

# The Arlington Forester



Volume 57, Number 6

Arlington, VA

March 2016

## Nancy Van Dorn to Address AFCA Meeting

School Board Vice Chair Nancy Van Dorn is our first speaker at the March 16 AFCA meeting at 7 pm in Barrett School library. Ms. Van Dorn will discuss current issues facing Arlington Public Schools and then answer questions. This is your chance to hear from, and provide input to, the School Board's Vice Chair on top issues such as school capacity and the coming November school bond vote.

Nancy Van Dorn was appointed to the School Board in September 2014. This year, she is the School Board's official liaison to Barrett Elementary, Kenmore Middle School, and AFCA. Prior to joining the School Board, she served on numerous APS citizen advisory groups and was the PTA President at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. She currently has three children in Arlington public schools. Her fourth child

graduated from Washington-Lee High School.

Also speaking at the March AFCA meeting is Master Gardener Beverly Johnston. Her beautiful lot backing to Lubber Run Park was a highlight of the Arlington Forest Home and Garden Tour some years back. She will give tips about successful gardening in our soils and climate and then answer questions.

Elsewhere in this month's newsletter you will find details on several AFCA-organized events in the coming weeks: an April 6 meeting to explore bringing a farmer's market to Arlington Forest, our April 16 annual neighborhood-wide spring cleanup, and an April 16 tour of the second-oldest trees in Arlington (located just outside of Arlington Forest in Glencarlyn).

## Spring Cleanup on April 16

By John Naland

Our fifth annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup is Saturday, April 16, from 9 to 11 AM. Organized groups will focus on three areas: Lubber Run Park - remove trash from the streambed; Arlington Blvd southside buffer strip - remove trash and clean up the area; and N. Granada/N. Greenbrier trailhead area - remove trash from streambed.

In addition, individual residents who live near the following areas are encouraged to grab a garbage bag from home and make a quick sweep picking up trash: Lubber Run just south of Arlington Blvd - remove trash from upper slopes; Arlington Blvd northside buffer strip - remove trash along roadway; and Four Mile Run near foot of S. Park Drive - remove trash from streambed.

Please join this effort to beautify public spaces around our neighborhood if you enjoy walking, jogging or biking in our local parks; if you want to help protect the Chesapeake Bay

watershed; if you have children who you want to learn to care for the environment; or if you just want to get out in the fresh spring air to benefit from some light exercise.

Many hands make for light work, so the more volunteers

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*AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. March 16 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.



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# Tour Arlington's Old Growth Forest

By John Naland

Did you know that the second-oldest trees in Arlington are just a few steps outside of Arlington Forest in the Glencarlyn neighborhood? Please join Arlington County's Urban Forester Vincent Verweij to tour our old growth forest on Saturday, April 16 from 11:00 AM to Noon. We will meet at the Glencarlyn Library parking lot at 300 S. Kensington Street, 22204. From there we will walk three blocks to the trees.

The 24 acre grove is estimated to be over 200 years old and has never been logged. The only older trees in Arlington that survived large scale removal of trees during the Civil War and later logging are located in Arlington National Cemetery near the Custis-Lee Mansion.

Our ancient trees include around 100 oaks and hickories -- some over 100 feet tall. One Black Oak's trunk is nearly 12 feet around.

The trees are located on the hill above the Carlin Springs Historical Marker south-west of where Arlington Boulevard crosses Four Mile Run. The trees are behind the houses on first block of South 1st Street in Glencarlyn. This area is a not-too-long walk (albeit part of it uphill) from Southside Arlington Forest and the portions of Greenbrier Section close to the trailhead at the foot of N. Granada Street.

The Department of Park and Recreation's Vincent Verweij will lead us on a one-hour long tour of the trees and associated flora and fauna. Please wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to walk on sloping terrain. Adults, kids, and well-mannered dogs are welcome. For more info, contact tour organizer John Naland at [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com) or 703-888-0128

# Spring Cleanup

*...continued from page 1*

who participate, the more progress can be made to improve community spaces for our spring and summer enjoyment. Even if you can only help for an hour, please do so. Again this year, we welcome the participation of our local boy and girl scouts.

We start at 9 AM, rain or shine. If you arrive late, look around for those who are already at work. Wear old clothes and sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. Wear garden or work gloves if you have them.

