

The Arlington Forester



Volume 53, Number 5

Arlington, VA

February 2012

AFCA Reviews Transportation Projects

by John Naland

Briefings by Arlington County officials on two major neighborhood transportation projects are at the top of the agenda for the Wednesday, February 15 AFCA meeting. Please note this month's meeting will be held at the Culpepper Gardens Senior Center instead of the usual Barrett School location (due to a scheduling conflict). Please enter via Culpepper Gardens' main entrance (where the information desk is located). The meeting will start promptly at 7 PM.

Carlin Springs Bridge Project

County transportation engineer Richard Viola will brief residents on the reconstruction of the N. Carlin Springs Bridge over N. George Mason which is set to begin by early next year. The project will keep the four vehicle lanes while adding dedicated bike lanes and widening the sidewalks. To fit it all in, the current design calls for widening the bridge by four feet, narrowing the vehicle lanes, and removing the central median. The project will also add upgraded safety features including pedestrian safety lighting under and above the bridge, new approach guardrails, and improved signage.

Structural upgrades will include concrete support structures repair and replacement, high-performance concrete bridge decking, and new bridge railings.

Mr. Viola will discuss those plans and solicit residents' questions and comments. Those comments will likely include questions about the planned removal of the central median and about what can be done to mitigate the near impassability of bridge sidewalks after a snowfall due to County plows piling snow from the street onto the sidewalks. Prior to the meeting, interested residents are encouraged to review the information on the project (including a design sketch) on the County website (search "Carlin Springs Bridge").

Route 50 and Park Drive Project

Following the bridge project discussion, Christine Simpson of the County's Department of Environmental Services will brief residents on the design plan for the Arlington Boulevard and Park Drive intersection safety improvements. The project will reduce speeding and the incidence of collisions and will create better access and

....Continued page 4

Improvements at Route 50 and South Columbus

by John Naland

It took over a year of advocacy, study, and construction, but important safety upgrades have now been completed at the intersection of Route 50 and S. Columbus St. The effort began at the September 2010 AFCA meeting when Southside resident Lilli Tnaib and a delegation of concerned neighbors briefed AFCA on problems associated with non-resident traffic exiting Arlington Blvd. at S. Columbus to use the service road as an alternate thoroughfare to avoid Route 50 congestion.

The project took numerous twists and turns as it worked its way through consideration by Arlington County and the

Virginia Department of Transportation, but a design was eventually approved and

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. Feb 15 at Culpepper Gardens

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

Official publication of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, Arlington, Virginia founded in 1939. A nonpartisan, nonsectarian publication serving the common interests of the residents of Arlington Forest.

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Forester is printed by *Stanley Adams Printing Co.*

Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes articles, news notes and letters focusing on events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We also welcome photos accompanied by an explanatory caption. The next deadline is March 8 for the issue to be distributed the weekend of March 17. E-mail submissions of 400 words or less to John Naland at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space fills up, so check with the editor in advance if you plan to submit a long article. Submissions are subject to editing.

Letter to the Editor



Thank you for remembering Pauline Cohen and her husband in the January Forester. The influence of Jack's Deli on the formative years of children that grew up in Arlington Forest cannot be underestimated. As a child of the Forest in the 1970s and 1980s we

grew up riding our bikes or walking through the woods to the deli. We would play pinball games in the former laundromat or video games in the former 7-11 in the shopping center but we would always buy our food or sandwiches from Jacks. Their sandwiches were outstanding. Older kids would drive from W&L to Jacks for lunch. I was always impressed when Jack would take the back of a brown paper bag, write the amount for each item on the bag, and add it up by hand on the back of the bag. He did this until the day they closed in 1984. They knew their customers well and treated them regardless of age. Delis like this no longer exist in most regions of America but will stay fresh in our memories for a lifetime.

