

The Arlington Forester



Volume 60, Number 6

Arlington, VA

March 2019

Reid Goldstein to Address AFCA Meeting

School Board Chair Reid Goldstein is the guest speaker at the AFCA monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 20th, at 7 pm in the Barrett School Library. He will discuss issues facing Arlington Public Schools and answer questions. This is your opportunity to hear from, and provide input to, the School Board's Chair.

Mr. Goldstein was elected in 2016 and his current term expires at the end of this year. A 30-year Arlington resident, his professional career focuses on strategic planning for federal government and private industry clients. Prior to election to the School Board, he served on numerous APS, County, and neighborhood committees. His two children graduated from Arlington schools (W-L and HB Woodlawn). He is currently

the School Board liaison to AFCA, Kenmore Middle School and Wakefield High School.

Looking ahead, the April 24th meeting will include a Lubber Run Farmers Market update and a vote by AFCA members on the concept design for the Edison Park renovation (see the article below for more information). May 15th is the AFCA picnic and annual membership meeting in the park shelter located upstream from the Lubber Run Amphitheater.

Other upcoming Arlington Forest events are highlighted in the Community Calendar on page 7 of this newsletter include: Neighborhood Spring Cleanup - April 27th, reopening of the Lubber Run Farmers Market - April 27th, and Annual Yard Sale - May 18th.

Edison Park Update

About 16 neighbors attended the Edison Park Design Working Group on February 13th. Landscape Architect Kathy Von Bredow presented the design, which includes play areas for ages 2-5 and 5-12, basket swings, street side safety-gated fencing and native plants, accessible surfaces and tables, and more. Upgraded storm water management and a forested Resource Protection Area (RPA) will help conserve soil and stream quality.

Neighbors preferred a modern-style bridge and tunnel design for ages 2-5 and a spiral net climber for ages 5-12, on the recommendation of our youngest attendees. Concerns focused on grassy space for ball or tag. With options constrained by the park's quarter-acre size, underground sewers, RPA requirements, and the project scope AFCA approved in April 2017 (vote 24-1), no viable alternatives emerged. However, Architect Von Bredow has identified a potential strip adjacent to the RPA. See the latest and comment online at the County's project page: Edison Park Project.

Thanks to the Neighborhood Conservation Program (NCP), Arlington County Parks and Recreation, and participating neighbors for progress on this project. Next steps?

1. AFCA will vote on the design at our April 24th AFCA meeting.
2. Once approved, the project moves into the construction phase. Geotechnical work done then may uncover issues that could affect the final design.

Questions? Contact AFCA's NCP representative: lizkauffman@yahoo.com.

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

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 *Minuteman Press*

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.

Upcoming Events

Spring Cleanup: Mark your calendar for the morning of Saturday, April 27th for AFCA's eighth annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup. We will pick up trash, remove invasive plants, and otherwise beautify our public spaces. Cleanup sites will be the Lubber Run streambed, the Arlington Blvd southside buffer strip, and the Four Mile Run streambed at the foot of N. Greenbrier Street. More details will appear in next month's newsletter.

Arlington Forest Yard Sale: Arlington Forest's long-running annual Community Yard Sale is around the corner. This year's event will be on Saturday, May 18th. With around 40 Arlington Forest households participating each year, the event attracts bargain hunters from around the Metro area who are drawn to the convenience of cruising through one area to visit many sales. See next month's newsletter for suggestions on how to hold a successful sale.

Block Party Season: Spring is the perfect season for block parties. If your block is not among the many in Arlington Forest that hold annual block parties, you might consider organizing one. Block parties are a great way to bring together neighbors. Kids have a blast playing in the closed-off street while adults enjoy a pot-luck dinner and good conversation. To organize a block party, first talk up the idea with a few neighbors and set a date and time. Then create a simple printed flyer and deliver it door-to-door inviting everyone on the block and informing them of the temporary street closure. You will need a right-of-way permit which includes delivery of six safety cones (recoup the \$69 fee by putting out a donation jar during the party). For details, search "block party" on the County website.

