

The Arlington Forester



Volume 56, Number 6

Arlington, VA

March 2015

Arlington Forest Real Estate Trends

This Wednesday's AFCA meeting -- March 19 at 7 PM in the Barrett Elementary School library -- will feature a topic of wide interest: Arlington Forest real estate trends. The panel will consist of four Foresters who you will recognize from their photos in real estate advertisements over the years in this newsletter.

The panel will cover Arlington Forest home values; appraisal issues in an appreciating market; staging the home for today's buyers; and improvements that add value and increase salability. The panel will end with a Q&A session, so bring your questions about neighborhood real estate.

Also on the agenda is a presentation by Jason Hardin of Arlington's Department of Environmental Services regarding a Capital Bikeshare station proposed for the corner of N. 2nd Street and N. Pershing Drive. While the site is within the Buckingham Civic Association boundary, it is across the street from the section of Arlington Forest on the south side of 2nd Street.

AFCA is pleased to announce that the new 4th edition of the history of our neighborhood is now on sale. Did you know that George Washington surveyed the western boundary of what is now Southside Arlington Forest; that slaves toiled on land in what is now the Greenbrier Section; and that the U.S. Senator who authored the Thirteenth Amendment (abolition of slavery) later owned much of what is now the Northside Section? Read about Foresters beating pots and pans from open windows on the day that Imperial Japan surrendered. Read how current Foresters joined together to save the Lubber Run Amphitheater and to rid Lubber Run Park of invasive plants. The 150-page book contains maps, vintage photographs, and more. See page 7 of this newsletter for an order form.

Finally, see page 8 for the County proclamation that was recently issued honoring the 75th anniversary of Arlington Forest and the Arlington Forest Citizens Association.

AFCA Survey on LRCC Options

AFCA received 223 responses out of the 851 households in Arlington Forest to our February 1 to 16 online survey on options for rebuilding the Lubber Run Community Center (LRCC). This survey followed up on AFCA's April 2014 survey that documented that 91 percent of respondents want LRCC to be replaced with a similar facility, 95 percent oppose building a large housing development on the site, and 88 percent oppose building a large school on the site.

The new survey shows that 59 percent of respondents want the site to maintain the current amount of greenspace (open grassy areas, trees, and playground). Only 13 percent would sacrifice greenspace in order to build a larger facility. Just one-third would support building a two-story garage on the site.

Regarding the size of the new community center, the most supported option (by 43 percent of respondents) is to build one story higher on the same footprint (i.e., 50 percent more

....continued on page 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LRCC Survey (con't).....2	HS Capacity Issues.....9
Advisory Committee.....3	Turtle Tough.....10
Around the Forest.....4	Community Calendar....11
Nature News.....5	Barcroft School News...12
Good Neighbor.....6	Barrett School News.....13
County Proclamation.....8	Kids for Hire.....14

AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. March 19 at Barrett School Library

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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Editor's Note

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

Survey on LRCC Optionscontinued from page 1

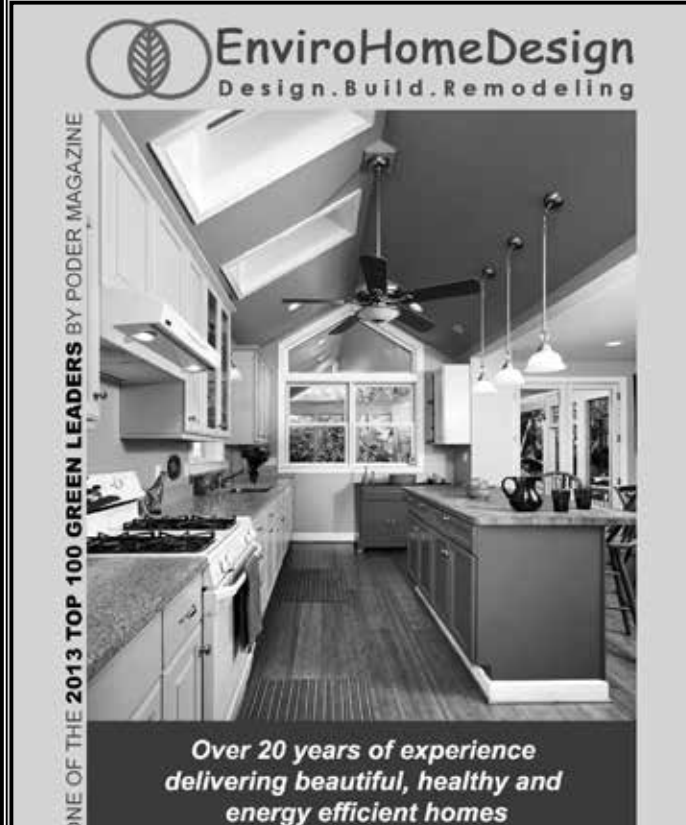
square feet than the current structure). The second-most supported option (26 percent of respondents) is to build a new community center that is one story higher on a 25 percent larger footprint (i.e., 88 percent more square feet than currently). Fully 89 percent of respondents oppose building a structure that is more than 88 percent larger than the current structure.

