if you want to get to know your neighbors better; if you want to help protect the

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

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes your articles, news notes and letters which should focus on events or issues specific to our neighborhood and should not exceed 400 words. We also welcome photos accompanied by an explanatory caption. E-mail submissions to nalandfamily@yahoo.com. Upcoming deadlines (which vary with the date of the month's AFCA meeting) are May 5 and, after the summer break, Sept 8. Space fills up fast, so e-mail the editor in advance if you plan to submit a photo or long article. Submissions are subject to editing.

President's Column

By Julie Kirchhoff, AFCA President

Hello Foresters! Hope you have been reading about our progress with the LRA (Lubber Run Amphitheater) as the Foundation and those others involved have been rather successful. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Patricia Freeman and Chris Scheer at lubberrunamphitheater@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you at our Neighborhood Cleanup (April 30) and our Community Yard Sale (May 21). Please feel free to join your neighbors or contact any of your neighbors that are involved. We'd love to have you!

Come to the April AFCA meeting to find out what is going on in your neighborhood. We've got someone to explain what is happening over at Buckingham as well as what we've got coming up locally. So, please Join In! See You Around the Forest!

Amphitheater ...from page 1

Residents of Glencarlyn and Bluemont were also present to compare inaccurate and exaggerated LRA condition assessments found within in the County's website summary/feasibility study with the actual observable conditions.

County Board members strongly expressed their interest in finding both short and long term solutions to keep the Amphitheater operational and pledged to work with the LRA Foundation and the community to make that a reality despite ongoing concerns about addressing ADA compliance and other federal mandates.

At a public meeting on April 11, County Manager Barbara Donellan was expected to announce her desire to include \$20,000 in the FY2012 budget to fund a movie series for the 2011 LRA summer season. This amount, if approved by the County Board, would be twice last year's allocation. The County Board will announce its budget decisions on April 16. AFCA will discuss next steps at its April 20 meeting.



FOR THE LRA: County Board Members Mary Hughes Hynes and J. Walter Tejada meet with Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation members.

Amphitheater Foundation Update

by Chris Scheer

The campaign to bring Arlington County's Lubber Run Amphitheater back to life as a free summer performance venue received county-wide endorsement this month when the Arlington Civic Federation included funding for the amphitheater in its annual budget recommendations to the County Board.

The Civic Federation's suggested FY2012 budget went to the County Board for consideration before next year's budget is finalized by the Board on April 16. Civic Federation delegates representing neighborhood associations and civic groups throughout Arlington recommended that the County allocate \$250,000 of the \$21.3 million dollars in unspecified FY2011 funds generated by higher than expected commercial property assessments to repairing the amphitheater and bringing it up to performance standards.

The amphitheater, located in Lubber Run Park, was closed by Arlington's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources in 2009 as unsafe. The Arlington Forest Citizens Association, performance groups and others were surprised by the unannounced closing and asked for specific information leading to the county's decision. They waited more than a year for a county-contracted study of