Living History at Fort C.F. Smith Park: Saturday, March 30th, 10 am-4 pm. Union Army reenactors from the 3rd United States Regulars and 54th Massachusetts have come to Arlington and set up camp at Fort C.F. Smith Park at 2411 24th St N, Arlington 22207. This day of living history will include drilling, activities, specialized fort tours and more. Learn about Civil War life in Arlington County and beyond at this free event.

Ball-Sellers House Opening Day: April 6th, 1-4 pm. 5620 3rd Street, S. in the Glencarlyn neighborhood. The oldest house in Arlington, built c. 1742, opens for the season with reenactors, a special event, free docent-led house tours, and colonial era snacks.



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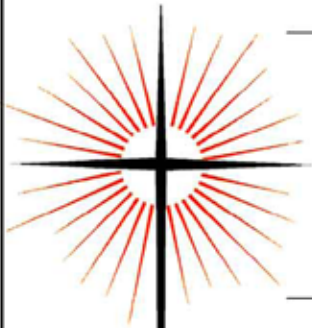
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Celebrate Holy Week and Easter with Us!



- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sun. Apr. 14 | Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms - 10 am |
| Thurs. Apr. 18 | Loaves & Fishes Meal & Service - 6:30 - 8 pm |
| Fri. Apr. 19 | Good Friday Services - 12 noon and 7 pm Good Friday Vigil - Church open for prayer - 1 - 7 pm |
| Sun. Apr. 21 | Easter Festive Holy Eucharist with children's message - 10 am Easter Egg Hunt and reception after the 10 am service |
| Tues. Apr. 2 | Book Club <i>Ready Player One</i> by Ernst Cline 7:30 pm |
| Sat. Apr. 20 | Family Game Night - 7 - 9 pm Free. Bring games or use ours. Refreshments provided. We invite you to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to AFAC. (See website for more information) |

Sunday Worship Services
8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education
Adults 9 am — Youth 10 am

All are welcome to all services and activities!

St. John's Episcopal Church

We are an inclusive congregation that nurtures Christian spiritual growth and community through worship, education, outreach, mutual care, and fellowship.



415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

stjohnsarlingtonva.org

How's the market?

Compared to the previous December, contract activity in Arlington was up 20% in December 2018. The Amazon announcement created a perfect storm – it fueled demand precisely at a time when inventory is seasonally low. In December 2018, inventory was about 40% lower than it was in September 2018 in Arlington. As expected, inventory was already headed down before the Amazon announcement, so when contract activity increased in the last six weeks of the year in Arlington there was already less inventory to fight over. Since we were then in a time of year where few listings come on the market, buyers were grabbing whatever was there.

And that squeeze resulted in absorption rates rarely seen. In Arlington, there were only 9 townhomes on the market at the end of December and there were 28 that went under contract – the absorption rate for townhomes priced under \$1,000,000 was 100%. Detached homes and condos

under \$1,000,000 had absorption rates north of 70%! Predictions are that these meteoric rates will not to continue to rise.

So far in January and early February the inventory level of homes is lower than past years. Lower to medium priced homes up to \$800,000 are attracting multiple offers since there are more buyers in those price ranges. Over the last three months, prices are up, and competition is fierce in Arlington and the close in surrounding Northern Virginia communities. Homes in turn-key condition get the most attention and sell quickly. In reality, all homes will sell when priced properly for their location, size and condition. In early February we are seeing a few more new listings hit the market which is a good sign for buyers. With prices rising, right now is a great time to buy with mortgage rates below 4.5% for a 30-yr fixed mortgage but could start going up again anytime.

Let's talk if you are curious about how you can optimize your real estate goals!



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Nature News

Forest Meditation Walk: Saturday, March 23rd, 10 am-noon, Lubber Run Nature Center. Inspired by the Japanese Shinrin-yoku or Forest Bathing, we will explore the forest through a meditation style walk. We'll go off the beaten path and move slowly, experiencing the forest through our senses with meditation. Participants should be ready to sit on the ground and be dressed for the weather. Free. Activity code #632949-D. For more info call 703-228-6535. Register at 703-228-4747 or online at: registration.arlingtonva.us.