Whether or not you help out April 16, you can protect our environment any day by doing a quick check of the curb in front of your house to pick up plastics and other trash that may floated down the street or fallen from a trash truck. That will keep the next rainstorm from carrying the debris into our streams and rivers.

If you have questions about the cleanup event, e-mail John Naland at [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com).



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# Farmers Market in Arlington Forest?

At the October 2015 AFCA meeting, Robert Swennes from Field to Table, the organization behind several local farmers markets, spoke about the possibility of opening a farmers market in the Barrett Elementary School parking lot. The crowd expressed considerable support at the meeting and it's now time to move to the next steps if we really want to make this happen.

Mr. Swennes is working to drum up interest and support from surrounding civic associations and plans to further engage the community at a meeting on April 6th at 7 PM at the Barrett Elementary library.

The target date for the opening of the new farmers market is spring of 2017. However, key to its success will be a solid group of volunteers willing to staff a number of roles to organize and run the farmers market. If you are interested in volunteering or are just interested in hearing about the farmers market, please attend the April 6th meeting.

# See It, Say It

Is there a pothole on your street? Is a directional sign missing or knocked down? Is a street light out? If you see a problem involving public property, report it to the County using the online Report a Problem tool. You can do so right from your mobile device or from your desktop computer at home or work. In the service request, you can describe the problem, pinpoint its location on an interactive map, and even upload a photo to illustrate the problem.

These online service requests are automatically routed to the right County division -- so you do not have to know which department handles which issue.

The tool is monitored during normal business hours, so any submissions during nights, weekends or holidays will not be seen until the next business day. For after-hours traffic signal outages, call the police non-emergency number at 703-558-2222. After-hours water and sewer emergencies should be reported to 703-228-6555 (24-hour hotline).

Improve your community. Report an issue and get it fixed. For more info, search "report problem" on the County website or go to <http://topics.arlingtonva.us/reportproblem/>. There you can even see pending service requests that others have reported.

## Upcoming Events:

Old Growth Tour, April 16th  
Community Yard Sale, May 21st

For home buyers and sellers alike, the road from initial offer to closing can seem like an endless series of hurdles. One of the most formidable of these hurdles is the home inspection, which seeks to determine the condition of the home's most important features and uncover any potential safety concerns. A thorough home inspection is critical so that buyers can make an informed decision about the final price that they agree to pay. *Home inspectors are hired by the buyer, they are not parties to the sales transaction and should thus remain impartial.* The inspection is mostly visual with the major focus on the condition of essential components, including the roof, foundation, electrical and plumbing and HVAC systems. The inspector will then generate a report detailing their findings and make recommendations for future maintenance. If the home inspection report reveals multiple and significant problems, the buyer may

demand that the seller fix them, insist upon a lower selling price, or even walk away from the deal. Therefore, it is in the seller's best interest to prepare for the home inspection by thoroughly examining all areas of the home, including the attic, basement, garage, and crawl spaces, and attending to anything that needs to be repaired.

**To help home sellers deal with this issue before their home is listed for sale we have compiled a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection".** If not identified and dealt with, any of these items could cost your dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home to prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones. Call or email for a free copy!  
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# Naturalist Essay

by Cliff Fairweather  
Park Naturalist,  
Long Branch  
Nature Center

**Woodpeckers:** Late winter is a great time to see woodpeckers. With few leaves on the trees they are easier to spot on trees and they come readily to feeders, especially

if nuts and suet are offered. Woodpeckers are most common in wooded areas, including neighborhoods with lots of trees.

From bill to tail, woodpeckers come well-equipped for making a living in trees. The business end of a woodpecker is its chisel-like bill used for opening up insect hiding places inside wood or under bark, carving out nest holes in trees, and for sending messages to other woodpeckers. Woodpecker bills come in a variety of sizes, depending on the species and the kind of work they need to do.