In addition to retaining LRCC's current features and programs in the new building, the most requested new features are 1) fitness room/weight training, 2) multi-use gymnasium, 3) wellness room/dance studio, and 4) senior adult programs. There is broad support for the new community center to offer weekend and evening access.

Full survey results, including over 90 write-in comments, are posted on the AFCA website (www.arlingtonforestva.org) under the AFCA tab.

On February 20, AFCA sent the survey results to County Board members. AFCA looks forward to collaborating with County staff and other stakeholders in designing the new community center at Lubber Run.

Arlington Forest History Book Now on sale, see page 7



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Arlington Forest Needs a Volunteer for the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) was created in 1964 as a way for individual neighborhoods to identify, plan, and carry out projects to benefit local communities. These projects are conceived and carried out by the communities themselves; making the NCAC projects truly representative of "grass roots" democracy at its finest.

Over the years, Arlington Forest has received significant NCAC funding for improvements such as the N. 2nd Street traffic circles (1995), the Southside buffers along Arlington Boulevard (1998), invasive plant removal in Lubber Run Park (2006-2010), and the new playground near the foot of South Park Drive (2013-2014). Arlington Forest's next NCAC project -- still several years away -- is to improve the playground in Edison Park in the Greenbrier section of our community.

Neighborhood volunteers are essential to the success of the NCAC process. Volunteers from each participating neighborhood serve on the committee and decide which projects will be submitted to the County Board for funding. Without a volunteer's participation at the monthly NCAC meetings, a neighborhood is unable to secure implementation of its desired projects.

Tim O'Leary has served as Arlington Forest's representa-

tive on the NCAC since September 2000 (he earlier served as AFCA president from 1986 to 1988). Recent events, however, have limited his ability to carry out his commitment and he needs backup on an ongoing basis. Thus, a few volunteers are needed to help represent Arlington Forest at the NCAC's monthly meeting on the second Thursday of each month. These begin at 7:30 p.m. and end by 10 p.m.

If you would be willing to help Arlington Forest as a co-representative to the NCAC, please contact Tim at 703-525-0975 or tfoleary310@gmail.com, or AFCA President Allison Kennett at 703-528-1174 or allison.kennett@gmail.com.

Free Ride Home: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments sponsors a program called Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) that provides commuters who regularly carpool, vanpool, bike, walk or take transit to work with a free and reliable ride home for unexpected emergencies such as a personal illness or a sick child. GRH can also be used for unscheduled overtime when your employer mandates that you stay late. Commuters may utilize GRH up to four times per year. Knowing there is a guaranteed ride home allows one to use commuting options like transit and carpools with peace of mind. For more information, go to www.commuterconnections.org.

Home Buying Insights

If you're like some buyers, you start out looking for a home without using a real estate agent, wanting to shop on your own time at your own pace without some agent pressuring you to buy something you don't want. If you contact the listing agent on a property, see the property, and decide to buy it, don't expect the agent to represent your best interests. Listing agents represent the seller in a transaction, and always have the seller's best interest in mind. Anything you say to the listing agent can be used against you in negotiations. In Virginia, a realtor can legally represent a seller and buyer, which is called Dual Agency, although the current law restricts a dual agent from advising either party, and that isn't good for the consumer. You should hire your own agent who will have your best interest at heart and at no additional cost to you. Like the seller's agent, the buyer's agent is paid out of the transaction proceeds. Your agent can represent you as a buyer's agent, which is crucial in a busy seller's market when the supply of homes is low.