Planning your Perfect Small Space Garden: Monday, March 25th, 7:00-8:30 pm, Westover Branch Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, Arlington 22205. Small gardens can yield big results in food production, color, function, recreation, and aesthetics. Learn to identify your objectives for your unique small space; get ideas on maximizing your space, learn the steps to evaluate your existing conditions and the basics of choosing plantings that will both meet your goals and thrive. This class is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Register at: mgnv.org. Questions? Call 703-228-6414.

Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop: Saturday, March 30th, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St S, Arlington. Rain barrels purchased from retail

sources can be expensive. As part of a regional initiative, Arlington offers a build-your-own rain barrel workshop. You will learn how to install and maintain a rain barrel and take one home. Fee per barrel is \$55. Registration required at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-barrel

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk, Wednesday, April 3rd, 8:30-11am, Lubber Run Nature Center. Adults are invited to join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for an informal walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Park in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcomed. Bring binoculars if you have them. Free. Activity code #632949-B. For more info call 703-228-6535. Register at 703-228-4747 or online at: registration.arlingtonva.us.

English Ivy is Destructive: Winter is a great time to identify and remove evergreen English Ivy. If left unattended this invasive plant can weigh down trees to the point of collapse. If allowed to cover fences, ivy can invade adjacent lawns and public parkland. But you can easily remove ivy by cutting all vines at the ground level. Cut them again several feet up the trunk and then carefully peel away the cut section of ivy. The remaining ivy will eventually dry out and die. For more info, go to: <http://NoVaPrism.us>.

Your Arlington Forest Representative for selling or buying a home!

- I have been a full time agent listing and selling real estate in the Washington Metropolitan area since 1986. I have a proven track record and hold myself to the highest standards of professionalism. It is based on integrity, loyalty and dedication for all of my clients.
- As a native Washingtonian and growing up in Adams Morgan I have an incredible knowledge about real estate in Washington DC. I attended Oyster Elementary, The Field School and West Virginia University. I received a degree in Interior Design which allows me to help my clients visualize and layout space.
- Have you heard of Habitat for Humanity? Well I have a partnership with them to help low to moderate income families in Washington DC find decent and affordable housing. I have been instrumental in finding suitable site throughout the District of Columbia to build safe and affordable housing. If you want more information on how to be a part of this great organization please feel free to call me and I will connect you with the appropriate people.
- Most of my business is based on referrals driven by clients who have had a pleasant buying or selling experience with me as their agent. I am dedicated and committed to providing quality service with the highest level of professionalism. I am willing to go the extra mile when it comes to serving my clients. My clients have benefited greatly over the years due to my knowledge and expert negotiating skills. You can be assured that you will get the very best representation possible when you decide to work with my team.
- AND my family and I have been **Arlington Forester's** since 2000. We are committed to our community and you!



Samuel Davis
Associate Broker
Long and Foster
Cellular: (202) 256-7039
E-mail: Samuel@LNF.com

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Home of the Month!
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Forest Exchange

Family Game Night: Saturday, March 16th, 7 pm-9 pm, St. John's Episcopal Church. If you are looking for an enjoyable evening with family, friends or new acquaintances playing your favorite board, strategy or kids' game, join in the fun at St. John's family game night. Coffee, hot chocolate and popcorn will be served. St. John's Episcopal Church is nearby at 415 S. Lexington St. in the Glencarlyn neighborhood. More information is at: stjohnsarlingtonva.org.



Repair Posts

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Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, March 20th, 7 PM, Barrett Elementary School.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 27th. Help beautify our neighborhood parks.

Lubber Run Farmers Market: Saturday, April 27th. Our neighborhood farmers market reopens for the spring and summer.

E-CARE: Saturday, May 4th. Semi-annual recycling event.

QuarterFest (www.quarterfestballston.org, formerly Taste of Arlington): May 18th-19th near Ballston Quarter mall.