Best Regards,
Bob Glover (former Forester)

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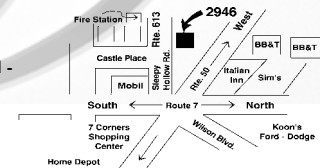
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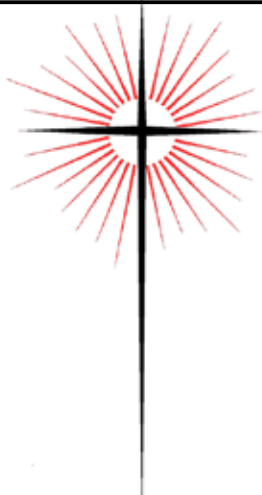


Improvements at Route 50 and South Columbus ...from page 1

installation was finished last month. As shown in the photographs at right, the project added a new median with signage alerting traffic to slow down for the median. The median forces east-bound cars to slow in order to make a sharp right-hand turn onto S. Columbus and thus stops those cars from swerving diagonally at high speed across the S. Columbus intersection onto the service road. Additionally, the project added painted lines on the pavement.

"Since the project was completed, I can definitely see less traffic entering the neighborhood from Arlington Boulevard. It seems the median acts as a deterrent to non-residents to use the road as a shortcut and we have less fast traffic on our street," said project-originator Lilli Tnaib.

This project is a good example of how energized residents, with AFCA backing, can achieve permanent improvements in our neighborhood.



Are you missing a connection with God?

St. John's Episcopal Church is a small congregation with a big heart. We believe that questioning and doubts are part of mature faith development. Always inclusive, we invite you to bring those questions inside the faith community where we help people establish a deeper relationship with God.

-Reverend Ann Barker, Rector

Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education

Adults 9 am - Youth 9:20 am

Book Club:

March 6 7:30 pm *Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell

All are welcome to all services and activities!

February 11 - Spaghetti Dinner - \$5 adults - \$10 family - bring a non-perishable food item for AFAC - 6 - 7:30pm

February 21 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - pancakes & ham - adults \$5 - children 6-12 \$3 - 6 - 8 pm

February 22 - Ash Wednesday Services (Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes) 12:00 and 7:30 pm

March 2 - Family Happy Hour - movies for kids - social time for adults - snacks available - 4 pm

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

stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net

AFCA Reviews Transportation Projects ...from page 1

crossings for pedestrians, transit users, cyclists and those travelling on the shared-use paths parallel to Arlington Boulevard. The design for the intersection features new sidewalks and crosswalks, curb and gutter, upgraded signals and pedestrian call buttons, accessible ramps and new trees.

Ms. Simpson will present the 75 percent finalized design as amended based on community input that she received at the November 16, 2011 AFCA meeting. She will solicit final community input and support so that County staff can develop the construction documents. Prior to the meeting, interested residents are encouraged to review the information on the project (including a design sketch) on the County website (search "Park Drive intersection"). Construction is expected to begin in late summer.

Other Topics

No other action items are on the agenda of the busy February AFCA

meeting, but the floor is always open for residents to raise new issues. Two other transportation improvements are not on the agenda, but are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter: the just-completed safety improvements at S. Columbus and Route 50 (see page 1) and the planned bike/hike trail improvements at the foot of N. Greenbrier/N. Granada (see page 9).

Finally, if you have not yet sent in your tax-deductible \$10 AFCA annual dues for the September 2011 to August 2012 fiscal year, please do so today using the form on page 9. Your dues support AFCA's activities which enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood.



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AFCA Homeowner's Manual

by Tom Smialowicz

As we all know, Arlington Forest homes have a lot of "character". However, that character can sometimes turn into frustration as we try to understand how our 70+ year-old homes were designed and built. The first time you tried to hang a picture on the wall and it crumbled with you saying, "Wait, this isn't drywall?" It's not like you can just go online and pull up the builder's website. You can't just "Google-it", or can you...?

Twenty-five years ago, a group of residents as part of an AFCA Housing Committee decide to create a Homeowner's Manual to stimulate interest and encourage property maintenance to sustain the value and appearance of our homes. Since the homes in Arlington Forest were all basically of the same design and construction, a manual would apply to almost everyone.