When you hire an agent, they will explain the types of representation they offer. What you should get from any agent is help finding the right house and on getting the best financing. Next you want advice determining the right price and terms to offer based on current market conditions. In a hot market like Arlington for example, you need to understand escalation clauses and strategies to compete. You want guidance throughout negotiations, inspections, appraisal and lending process, along with walk through and settlement.

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Around the Forest

Auditing Help Needed: AFCA bylaws require that the association's financial books be audited each summer. We are looking for a volunteer with auditing, accounting, bookkeeping, or treasurer experience. AFCA's income and expenditures are modest, so the time commitment should be minor. To volunteer, please contact AFCA President Allison Kennett by March 31 at 703-528-1174 or allison.kennett@gmail.com.

Teen Talent Coordinator: Do you enjoy working with teens and encouraging their talents? Then you might be just the person to help organize a teen "Lubber Run Amphitheater Has Talent" show this summer. We're looking for someone who is willing to reach out to Arlington's middle and high schools for music, dance or other acts interested in competing for prizes and recognition. If you're interested, please contact Esther Bowring, erbowring@gmail.com or Marsha Lederman, mar.lederman@gmail.com for details.

Spring Cleanup: Mark your calendar for the morning of Saturday, April 25 for AFCA's fifth 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, the Four Mile Run streambed at the foot of N. Greenbrier Street, and the N. 2nd Street traffic circles. If you would like to cleanup some other public site or just sweep the street in front of your house, please do so.

Missing U.S. Mail?: As detailed in last month's newsletter, USPS supervisors ask Foresters to report any mail complaints or concerns to them for investigation. Contact Postmaster of Arlington Walter Daniels at walter.m.daniels@usps.gov or 703-933-0075.

30 Year Old Dog?: The following item from the front page of the November 1985 Arlington Forester indicates that either our current human residents are repeating the errors of their predecessors three decades ago or there is now a dog in our neighborhood who is 30 years old: "Scoop up your dog's messes on neighbors' property or you are violating county law and could be fined. This newspaper has received persistent complaints from Foresters in various neighborhoods that their lawns were being messed up thanks to thoughtless neighbors."

Spring Yard Waste Collection: The annual spring yard waste collection is March 16 to April 24. The collection includes most types of yard waste except grass clippings and large branches: acorns, bamboo trimmings, dead plants, straw, ivy, leaves, pine cones, shrub trimmings, small tree limbs, weeds, and wood chips. Place them in biodegradable paper bags or your own 32 gallon trash container on the day after your regular trash pickup. Free paper bags are available at several locations including the Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Do not use plastic bags.

Kids for Hire: Could you sometimes use reasonably-priced help with babysitting, yard work, pet sitting, or other tasks? More than 25 neighborhood youths offer their services in the Kids for Hire listing on page 14. If you will take a little time now to interview one or more of the youths and/or check their references, you can be ready for that short-notice help you may need someday with child care, pet care, snow removal, or other tasks.

Pinewood Derby Racing Fun: Arlington Forest's local Cub Scout Pack 548 had a great pinewood derby on Saturday, February 21st (see photo). Thirty-two racers competed for trophies in the Design and Speed competitions at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Arlington. Pack 548 also had a great guest race with some old vintage pinewood derby cars coming out of retirement (these were cars that a few Dad's made when they were Cub Scouts). 'Dad's Old Speedster' won the guest race by a whisker! Parent's interested in learning more about Cub Scouts and joining Pack 548 can contact Carey Johnston (johnston.carey@verizon.net) for more information.