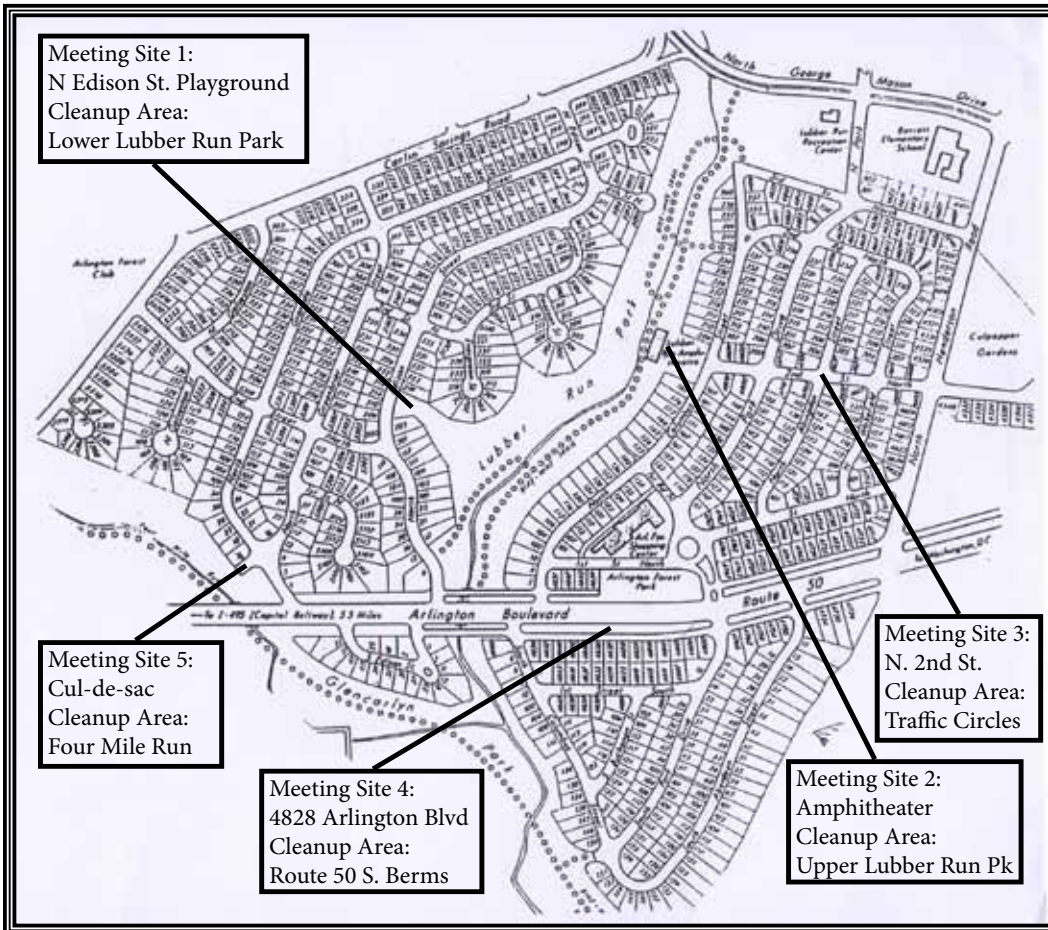
the facility released last month. The recently formed Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation, Inc., questioned the reliability of that study at the County Board's March 22 budget hearing and invited Board members to visit the amphitheater to discuss its future.

The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation sought support from civic associations throughout the county which culminated in the endorsement from the Civic Federation.

At the Civic Federation county budget review meeting, Review and Expenditure Committee chair Wayne Kubicki noted that a number of his committee members had construction backgrounds and personally visited the amphitheater before including it in their budget recommendation. "The county report talked about replacing the amphitheater for two or three million dollars," he said. "We feel that it can be brought back up to standards for far less and given years of life while a long-term plan is developed."

Keep up with amphitheater developments on Facebook (search Lubber Run) and sign the save the amphitheater online petition (search Lubber Run petition). You can reach the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation directly to ask questions and express your support at lubberrunamphitheater@gmail.com.

Spring Cleanup ...from page 1



Chesapeake Bay watershed; and/or if you want to keep your property value up.

Volunteers should assemble at the designated meeting points at 9 AM, rain or shine, and will move out from there. If you arrive a little late, look around for those who are already at work. Please wear old clothes and sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. If you have them, wear garden or work gloves.

[No one stepped forward to coordinate the initially proposed cleanup sites along the Route 50 northside buffer strip or Four Mile Run near the foot of S. Park Dr. Nearby residents are welcome to cleanup those areas on their own.]

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

AF 101: Safe Lawn Care

by Jane Scruggs

[This month's "Arlington Forest 101" offers suggestions on how to keep your yard not only healthy and beautiful, but also safe for kids and pets.]

Is it possible to for our yards to be weed and pest free without chemicals? Yes.