Information was collected from homeowners familiar with the house structures and from professionals who worked on them. Homeowners learned tricks and tips and wanted to share their experiences to eliminate pain points for others. The Committee intended for the manual to

.....
: *View the Homeowner's Manual at:* 
: www.arlingtonforestva.org
:

acquaint each homeowner with their home, so the right questions could be asked when problems occur.

The manual was not meant to be an exhaustive guide to all home repair problems, but it contains some useful information. It discusses the structural elements of our homes and potential repair options for foundations, cracks in plaster surfaces, heating and cooling, basement leaks, roof/attic and sheds. It also highlights some of the challenges with the original home design not being very energy efficient, focusing on insulation in the walls and attic and of course, windows – all huge energy drains.

With all of our mature trees, getting our landscaping to look good requires some tips and tricks. The manual describes the soil composition and offers some help for shrub and tree care – it even includes some gardening suggestions of what to do at different times of the year.

Long-time Arlington Forest Historian Elroy Nieweg (who contributed to the 1987 Manual) ensured that it was preserved. It has now been posted on the updated AFCA website <www.arlingtonforestva.org> under the neighborhood section - so check it out! Some of the material may not be current, but it does provide helpful insights our homes. Hope this helps you continue to maintain your Arlington Forest home with pride.



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Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest

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

Amphitheater Update

By John Naland

Plans for the summer 2012 season at the newly-renovated Lubber Run Amphitheater are taking shape. Performances will begin on Friday evening, June 15 and will run through the first weekend in August. The County is working to fill the 2012 summer season program with musical acts of the same high caliber as were presented last season and expects to bring back some of last year's most popular acts as well as bringing in new performers. The County is also planning to include some Sunday afternoon performances for families with younger children. The final schedule should be announced by April and will, of course, be published in this newsletter and will be widely publicized elsewhere.

In terms of the physical venue, the County has agreed to replace the two

bottom retaining walls and to refurbish the dressing rooms by summer. Reopening the dressing rooms will facilitate costume changes and will thus allow a broader type of entertainment. These welcome improvements reflect the County's continuing commitment to the Lubber Run Amphitheater.

The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation continues to welcome suggestions and ideas for programming at the amphitheater. Send your ideas, suggestions, questions and comments to email address here: lubberrunamphitheater@gmail.com. You can keep up with amphitheater news and activities on Facebook. You can make a tax-deductible donation to help fund the amphitheater's 2012 season by sending a check made out to the Arlington Community Foundation with "Lubber Run Amphitheater Fund" on the memo line to the Arlington Community Foundation, 818 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22203.

Arlington Forest residents and arts lovers across the County achieved a major success over the past two years in successfully advocating for the renovation and reopening of the Lubber Run Amphitheater. Both the County's newsletter and the Arlington Sun Gazette noted it as one of the top news items in Arlington in 2011. Large audiences turned out for most of last summer's performances and had a great time. We want to keep that high-level of patronage going to demonstrate the continuing importance of this unique open-air arts performance venue.

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Tracy C. Taylor

Tracy Taylor is a graduate of Washington-Lee High School and George Mason University.

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Poetry Book: Wondering Ardor

Dental Books: Toothache at Big Mouth Bend, and Your Dental ABCs.

Christian Book: 60 Christian Traits is suitable for Bible studies or Ethics training classes.

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818 North Quincy Street
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Community Calendar



Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, Feb 15, 7 PM, at Culpeper Gardens Senior Center (NOT Barrett School). See page 1 for agenda.

2012 Election Dates: March 6 Republican Presidential Primary (no Democratic primary), March 27 County Special Election, June 12 State Primary, and November 6 General Election.

Living Green Expo: Saturday, March 17, 10 AM to 4 PM at Washington-Lee High School. Come learn how to green your home, community and lifestyle. Featuring green vendors, seminars, a raffle, children's activities and more. For details see www.arlingtonenvironment.org.