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

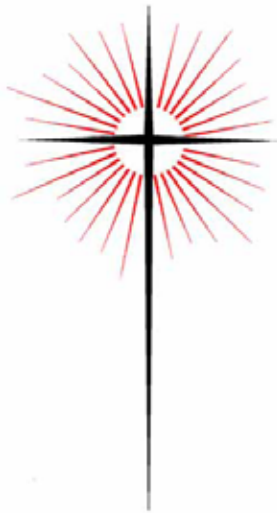
Nature News

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

E-CARE: Do you have half-empty paint cans gathering dust in your basement? What about unneeded car fluids, household cleaners or garden chemicals? Or maybe an obsolete computer monitor or television? Arlington's semi-annual E-CARE event allows residents to safely get rid of hazardous household materials and electronics which cannot be discarded with your regular trash. The next E-CARE

is at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in the West Parking Lot (one block east of Glebe Rd.) between 8:30 AM and 3 PM on Saturday, April 18. Just load up your car and then drive through the various stations -- dropping off paint cans at one station, TVs (\$20 recycling fee) at another station, and so on. The non-profit group Bikes for the World will collect serviceable bikes to be sent to countries where they are needed for basic transportation. For more info, search "E-CARE" on the County website.

Native Plant Sale: Want to improve your yard for local birds and butterflies? Then it's time to grow native! From now through April 10, our nearby Long Branch Nature Center is taking orders for a great selection of plants that are accustomed to local climate and wildlife. They have natives for sun to shade, even deer resistant plants. Here is some of what they have to offer: Dutchman's breeches, Virginia Bluebells, Spiderwort, and Whitewood Aster. Pre-order now so you don't miss out. The order form is on the County website linked to the newsletter The Snag. Pick up Friday, April 24, 3-6 PM or Saturday, April 25, 10 AM-Noon at Long Branch Nature Center.



Celebrate Holy Week and Easter with Us!

St. John's Episcopal Church is a vibrant congregation with a big heart. We are an inclusive and welcoming community of faith where people of all ages are supported in their spiritual growth and questions and discussion are always welcome.

-The Rev. Ann Barker, Rector

Sunday Worship Services
8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education
Adults 9 am — Youth 10 am

- Sun. Mar. 29** Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms - 8 am and 10 am
- Thurs. Apr. 2** Loaves & Fishes Meal & Service - 6:30 to 8 pm
- Fri. Apr. 3** Good Friday Services - 12 noon and 7 pm
- Sun. Apr. 5** Easter Holy Eucharist with hymns - 8 am
Easter Festive Holy Eucharist with children's message - 10 am
Easter Egg Hunt and reception after the 10 am service
- Tues. Apr 7** Book Club *Wild by Cheryl Strayed* - 7:30 pm

All are welcome to all services and activities!

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

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Good Neighbor Profile: Timothy O'Leary

By Mary Ann Strawn

Yes indeed, Tim O'Leary is Irish. And yes, he will be celebrating St Patrick's Day on March 17th. "My grandfather was born in Ireland and had to flee the country in 1909. He probably would have been shot on sight if he had delayed his unceremonious departure." Tim's ancestor had been associated with a precursor of the Irish Republican Army.

Tim brought the familial penchant for involvement with him when he moved to Arlington from Boston. "I've been active in the community since the day I moved in. My philosophy is, if you're going to live someplace you ought to be working to make it a better place." He served as AFCA president from 1986 to 1988. In 2000, he took on the role as AFCA's representative on the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, a group that presents recommendations to the County Board for funding neighborhood improvement projects.

Arlington Forest has done well in that process, he says, pointing to traffic calming efforts, the elimination of invasive species in Lubber Run, and the new playground in Glencarlyn Park. And there's an upgrade on the books for the N. Edison Street playground. According to Tim, it's as close as you can get to grass-roots democracy.

Like thousands of others, work brought Tim to Arlington. After graduating from college in Boston he wanted to

be a ski bum. Skiing has been a life-long passion. Try as he might, he couldn't figure out how to make a living at it and returned to college to collect a master's degree in economics. He would fashion a career writing about economics for Time Magazine, US News and World Report, and Newsweek. His resume includes a wealth of experiences working for corporations, contractors, and associations. An Army tour in Vietnam was a transformative experience that helped him to understand veterans when he worked at Walter Reed Medical Center.

He initially settled in Fillmore Gardens, but moved with his family to Arlington Forest in 1975 because, "it seemed like such a child-friendly place." His three daughters attended Barrett, Kenmore and Washington-Lee. Two still live in this area, one in Illinois.

In retirement, Tim has devoted time to honing his kitchen skills by taking classes through Arlington County. Leaning heavily on cookbook author and television personality Jacques Pepin, he thinks he has developed into a pretty good cook.