If you take care of your lawn yourself:

There are some very simple things you can do to fight the weed battle. First, check your mower blade height. Cutting your grass to a 2.5 inch height in the spring, moving up to a 3 inch or 3.5 inch cut in the summer, and then moving back down to 2.5 inch when autumn comes, can reduce weeds by more than 50 percent.

Next, leave your lawn clippings where they fall (except on the sidewalk, of course). Lawn clippings represent nutrient recycling at its best. With proper mowing, clippings will not cause excess thatch (a tightly packed layer of organic debris that develops on the soil surface). Rather, clippings break down and return nitrogen to the lawn, reducing the need for fertilizers.

Third, be sure to get your soil tested! A good soil test is essential because it lets you know your yard's specific

nutrient needs. For example, among other things, you'll find out if you need to raise or lower the pH of your soil. Contact the Arlington office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension for a soil testing kit (around \$7): 703-228-6400.

If you use a lawn care service:

Ask them how they approach weed and pest management. Do they offer a variety of approaches? Do they apply pesticides on a regular schedule regardless of need? Do they evaluate and treat your lawn as a single entity, or does every lawn get the same treatment? Does the company routinely combine fertilizer and pesticides in each application?

And, lastly, here is why it is important to avoid using pesticides: Of the 36 most commonly used lawn care pesticides registered before 1984, health effects have shown that: 14 are probable or possible carcinogens, 15 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 24 with neurotoxicity, and 22 with liver or kidney damage. A child in a household using home and garden pesticides is 6.5 times more likely to develop leukemia than in a home that does not.



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If you are considering selling, please call me and let's arrange a time when we can discuss your future sale; there is no obligation. I want to show you how I market homes and help you determine what your selling price should be, and I have all the tools that Long and Foster has to offer. Don't wait too long to market your home as timing is very important. I look forward to meeting with you.

Jim

Community Yard Sale on May 21



Arlington Forest's long-running annual Community Yard Sale takes place the morning of Saturday, May 21. With 40 to 50 Arlington Forest

households participating each year, the event attracts many bargain hunters drawn to the convenience of cruising through one concentrated area to visit many sales in a short time. AFCA publicizes the event by placing classified ads in local newspapers. Sellers who live near Arlington Blvd, Carlin Springs Rd., George Mason Dr. and Henderson Dr. are encouraged to post signs along those thoroughfares pointing into the neighborhood and to their sales (please remove the signs at day's end).

Next month's May *Arlington Forester* will publish a map showing the sale sites. On sale day, AFCA will deliver multiple copies of the map to each sale site so that, once a buyer finds one site, they can pick up a map leading them to other sites. **To get on the map, e-mail your address to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by May 5.**

There are no rules governing this community-wide sale, but past experience suggests strategies for success:

--Prepare in advance. Sort clothes by size and toys by user age. Group similar items together. Find shopper-friendly ways to display your 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 demonstrate that the item works.

--Price items reasonably. Savvy shoppers will buy elsewhere if prices are too high. Be prepared to negotiate down from the displayed price, but feel free to say "no" if you would rather return the item to storage or donate it to charity instead of feeling taken advantage of by a hard negotiator.



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


--While thefts have not been a problem, keep your cash in a pocket, purse or fanny pack. If you do use a cash box, have a family member or friend assist you so it is not left unattended while you are distracted with a shopper. Decline personal checks. If you go indoors even briefly, have a family member or friend watch your merchandise.

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


So, whether you are a seller, a buyer or both, join us on May 21.