Future AFCA Meetings: Mar 21, Apr 18, and May 16 (annual picnic in Lubber Run Park).

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 21. Join us Earth Day weekend for our second annual volunteer clean-up of public spaces around Arlington Forest. See page 11 for details.

Annual Community Yard Sale: Date in May to be determined. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

Taste of Arlington: May 20 in front of Ballston Mall. The annual chance to sample delicious food by dozens of Arlington restaurants.

Ballston Farmers Market: Late-May reopening date to be determined.

Lubber Run Amphitheater: Performances resume on June 15 for a summer of live entertainment under the stars. See page 6 for details.

Arlington County Fair: Carinval rides and good eats on August 8-12. See <http://arlingtoncountyfair.us/> for details.



Dear Neighborhood Friends,

Gloria Padilla and Bobby Jones have been cleaning our house on South Park Drive every other week for the past 17 years! They work very hard and **charge reasonable prices**. They clean everything thoroughly. They take initiative and have done things that we didn't even realize needed done. Gloria delights in keeping my poor, neglected house plants thriving and Bobby even makes sure that all of the window sills are spotless! They are totally responsible and ALWAYS show up even in big snow storms! They are wonderful people—always pleasant and friendly. In many ways they are like family to us.

In 1995 when they first started to come, they were part of a small cleaning company. When the company turned to commercial work rather than domestic

cleaning, they decided to form their own company which they named Shadaii. They are a real success story and up until these last couple of years they were doing quite well. Unfortunately, due to these tough economic times several of their long time clients have decided that this is a service that unfortunately they can no longer afford.

So, if you have been thinking about getting some help with house cleaning, we highly recommend Gloria Padilla and Bobby Jones.

**You can contact them by calling:
Gloria Padilla and Bobby Jones
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Sincerely, Mary and Jim Schroeder
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Around the Forest

Park Enhancement Grants: On January 21, the County Board approved a \$14,888 grant to improve the trailhead at the foot of N. Greenbrier/N. Granada (as detailed in last month's newsletter). Work should start by spring. As part of the same grant competition, the County also funded an \$11,539 nature-oriented child's play area at Long Branch Nature Center along with invasive plant removal there. Congratulations to the nature center staff and the Glen Carlyn neighborhood residents who proposed that project. In announcing the grants, County Board Chair Mary Hughes Hynes said "Parks are vital to the health and well-being of our children and our community. Through the Parks Enhancement Grants program, recommendations for improving and beautifying neighborhood parks come from the ground-up – from the folks who live near them, use them, and know how they can be made better."

Notable Neighbor: For an interesting profile of ultra-marathoner and Arlington Forest resident Michael Wardian, see www.houston2012.com/Media/Athlete-Features/Michael-Wardian.aspx

Lubber Run Community Center: Friday Fun Nights at the Lubber Run Community Center are a great way to connect with your family and have a great time. Weekly drop-in activities include: wireless internet, computer access, pool table, ping pong, foosball, dominos, chess, checkers and assorted board games. All are available from 6 to 10 PM every Friday night. Upcoming special events include: February 24-Latin Dance Moves and March 9-Cosmic Bowling. For more information, contact Kimberly Baldini, 703-228-4742 or kbaldini@arlingtonva.us

Clean Curb, Clean River: During cold winter months, many residents dash out to their front lawns to collect the newspaper or bring in the trash cans and then quickly retreat inside. But when making those short winter visits outside, please stop to pick up any trash in the street in front of your house. Plastics and other trash left along the curb will eventually be carried by rainwater into the storm drain and, from there, into Four Mile Run, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Bike Arlington: The Safeway on Wilson near George Mason and the Harris Teeter on Glebe near Ballston Mall are two Arlington grocery stores highlighted in the County's BikeArlington initiative to encourage healthy and non-polluting shopping by bike. See their Ultimate Arlington Grocery Store Bike Parking Guide at BikeArlington.com/Grocery. In nice weather, Greenbrier Section residents might consider walking to the Safeway along the pretty Bluemont Bike-Hike Trail that runs behind the Arlington Forest Club.