THE NEXT AFCA MEETING IS AT
BARRETT SCHOOL ON MAR. 19

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Join us for the Real Estate panel at the AFCA March meeting this Wednesday March 18th at 7pm in the Barrett Library. There will be four Arlington realtors sharing information about preparing your home for sale and getting it ready for the spring market.



-- Order Your Copy Now --

History of Arlington Forest

(4th Edition)



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

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

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

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

History of Arlington Forest, 4th Edition

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

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PROCLAMATION

ooOoo

**75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARLINGTON FOREST CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

WHEREAS, in early 1940, a group of residents of the newly-established Arlington Forest community met to consider forming a citizen association for the purpose of getting to know their neighbors and speaking as a group for the betterment of the community; and

WHEREAS, today, 75 years later, even though Arlington County and Arlington Forest have changed substantially, the Arlington Forest Citizens Association still has the same goals; and

WHEREAS, over the decades, the Association has held community meetings eight times a year, organized innumerable neighborhood social events, and published a newsletter for longer than any other civic association in the County; and

WHEREAS, over the decades, the Association has organized many programs to beautify the neighborhood and adjacent public parkland; and

WHEREAS, over the decades, the Association has responsibly advocated to County officials for improvements in public amenities and public safety in areas such as transportation, street lighting, parks, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Association belongs to the Arlington County Civic Federation, thereby keeping informed and participating in County affairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Hughes Hynes, Chair of the Arlington County Board, on this 27th day of January 2015, do hereby acknowledge the

**75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARLINGTON FOREST CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

and urge all citizens of Arlington Forest to continue participating in the vital work of their Association.


Mary Hughes Hynes
Chair

High School Capacity Pressures

By John Naland

Arlington has seen contentious discussions in recent months about where to build additional classrooms at the elementary and middle school levels. At the same time, quiet progress has been made on developing a plan to increase the capacity of existing high school buildings by up to 20 percent.

Because Washington-Lee (W-L) is projected to face the worst overcrowding of any Arlington school in the coming years, the School Board's 2014 bond issue included \$5 million to reconfigure the existing W-L building to increase capacity by 300 to 350 seats. That works out to around \$15,000 per additional seat -- approximately 10 percent the cost of adding a new seat by constructing a school addition.

APS staff, W-L administrators, and a W-L PTA rep (me) started meeting last November to figure out how to do that. APS intends to apply those capacity-increasing ideas to Wakefield and Yorktown in the coming years.

The key idea is to increase the average classroom utilization from five to six out of the seven class periods per day. At W-L, that would free up 85 classrooms for instructional use during one additional period each day -- equivalent to adding 14 full-day classrooms to the building. But that can only be accomplished if, during that lost period, teachers have other spaces to use instead of their current classroom to grade papers, plan lessons, and collaborate with colleagues. The W-L planning group plans to do that by reconfiguring around six underutilized spaces into teacher work rooms.

Adding instructional space is only half of the task. Changes to the building's common areas will also be required to accommodate the hundreds of additional students. Thus, the W-L planning group has identified reconfigurations to add gym lockers and lunchtime eating space.

Much of the construction is to take place this summer. Timing is critical since APS projects that W-L enrollment will jump by 180 students next September. These steps will accommodate projected enrollment growth at W-L through the 2017-18 school year. That will still leave W-L seriously overcrowded starting in 2018-19 unless other steps are taken.

Wakefield is currently projected to exceed capacity starting in the 2016-17 with Yorktown one year behind that. Internal reconfigurations like at W-L would delay that overcrowding by one or two few years, but eventually all three high schools will be overcapacity. That will only be partially ameliorated by School Board's plan to convert the Career Center into a 1,300 seat countywide high school in phases starting in the 2020. Thus, high school capacity pressures will remain a key issue well into the next decade.



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Nature News

By
Cliff Fairweather
Park Naturalist,
Long Branch
Nature Center

Turtle Tough: Turtles are no wimps, but then nothing with a 200 million year evolutionary history is likely to be a weakling. A key to their evolutionary success is

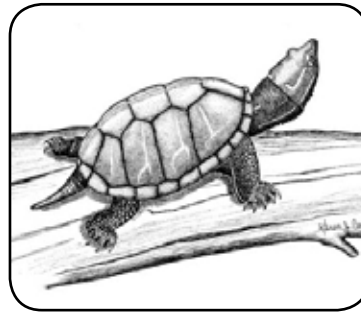
their shell. Turtle shells consist of two main parts, an upper part called the carapace and a lower part called the plastron. They are joined at the sides between the front and back legs.