To get on the Yard Sale map, e-mail your address to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by May 5

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Around the Forest

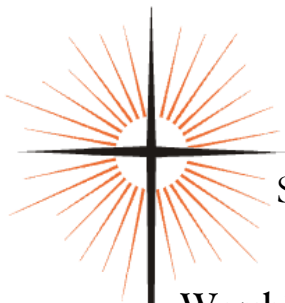
Power Outages: Concerns about the reliability of electricity provided by Dominion Virginia Power was the main topic of discussion at the March 16 AFCA meeting. The consensus of participants – including some who have lived here for over 30 years – was that power outages during the past two winters have been more frequent and of longer duration than in past years. This is particularly true for the 390 homes in the Greenbrier Section. The consensus was that most of the recurring and sometimes-extended winter outages were caused by falling dead trees. It was decided that AFCA would contact Dominion to urge them to remove or prune dead trees inside Dominion's transmission right-of-way. As this newsletter went to press, AFCA was working to arrange for a Dominion representative to come talk to interested residents. The AFCA listserv and/or next month's newsletter will give advance notice of any such meeting.

Shopping Center Update: The large space formerly occupied by Country Curtains is being renovated to house a state-of-the-art dialysis center. Zoning regulations related to parking capacity prohibited leasing the space to a restaurant. Hopefully, the opening of this new facility will boost foot-traffic at other shops in our neighborhood shopping center.

The Nieweg's are Moving: Dorothy and Elroy Nieweg, N. 2nd St residents in the Greenbrier section for over 40 years, are relocating to an area retirement community. They have been wonderful neighbors for four decades. Elroy served as the AFCA treasurer from 1973 to 1986 (13 years). He and Dorothy were co-editors of the 2000 history of Arlington Forest (issued on AFCA's 60th anniversary). Elroy and another neighbor co-edited the 1990 history book. Elroy is, and will remain, the AFCA historian and webmaster. Once they get moved, AFCA will hold a luncheon to honor them. Look for details in next month's newsletter.

Activities at St. John's Church: St. John's Episcopal Church at 415 S. Lexington St has been advertising in this newsletter for over 50 years. As a long-time member of our neighborhood's extended family, please consider supporting their charitable events. For example, to help kids in Kenya get an education, St. John's is holding an African crafts and jewelry sale at 11:15 AM on May 1 and May 8 and from 1 to 3 PM on May 7. See their ad below for other events.

*Start getting your stuff together:
Community Yard Sale, May 21, 8am-Noon*



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St. John's is an open and welcoming community of faith.
We invite you to join us each week.

Worship with us Sundays – Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Study with us – Sunday Christian Education – Adults 9 a.m.; Children 9:20 a.m.

Pray and reflect with us – Candlelight Prayer Third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Coming up at St. John's:

April 21 – Maundy Thursday Traditional Meal & Stripping of the altar, 6:30 p.m.

April 22 – Good Friday Liturgy, Noon and 7:00 p.m.

April 24 – Easter Sunday Services, 8 & 10 a.m.

Reception and Easter Egg Hunt following the 10 o'clock service

May 7 – Annual Spring Tea, 1 – 3 p.m.

May 7 – African Team Ministries Craft and Jewelry Sale in the lounge, 1 – 3 p.m.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5

Forest Exchange

AFC Club Membership: Family seeking Arlington Forest Club membership. Contact Joan at 703-522-1322.

Free: Original front and rear storm doors (in good condition) for Arlington Forest homes. Take them from my attic and they are yours. Call Alan at 703-522-0020.

Kids for Hire: Need babysitting, dog walking or other help around the house? Check out the "Kids for Hire" listing on Page 13 of this newsletter in which neighborhood teens and tweens offer their services.

Ivy Removal: Forester Paul Kovenock, 703-525-5221, is available to advise Forest homeowners adjacent to Lubber Run Park on ridding their yards of invasive English ivy and voluntarily supervising day laborers to get it done.



SLAPSHOT: Washington Capitals mascot Slapshot visited Arlington Forest on April 9 to congratulate Kenmore student Alice Naland who won 2nd place in the Caps Kids Club creative writing contest.

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Kenmore Middle School News

On March 14, **President Barack Obama** chose Kenmore Middle School as the venue for a major speech on national education policy.