Trash and Recycling: A recent report on recycling in Virginia listed Arlington County as falling below the statewide average in recycling rates. That disappointing result should encourage Arlington residents to redouble efforts to recycle paper, plastic, metals, glass, yard refuse, and other items. For a listing of what may be recycled, see the newly redesigned Trash and Recycling section of the County website.

Route 50 and Courthouse Road: Look for big changes at the dangerous Courthouse Road interchange with Route 50 starting this spring. A two-year construction project will redesign the interchange. Beginning mid-May, drivers can expect up to two of three lanes in each direction on Route 50 to be closed weeknights from 9 PM to 5 AM. For details, see the Virginia Department of Transportation website at www.virginia.gov

Emergency Preparedness Training: Residents who are at least 18 years old (16 and 17 if accompanied by an adult) are invited to participate in Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) sponsored by Arlington County. The eight-session, 26-hour course covers disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, fire suppression, utility shut-off, and light search and rescue. Two courses, each meeting six weeknights and two Saturday mornings, begin in March and conclude in April. To-date, over 525 County residents have completed this training. Advance registration is required. Contact ArlingtonCERT@aol.com for details.

AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES

ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

Deliver this form and your check for \$10 payable to "AFCA" to your respective AFCA section vice president.

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

Northside: Allison Kennett, 139 N. Park Dr. 22203

Southside: Douglas Sims, 119 S. Columbus St. 22204

NAME: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CUT ME OUT >>>>

Forest Exchange

Wanted-Pet Sitter: Pet sit in your home for pay or barter; mature household sought -- We are a couple without family in the area looking for someone who is a home-body and loves small dogs to pet-sit our dog (perhaps several days a month in your home while we travel). Our wonderful Lucy is a small (7lb) older poodle. She is a non-allergenic and non-shedding "easy" dog who likes to be near you. She will sit next to you and want to sleep on your bed at night. We are looking for a peaceful environment where you or someone would be around most of the time. We can either pay you or will barter for chores. Call and we can discuss further. Debra 703-528-2428

Wanted-AFC Membership: Thirteen-year residents of neighborhood seeking club membership. If you know of anyone wanting to pick up some cash and sell their under-used membership or moving, please call Kathy at 703-841-0494.

Forester on Facebook: For interesting and useful information about traffic, happenings, and great deals in Arlington, "like" Arlington Unwrapped (Forester-created) on Facebook.

See the Other France: Let a Forester be your guide in the Dordogne region of southwestern France and enjoy a family style vacation discovering medieval towns, castles, vineyards and regional food. This is a vacation where all you need is curiosity, enthusiasm, an airplane ticket and a train ride. She plans everything for you customized to your preferences. She translates and drives you around. For information, pictures, and prices see www.theotherfrance.com or e-mail Danielle.in.france@gmail.com.

AFCA Website: If you have not visited AFCA's new website at www.arlingtonforestva.org, please check it out. New content is being added over time, including back issues of this newsletter.

AFCA Listserv: Follow late-breaking neighborhood news by joining the AFCA listserv by e-mailing ArlingtonLife@gmail.com.

Kids for Hire: Need reasonably-priced help with babysitting, snow shoveling, pet sitting, or other tasks? Check out Kids for Hire on page 14. If you have a tween or teenager who has a service to offer, encourage them to sign up.

Put Your Notice Here: Send your notice by March 8 to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

THE NEXT AFCA MEETING IS AT
CULPEPPER GARDENS ON FEB. 15

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Neighborhood Cleanup in April

by John Naland



Mark your calendar for Saturday morning, April 21, for the second annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup.

At last year's inaugural event, 125 Arlington Forest residents came

out to clean up six sites: Lubber Run Park, the trail below the N. Edison playground, the buffer strip on the southside of Route 50, Four Mile Run at the foot of N. Granada, Four Mile Run at the foot of S. Park, and the N. 2nd Street traffic circles. The volunteers gathered up mounds of trash, debris, and invasive plants for the County to haul away. Afterwards, the County's parks maintenance supervisor sent a message saying "We appreciate and value the energy and the effort shown by the Arlington Forest community to commit time to demonstrate stewardship of our natural resources."