The carapace is formed over the backbone and ribs and is composed of up to 50 plates. The ribs and spine are fused to these plates and the plates join together along jagged edges that help lock them into place. The plastron is similarly composed of interlocking boney plates, though far fewer than the plastron.

What we see on the outside of a turtle's shell is not bone but horny plates called scutes. They are made of

keratin, which is the same material that forms our hair, toenails, and fingernails and reptile scales. In some turtles, the scutes are highly patterned and provide camouflage. They also provide an additional layer of protection, but it's the underlying bone that makes turtle shells so tough.

Many turtles can't close their shells but can pull in their head and block the front and back openings with their tough, scaly legs. Others can close their shells to varying



degrees with hinges on their plastron. Our local eastern box turtle can shut its shell completely, making it invulnerable to most predators, at least as an adult.

As tough as they are, turtles are no match for a car or a lawn mower. We

receive dozens of injured turtles at Long Branch Nature Center every year. We are able to treat most of these to the point where they are able to return to the wild.

But we need your help. We must pay for medicine and other supplies to treat and feed the turtles in our care. You can help with these expenses and have fun at the same time by participating in the 2015 Turtle Trot 5K -- a chip-timed run on a certified course attracting both serious and casual runners. This year's Turtle Trot is on Saturday, May 16 in Bluemont Park starting at 10 AM. To register, go to Active.com (search "Turtle Trot"). Call us at 703-228-6535 for more info. Join us for the 2015 Turtle Trot and see if you are Turtle Tough!

Arlington Forest History Book: The 150-page 4th edition of AFCA's history of Arlington Forest is now on sale. See page 7 for details and an order form.

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



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Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Thursday, March 19. See page 1 for details.

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

Neighborhood-wide Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 25. See next month's newsletter for details.

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

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

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

Future AFCA Meetings:

April 15: Public Parkland: Present and Future

May 13: Picnic and Membership Meeting

June to August: No meetings over summer break

September 16: A new year of advocacy begins

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Barcroft School News

It's All Sunny at Barcroft Elementary! Despite the weather, things are busy at Barcroft Elementary.

On February 5, the School Board issued a statement on its next steps to find elementary seats in south Arlington, specifically noting the importance of considering academic achievement in the process. The Board committed to working with the Arlington County Board to explore options for elementary seats beyond expansions at Barcroft and Randolph. Moreover, they stated that the process for exploring those options will be inclusive, transparent and consensus driven. The Superintendent is charged with providing a status report by April 30, 2015.

Events in March included a special celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday on Monday, March 2. Barcroft fielded four student teams to the Odyssey of the Mind competition on Saturday, March 7. The Third Quarter Leonardo da Vinci Learning Night Open House was held on Monday, March 9, and showcased student learning during the third quarter.

Two weeks of **Spring Intersession** classes will be held on March 16-27, followed by Spring Break. Intersession classes are offered in the morning and afternoon, are consistent with the Virginia Standards of Learning, and introduce students to new learning experiences. Offerings this year include classes in Lego Robotics, Cooking with Scents, and Lewis and Clark Adventures.

Please join us for the following events this Spring! A **School Information Session** is scheduled for Thursday, April 9 from 9:15-10:45 a.m. for parents interested in learning more about Barcroft Elementary.

Barcroft students will submit a rain barrel for auction in the **Go Gaga for Green Operation Rain Barrel Silent Auction** to be held on Saturday, April 25 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Arlington campus of George Mason University. The Barcroft **Spring Fair** will be held on Saturday, May 9 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and will feature international themes and a plant sale just in time for Mother's Day!

Turtle Trot 5K

Help Long Branch Nature Center pay for medicine and other supplies to treat and feed injured turtles by participating in the 2015 Turtle Trot 5K -- a chip-timed run on a certified course attracting both serious and casual runners. This year's Turtle Trot is on Saturday, May 16 in Bluemont Park starting at 10 AM. To register, go to Active.com (search "Turtle Trot"). Call us at 703-228-6535 for more info. Join us for the 2015 Turtle Trot and see if you are Turtle Tough!