After days of quiet preparation by Kenmore staff and U.S. Secret Service agents, the Presidential motorcade drove down Arlington Blvd through Arlington Forest to Kenmore. Students assembled in the auditorium stood and erupted into warm applause when he walked through a curtain and said "Hello." After brief remarks encouraging students to do their best in their studies, he shook hands and then moved on to meet with four small groups of students and teachers who explained some of Kenmore's special programs.

The final event was an education policy speech to 300 guests in the gymnasium. Attending were Congressman Jim Moran, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, County and school system officials, Kenmore student council members, and the national media. In his remarks, the President said "we've still got more work to do here at this school to close the achievement gap... We've got to make sure that every student is on track. But...we can see here at Kenmore -- Kenmore is thriving. You guys are doing great. You got more work to do, but you're doing fine."

With this first-ever Presidential visit to Kenmore completed, the motorcade sped back up Route 50 through Arlington Forest to the White House.



PRESIDENTIAL: White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy

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Barcroft School News

Join us for great events happening at Barcroft Elementary in April/May, including our special fitness program, **Monday Mornin' Movers (MMM)**. Depending on the weather, we meet at the outdoor track or the gym from **8:30-8:50 AM on April 25 and May 2, 9, 16 and 23**.

A highlight of April was **Spring Intersession**. Students could either take a break from school or attend two weeks of intersession classes. Intersession classes integrate fun, creative activities with concepts recently learned in subjects like Math, English, P.E., Art, and Science. Classes offered included "Crime Scene," an introduction to forensic science, fingerprints, and evidence; and "Great Migrations," a study of animal migration patterns like that of the monarch butterfly.

During Spring Break, Barcroft will host a **Fitness and Nutrition Camp from Monday, April 18 to Thursday, April 21**. Student campers will spend the day exercising with their friends, cooking with local chefs and sampling nutritious foods.

After school resumes, Barcroft is scheduled to host a **Family Academic Science Night on Tuesday, April 26**. Please join us! Third Quarter **Report Cards** will be sent home to students on Wednesday, **May 27**. The PTA will also host a **Staples SchoolKidz School Supply Sale**. Parents may pre-order school supplies for the 2011-2012 school

year. If your child attends Barcroft, an order form will be sent home around April 25. If your child will start Barcroft in August 2011, and you want to participate in the sale, contact PTA Secretary, Jenny Ditta, at chrisnjenny4@comcast.net.

Highlights for May include the **Spring Concert**, currently scheduled on Wednesday, **May 4**, at 2 PM and 7 PM. Hear the Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus, School Band and Orchestra, and Spanish Chorus. Also in May, Grades K-3 will receive **Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening Testing (PALS)** and Grades 3-5 will take the **VA Standards of Learning (SOLs)**.

On Monday, **May 16**, the Barcroft PTA will host a fundraiser at **P. Brennan's Irish Pub and Restaurant**, 2910 Columbia Pike. Eat-in or take-out between 4:30-10:30 PM and 15% will be donated to the PTA. Enjoy fabulous entrees and an affordable kids' menu. Garage parking is available.

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft in 2011, go to <http://www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp>.

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Barrett School News

News Flash from **Barrett's Project Discovery**: Barrett's **NASA Save the Earth Team** has won **first prize** in the **"Spaced Out Sports"** challenge contest! NASA contacted Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Cohen, Dr. Sullivan and Mrs. Bratt to relay the great news that, out of 57 entries nationwide, Barrett had taken 1st place in the contest!

This was the result of a huge team effort by all of the fifth grade teachers, along with Ms. Shaw's wonderful filming and editing talents! The kids worked very hard to design a fun, yet challenging, sports-based game for astronauts aboard the International Space Station to play on an upcoming mission!

For taking first place, the **students' game will be played by astronauts** aboard the International Space Station and recorded for a future broadcast!! Also, our students will be able to communicate with the astronauts about their game plan. In addition our entire school will receive a NASA Celebration Day!

"Spaced Out Sports" was a national design challenge that had students learn about the effects of gravity by applying Isaac Newton's Laws of Motion in designing a game for astronauts to play in space.