Appropriately enough, this year's cleanup will be on Earth Day weekend. So, please plan to join in this effort if you enjoy walking, jogging, or biking in our local parks; if you have children who you want to learn to care about the environment; if you want to benefit from some light

exercise in the fresh spring air; if you want to meet new neighbors; if you want to help protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and/or if you want to keep our neighborhood's property values up.

To make this event a success, we are looking now for one or two volunteers to step forward to serve as cleanup day coordinators at each of the sites. Duties will only consist of keeping the other volunteers generally pointed in the right direction on cleanup day.

We already have coordinators for the Route 50 southside buffer strip, the N 2nd Street traffic circles, and the N. Granada/N. Greenbrier trailhead area. Other areas that could be cleaned up on April 21 if volunteer coordinators step forward in advance are: upper Lubber Run Park streambed (meeting at the amphitheater), lower Lubber Run Park streambed (meeting at the N. Edison playground), the Route 50 northside buffer strip, and Four Mile Run at the foot of S. Park. For more information or to volunteer to be a site coordinator, contact John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com.

Finally, parents with children at Barcroft or Barrett elementary schools might ask the PTA or school administration if neighbors in that district could do some gardening or other grounds maintenance at the school that day.

Thanks for your business!

As a resident of Arlington Forest, I am proud to offer my exceptional service to my neighbors. If you, or someone you know, could use my help, please give me a call.

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Barcroft School News

We hope that our neighbors can join us for some fun events in February and March. Dine-in or take-out at **Sauca Restaurant** on Columbia Pike all day and evening on Feb 21 for the final month of the "4 Days, 4 PTAs, Eat the World" Fundraiser. This fundraiser benefits the Barcroft, Clarendon, Campbell, and Randolph Elementary PTAs.

To continue its celebration of **African-American History Month**, Barcroft will host its famous **African-American Heritage Night** on Feb 24. Join us for an evening of exciting entertainment, and a fabulous food tasting menu contributed by proud Barcroft families. On Feb 29, students will watch an afternoon performance by **Franklin and Baytop** sponsored by the APS Humanities Department.

During the week of Feb 27-March 2, P.E. classes will host the annual **Jump Rope for Heart** fundraiser. Participating students will jump rope and raise money to benefit the American Heart Association. Neighbors are encouraged to sponsor a student in this worthy "exercise" of civic responsibility! Join us as well for a free **ZUMBA Family Fitness Night** on March 2, from 7-8 p.m. in the Gym.

Everyone -- especially families with young children -- is encouraged to join us on March 6. The PTA will commemorate **Arts in the School Month** by hosting a special presentation by Art Teacher Marel Sitron entitled "Children and

Art." Learn how children acquire and develop art skills, and what parents can do to encourage their budding artists. That same evening, the PTA will host its annual **Coffee House and Book Exchange**. Drop off any books you don't read anymore, and pick up books that are new to you! Enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, and birthday cake as well as we celebrate **Dr. Seuss's Birthday** with special book readings. You don't want to miss this!

The next **Leonardo Learning Day and the 2nd/3rd Grade da Vinci Fair** will be held the week of March 12-16. Neighbors are welcome to join us as our students showcase 3rd Quarter learning. Between March 19-30, students break for **Spring Intersession**. Students may take two weeks of morning and afternoon classes, or enjoy a break from school. Finally, wish our two student teams good luck as they participate in the annual **Odyssey of the Mind Competition** on March 31.

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft, go to <http://www.apsva.us/site/default.aspx?domainid=388>.