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Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest

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

March certainly lived up to its reputation by roaring in like a lion! Let's hope it leaves like a lamb! Since the last newsletter, it seems we've had nothing but a series of cancelations and postponements. Barrett's STEM/Science Discovery Night was rescheduled not once, but twice. Parent-teacher conferences were also canceled due to the early March snowstorm, but will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis in the months ahead.

Are you tired of winter yet?! Are you looking ahead to summer trips and spring gatherings with friends and family? Well then come and join the Barrett community for its **Silent Auction and Mixer** where you can bid on a number of fun destinations and family events. Proceeds will benefit classroom libraries, special instruction, and teacher grants. The event will be on Saturday, March 21, from 6-9:30 p.m. at the NRECA, 4301 Wilson Boulevard. This is a "grown-ups only" event but well worth the price of a babysitter! Here's a sampling of some of the incredible items available for bidding: One week at a four-bedroom home on Cape Cod; a one-week stay in Mazatlan Mexico; plus tickets to a concert at Wolf Trap and a Nationals baseball game. Tickets are \$25. For tickets or for more info, contact Jennifer Sauter-Price at BarrettElem@my-pta.org.

March is **Arts in the Schools Month** and APS is hosting events to showcase student talents in the visual and

forming arts. Barrett's student artwork was selected for display in the **2015 Elementary School Art Exhibit**. A well-attended reception for our student-artists and families was held on March 4. The exhibit will be on display until March 17 at the Education Center, 1st Floor Gallery, 1426 N. Quincy Street. As part of this month-long celebration, Barrett's **Family Library Night** on March 10 included a concert by the **Army Blues Combo** playing the music of Duke Ellington.

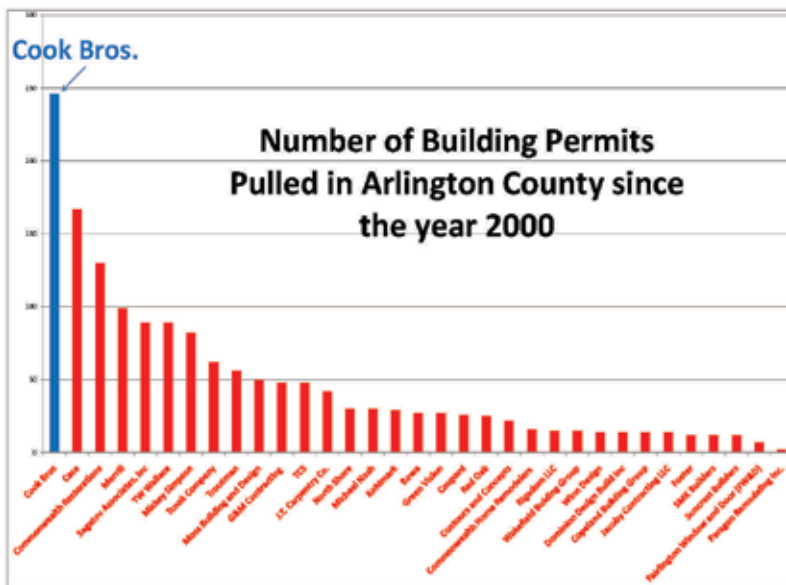
Barrett's **Project Discovery** entered the **Optimus Prime NASA Spinoff Video Contest**. This NASA initiative challenged students to share the benefits of NASA "spinoff" technologies. You can view the video project called, "Volcanic Exploration Drone" and vote for Barrett's submission through the Project Discovery blog at <http://www.apsva.us/Page/4180>.

Upcoming Events:

- **STEM Night**, Wednesday, March 18, 6:30-8 p.m.
- **School Information Session**, April 9, 12:45-2:15 p.m.
- **Choral Spring Musical**, April 16, 1:30 and 7:00 p.m.
- **Arts & Writers Fair**, Thursday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.
- **Used Book Sale**, Thursday, April 30, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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These Arlington Forest youths are available for babysitting, pet sitting, and other services. To be added or deleted, e-mail newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

Southside:

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

Greenbrier Section:

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

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

Northside:

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

All Neighborhoods:

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



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