For more info and photos, see <http://tinyurl.com/BarrettSportsInSpaceApril2011>

Community Calendar

AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, Apr 20, 7 PM at Barrett School library. The agenda include an update on Buckingham Redevelopment Phase II construction project off of North Henderson Road and 3rd Street. As those of you who live on or travel North Henderson Road regularly, there has been plenty of activity recently with a steady stream of heavy equipment and construction noise. Ms. Micheline Castan-Smith with Paradigm Development Company will update AFCA meeting participants on the status of the project.

Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup: Saturday, Apr 30, 9 to 11 AM at five locations around Arlington Forest. Join your neighbors in cleaning up community spaces. See Pages 1 and 3 of this newsletter for details.

AFCA Picnic: Wednesday, May 20, Lubber Run Park picnic area. The final AFCA meeting before the summer break.

Community Yard Sale: Saturday, May 21. Arlington Forest's annual Community Yard Sale. To get your house on the map, e-mail your address to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by May 5.

Taste of Arlington: Sunday, May 22, Noon to 5 PM in front of Ballston Mall. The annual chance to sample delicious food by dozens of Arlington restaurants.



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Green Means Go - Carefully

by Mindee Laumann

My morning drive to work was shaken twice in one week at the intersection of Route 50 and N. Edison St. Every morning, I drive from the Northside on Edison to turn left at the light. Recently, as I was about to turn with (of course) the green light, out of the corner of my eye I saw a westbound van barreling down Route 50 straight through the red light. Had I not been paying attention, I would have been hit driver side on by a vehicle going at least 45 miles an hour. The fact that I had the green light and he/she had a red light would not have altered the outcome. Less than

a week later, an accident at the exact same spot caught my attention when I heard the smashing of vehicles. The wreckage was so bad that I couldn't tell what it was at first. A man flew off his motorcycle and managed to hobble to the curb. I don't know how that accident happened, but this intersection is clearly a place where one's full attention is vital. I see drivers' texting, putting on make-up and talking on cell phones. So, please pay careful attention at this spot. Let's keep ourselves and those passing through our neighborhood safe!



*Arlington
Forest*

Spring Cleanup
April 30, 9 - 11 am



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Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are available for babysitting, dog walking, yard work and other services. They are listed by neighborhood, but some may prefer to work within a few blocks of home. Contact them to discuss availability and fees. Middle or high school students who want to be on this list next month should send their name, e-mail address and/or phone number, neighborhood and list of services to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by May 5.

Northside:

- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046
- Joshua & Sammy Patecell, yard work, mowing, joshuapatecell@yahoo.com, 703-524-6891
- Bo Sampson, babysitting (Red Cross certified), Trombone lessons (4th and 5th graders), Bo.i.samps@gmail.com, 703-522-2761

Southside:

- Samantha Harris, yard work, mowing, pet sitting, dog walking, samanthaharrisservices@gmail.com, 571-225-5604

-- Jon Tiernan, dog walking pet sitting, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), jonny.boy4@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

-- Liz Tiernan, dog walking, pet sitting, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), lizytiernan@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

Greenbrier Section:

- Andrew Bryant, yard work, mowing, skatebk93@aol.com, 703-312-9310
- Kate Felsenheld, pet sitting, dog walking, k.cliffhero@gmail.com, 703-276-9874
- Emily Goldman, babysitting (Red Cross certified), dog walking, Tsukiko8@gmail.com, 571-288-5198
- Alex Hendel, dog walking, tutoring (pre-K to 5th grade in science, math and history), alexhendel@gmail.com, 703-763-0070
- Chris Mutty, babysitting (Red Cross certified), yard work, dog walking, pet sitting, cbmutty@gmail.com, 703-522-4741
- Alice Naland, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, nalandfamily@yahoo.com, 703-888-0125
- Lucy Naland, babysitting (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, LucyMNaland@gmail.com, 703-888-0125

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Nature News

Cats Inside: Each year, domestic cats are estimated to kill several hundred million birds and small mammals (such as rabbits and squirrels) in the United States. Leading environmental groups urge keeping domestic cats inside the house.