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Barrett School News

Family Library night on Jan 17 was a *fire-breathing* success! Together, parents and children created the world's largest Chinese dragon out of TRASH! The dragon commemorated the beginning of the Lunar New Year and introduced the **Barrett Family Book Club Program** (supported by a National PTA grant), which will focus on books by Chinese authors. Check out the fabulous dragon created by Barrett students at www.apsva.us/Domain/465, then scroll down and click on **Barrett PTA Book Club DRAGON**. During the week of Feb 13-17, the **family book clubs** will meet to discuss the books.

Barrett students and parents tried out new ways to get in shape on Friday, Jan 20, at **Family Gym Night**. There was Zumba, led by **X-Factor**, activity stations with **Play by Play**, yoga, and free play in the gym for basketball, football and soccer.

Start your training now! **Barrett's Second Annual 5K and kid's marathon mile** will take place on Saturday, April 21, at Bluemont Park. We are currently seeking sponsorship and donations, as well as community members who would like to run or participate in the 5K. Please visit our race website <http://Barrett5K.com> to register or donate now. Tracking pages for the kid's marathon mile are available in the lobby or print your own at <http://Barrett5K.com>.

Be sure to check out the **Science Blog** on Barrett's web page www.apsva.us/Page/16040. It has recent information regarding science fair project ideas. Barrett's Rock the Refuge Celebration and **Science Fair Discovery Night** will be on Thursday, Feb 23, 6-8 p.m.

Science boards are currently on sale for **\$4.25 in the school store** (open daily from 8:00-8:20 a.m.). The store carries science boards, pencils, erasers, car magnets, folders, spiral notebooks, and other necessary school supplies.

The staff and PTA at KW Barrett Elementary School are hosting a series of *information sessions* for the parents of prospective kindergarten students for the 2012 school year. The dates are: Tuesday, March 6, from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. and Thursday, April 12, from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

No School-Presidents' Day, Monday, Feb 20

Science Discovery Night, Thursday, Feb 23

Fifth-Grade Middle School Orientation, Feb 28

No School-Parent/Teacher Conferences, March 1 and 2

Family Library Night, Tuesday, March 13

Spring Musical, Thursday, March 22

How's the Market?

Our local real market area in most sectors is currently experiencing a low housing inventory with plenty of buyers wanting to take advantage of historically low interest rates.

The momentum from the surge in sales activity from November and December **has created a seller's market in most locations**. Home buyers and investors need a good buyer's agent to help them pilot through the maze of negotiating contracts, inspections, title and finance issues, HOA and condo rules and more.

There was "organic growth" in 2011 while the overall inventory was down 22% compared to housing levels in 2010 and prices were even in December 2011 and 2010. Pending sales in 12/11 were up 13.5% compared to 12/10. Predictions are that the 2012 spring market will be positive and January traffic levels and pending contracts are pointing towards that.

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Northside:

- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Sophie Frank, babysitting (Red Cross certified), soccer training, tutoring, sophie.e.frank@gmail.com, 703-859-0722
- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046
- Bo Sampson, Babysitting (Red Cross Certified), dog walking, snow shoveling, tutoring, bo.i.samps@gmail.com, 703-447-7678
- Gabby Young, babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, merrywesing@yahoo.com, 703-622-4229
- Chris Werbos, snow shoveling, dog walking, pet sitting, yard work (can work with power tools), chris.werbos@gmail.com

Southside:

- Caroline Rogers, pet sitting, dog walking, carolinearogers@verizon.net, 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (Red Cross certified), juliaerogers23@gmail.com, 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, jonny.boy4@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046
- Liz Tiernan, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), dog walking, pet sitting, lizzytiernan@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

Greenbrier Section:

- Zephren Collinson, babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-528-3595
- Kate Felsenheld, pet sitting, dog walking, k.cliffhero@gmail.com, 703-276-9874
- Alex Hendel, babysitting (Red Cross certified), dog walking, tutoring, alexhendel@gmail.com, 703-763-0070
- Alice Naland, babysitting (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, snow shoveling, nalandfamily@yahoo.com, 703-888-0125
- Lucy Naland, babysitting (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, snow shoveling, LucyMNLaland@gmail.com, 703-888-0125



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