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 18th. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

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

Arlington County Fair: August 14th to 18th. Rides, food, displays, and racing pigs.

Future AFCA Meetings:

April 24th: Farmers Market Update and AFCA Vote on Edison Park Design

May 15th: Picnic and Annual Membership Meeting



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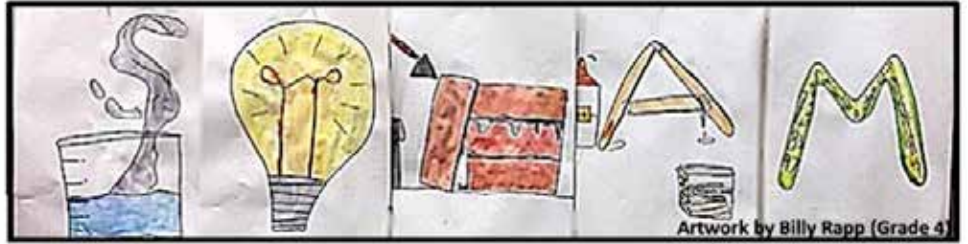
Barcroft School News

The many late starts, early releases and school closings has not slowed down the learning at Barcroft!

At our March PTA meeting, we discussed how we are establishing clear learning expectations and measuring student progress. This included a visit to four classrooms to observe classrooms to observe our teachers and students in action. Parents learned a bit more about what is happening during the school day and how we can support our children during non-school hours. This year we are alternating evening and morning PTA meetings, and we were thrilled to have this opportunity to visit classrooms during the school day.

Several enrichment activities have also taken place over the past month. Our fifth graders enjoyed a chilly overnight at the Outdoor Lab on March 7th-8th and fourth graders featured their writings at a Literacy Essay Celebration in late February.

A group of students had the opportunity to hear U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor discuss her journey to the nation's highest court at Lisner Auditorium. They even had their picture taken with Justice Sotomayor



and Eva Longoria. Many thanks to our school leadership and parent volunteers for getting our students to this event on a snow day!

We have STEAM Family Night on March 14th and Inter-session Registration will take place on March 11th-22nd. This year Inter-session includes a half a day of STEM classes and half a day of enrichment activities focused on athletics, arts, and dance. It is a great time of learning and fun!



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



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Barrett School News

Parking Notes: A Thank You and Reminder from Barrett Elementary's principal, Mr. Dan Redding:

All of us at Barrett Elementary School would like to thank the members of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association for your continued support of Barrett and patience with parking around the school. As you may remember, Barrett is experiencing a shortage of parking spaces this year due to the construction that is underway at the Lubber Run Community Center, which used to provide overflow parking for approximately 35 Barrett teachers and staff as well as visitors.

The Barrett school parking lot provides approximately 75 parking spaces for 110 staff, leaving the remainder without access to parking spaces while Lubber Run Community Center is unavailable. When confronted with this challenge at the last school year, APS Facilities announced a plan to use a portion of the school blacktop for temporary parking. The community raised concerns about the loss of play space and asked us to find other solutions.

Fortunately, the Arlington Forest Citizens Association generously offered to spread the word to neighbors that our teachers will be parking on the street in spaces with no time limit restrictions. We would like to thank the Association and neighboring residents for helping to spread the

word and encourage patience. While we recognize that it has been an added strain for community parking, this has been extremely helpful, and the Barrett teachers and staff are grateful. While some teachers carpool or use public transit options, many teachers commute long distances to the school, so access to nearby parking makes a difference.

Join the Barrett PTA at: <http://barrett.my-pta.org/>. For up-to-date information on Barrett events, follow the PTA on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/barrettpta> and Twitter @BPTAE in English and @BPTASP in Spanish. You can also find Principal Redding and numerous staff members on their own Twitter accounts. Search "#kwbpride" to see all that's happening in our school community.