Recycle Yard Debris: One need only look at the curbs throughout Arlington Forest to see that homeowners have been diligently clearing their yards after the winter's spate of storms and high winds. Residents should take the next step and request that the County pick up the unwanted brush. Arlington's user-friendly website makes filing such requests hassle-free. Simply go to <http://egov.arlingtonva.us/SolidWasteRequests/> and enter your address to request a brush pickup. Your pile of brush will be picked up on the next trash removal day and your neighbors will appreciate your clean curb. The County recycles the collected wood and leaves into mulch. Residents can pick up free mulch at two sites or can have mulch delivered to their home for a small charge. For details, search "mulch" on the County website.

Long Branch Nature Center: LBNC's numerous programs for children and families are advertised in their quarterly newsletters *The Snag* and *The Snag for Wee Ones* which are available at LBNC and on the County website (search "nature centers"). Most programs require pre-registration. LBNC is open Tuesday to Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM and Saturday, Noon to 5 PM. Closed on Sunday and Monday.

Turtle Trot 5K Race: Make a difference by supporting LBNC in the inaugural Turtle Trot 5K Race on Saturday, May 21, at 9 AM, at the Lower Bluemont Park Picnic Shelter. Get in on the ground floor of a new Arlington tradition when you register by May 19 at www.active.com (search "Turtle Trot 5K"). Adults \$30; Kids 12 and under \$15. Proceeds will directly benefit wildlife, especially turtle rehab at LBNC. You don't even have to run to have fun. Check out the real, live turtle races, as well as exhibitors and family activities. Join the day of fun and fundraising on May 21.

Fight Invasive Plants: If you enjoy the parkland around LBNC, please join the invasive plant removal effort there on Sunday, Apr 17, 2 to 5 PM and on Sunday, May 15, 2 to 5 PM. Ages 9 to adult are welcome. For info, phone 703-228-6535.

**Next AFCA Meeting is April 20th,
7 pm at Barrett Elementary School**

Arlington Sales Prices are Up!

Sales data for major jurisdictions across Northern Virginia, based on figures reported Feb. 10 by Real Estate Business Intelligence:

Alexandria: Home sales for January totaled 114, the same number that sold a year before. The average sales price of all homes that sold during the month was \$444,599, up 11.8%, while the average sales price in the single-family-home sector was \$749,943. Total sales volume for the month was \$50.24 million, up 11%.

Arlington: Home sales totaled 129, down from 134 a year before. The average sales price of all homes that sold was \$506,005, up 2.4%, while the average sales price of single-family homes was \$682,250, up 5.1%. Total sales volume for the month was \$64.77 million, down 2.2%.

Fairfax County: Home sales totaled 636, down from 732 a year before. The average sales price of all homes that

sold was \$440,938, up 1.8%, while the average sales price for single-family homes was \$614,278, up 2%. Total sales volume for the month was \$279.1 million, down 13.5%.

Falls Church City: Home sales totaled eight, up from six a year before. The average sales price of all homes that sold was \$386,863, down 24.4%, the average sales price of single-family homes was \$660,000, up 26.5%. Total sales monthly volume \$3.09 million, up 6.7%.

Loudoun County: Home sales totaled 251, down from 261 a year before. The average sales price for all homes sold was \$363,394, down 5.2%, while the average sales price of single-family homes was \$466,115, down 9.1%. Total sales volume for the month was \$90.12 million, down 10.7%.

Prince William County: Home sales totaled 332, down from 400. The average sales price for all homes that sold was \$257,904, up 1.3%, while the average sales price of single-family homes was \$317,826, up 4.6%. Total sales volume for the month was \$84.59 million, down 20.3%.



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**Easter Egg Festival
on April 23, at 10 a.m.**



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