.....
Concerned about your trees? The pruning of medium to large trees is best left to qualified arborists both in terms of evaluating the need and applying the treatment. While well executed pruning can reduce the risk of storm damage, poorly executed pruning can increase the risk. And always deter tree topping as a risk reduction treatment. For a list of certified arborists in this area check out: www.goodtreecare.com and look for the Find an Arborist tab.



Paul Cachion, MBA
571-216-6802
CachionHomes@gmail.com

We Are The Champions, My Friends

In real estate news this month, Niche.com just named Arlington the Best Place to Live in the U.S. I seem to sing the praises of Arlington Forest fairly frequently in this space, but it's certainly nice to hear that our county is recognized nationally, based on public schools, cost of living, job opportunities, local amenities, and crime (or lack thereof).

I am lucky to work with a fair amount of clients who are coming to the DC area from out-of-town and from out of the country. In both cases, I feel like I get to be an ambassador to our great area. If you have any friends or family planning to move here, the #1 Place to Live in the U.S., feel free to have them get in touch.



Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are ready to help. To be added or deleted, e-mail newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

Southside:

- Colin Mashkuri: math tutoring, plant watering, dog walking, cjmashkuri@gmail.com, 703-302-5599
- Ethan O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, yard work, 571-699-5079
- Andrew Rogers: yard work, dog walking, pet sitting, andrewmcyt@gmail.com, 703-892-0226
- Caroline Rogers: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, carolinearogers@verizon.net, 703-892-0226

Greenbrier Section:

- CeCe Collinson: babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, mail collection, 703-528-3595
- Donna Corina: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, 703-248-8885
- Atalie Dempsey: dog walking, pet sitting, babysitting, plant watering, mail collection, atalie.dempsey@gmail.com, call/text 571-317-9216
- Evan Dempsey: mail collection, leaf raking, snow shoveling, babysitting, pet walking, pet sitting, plant watering, Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com, call/text 703-559-9690
- Shae Dempsey: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, mail collection, snow shoveling, leaf raking, Shaelyn.dempsey@gmail.com, 703-350-7650
- Ellis Early: dog walking, pet sitting, 202-339-1414
- Jack Holt: babysitting (RC certified), yard work, snow shoveling, leaf raking, watering plants, tutoring, jackloginname@gmail.com, call or text 703-470-8040
- Anthony Lawson: yard work, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Charlotte Lawson: leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Reid Messman: pet sitting, dog walking (references), 703-469-1988
- Shea Messman: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-469-1988
- Alexandra Orli: babysitting (references), mother's helper, pet sitting, watering plants, call 703-528-5618
- Carsten Schoer: snow shoveling, leaf raking, carstenschoer@gmail.com, call/text 703-209-0905
- Leah Shvedova: babysitting (references), tutoring, pet sitting, watering plants, 571-426-6818
- Ava Smialowicz: babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com, text 703-424-0895
- Ben Sparks: pet feeding, dog walking, benchispas@gmail.com
- Emma Weaver: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-875-8185

Northside:

- Daniel Brancati: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, daniel@bmb.org, 571-279-2710
- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting (ages 4-12), yard work, riittishachoudhary@gmail.com
- Ely Constantine: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, lawn mowing, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Casey Dinan: babysitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, chrisbettdinan@aol.com, 703-525-5763
- Tyler Dinan: babysitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, chrisbettdinan@aol.com, 703-525-5763
- Alex Eng: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dcharveydc@yahoo.com, 703-861-1890
- Evan Eng: pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dcharveydc@yahoo.com, 703-861-1890
- Jeremy Fagen: pet sitting (any animal), dog walking, plant watering, jdoxen11001@gmail.com, 703-200-2396
- Leina Gabra: babysitting (ages 4-12), house sitting, leinagabra@gmail.com, 703-973-8914
- Ethan Nissenson: lawn mowing, leaf raking, snow shoveling, Enissenson@verizon.net, 703-201-0523
- Sophie Stewart: mother's helper, pet sitting, sophiestewart4@gmail.com, 703-402-5494

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3905 - Thomas Jefferson MS 3917 - Washington Lee HS 4566 - Wakefield HS

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