Our area's largest local woodpecker, the Pileated, is a crow-sized bird with a big bill it uses to penetrate into the heartwood of a tree where it finds carpenter ants. The sparrow-sized Downy Woodpecker has a bill that seems too short for a woodpecker but it is strong and stout and works well for extracting insects from under bark. Also inhabiting Arlington all year are the Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, both about robin-sized, and the somewhat larger Northern Flicker. Our winter resident woodpecker is the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

All that chiseling and pounding requires a firm grip. Most birds have feet adapted for perching, with three toes extending forwards and one pointing backwards. Woodpeckers, however, have two toes pointing forward and two pointing backwards to help get a strong grip on tree bark. A woodpecker's tail is stiff and pointed at the end to provide a firm brace while pecking or moving up and down the trunk.

A woodpecker uses its bill to get to insects in wood but uses its long, sticky, barb-ended tongue to do actual catching. The tongue and its supporting structures are so long that they wrap around the inside of the skull and can extend up to five times the length of its bill. This long, sticky, barbed tongue is perfect for grabbing insects inside their tunnels.

Woodpeckers also use their bills for communication. Instead of announcing their availability as a mate with a song, male woodpeckers drum on a resonant branch, trunk – or sometimes house siding or metal chimney! Females join the males in drumming to proclaim a pair's territory. A shock absorber system protects the woodpecker's brain from all that pounding.



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# Around the Forest

**Presidential Primary:** Here are the top vote getters in the Arlington Forest precinct during the March 1 presidential primary: Clinton 468, Sanders 197, Rubio 142, Kasich 84, Trump 70, and Cruz 30.

**Arlington Blvd & Park Drive Intersection:** The most recent County update says that work is scheduled to begin in April to create better access and crossings for pedestrians, transit users, bikers and those traveling on the shared-use paths parallel to Arlington Boulevard.

**Carlin Springs Road Bridge:** Plans are now complete to build the new bridge over N. George Mason Drive and demolish the old one in a manner that will maintain traffic safety and access while minimizing negative impacts on the community. The bridge project has been combined with a sewer main upgrade project in this area. Combining the projects will allow for greater installation coordination and will reduce the impacts on area residents and the motoring public. The project schedule is: Summer 2016 - Permitting and bidding of contract for construction. Fall 2016 - Construction begins. Spring 2018 - Anticipated completion.

**Spring Yard Waste Collection:** The spring yard waste collection begins the week of March 14 on your regular trash day. 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, the new yard waste cart that the County is currently distributing, or your own 32 gallon trash container on the day after your regular trash pickup. Do not use plastic bags.

**New Yard Waste Cart:** The County is in the process of delivering each residence a yard waste cart that will enable you to put out yard waste year-round on any trash day. Deliveries will be made by April 1. Attached to the lid of each cart will be an educational brochure describing the new program in detail. More information is available on the County website.

**Trash/Recycling Cart Repair:** Is the lid broken off of your County trash or recycling cart? Is a wheel broken? Is there a big hole in the side of the cart? If so, use the County's online "Report a Problem" application to get it fixed. Search "report a problem" on the County website or go to [www.publicstuff.com](http://www.publicstuff.com) and click on "Report a Problem." A repair truck will come to your house on your next trash day to repair or replace the cart.

**LRCC Teen Program:** Do you have a teen who wants more to do? Come join the Lubber Run Teen After School Program. Teens enjoy art and crafts, cooking, trips, games, sports, leisure computer time and much more. Monday to Friday, 2:30 to 6 PM.

**LRCC Playtime:** Is it too cold or too wet outside to play? Children ages 1 to 5 (accompanied by an adult) are invited to come to Lubber Run Community Center for a Pint-Sized Indoor Playtime to play, socialize and stay active. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 to 11:30 AM.

**Yard Sale:** Start cleaning out those closets and the basement because Arlington Forest's long-running annual Community Yard Sale is around the corner. This year's event will be on May 21. With over 50 Arlington Forest households participating each year, the event attracts many bargain hunters drawn to the convenience of cruising through one area to visit many sales. See next month's newsletter for more info.

**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.

**Ball-Sellers House:** Did you know that the oldest surviving building in Arlington is just across Four Mile Run from Arlington Forest in the Glencarlyn neighborhood? John Ball's 1750s cabin is open to the public Saturdays from 1 to 4 pm from April to October. Located at 5620 3rd St. South, it is a few blocks off the WO&D Trail (albeit uphill) and is thus walkable from our Greenbrier and Southside sections. The house allows visitors to see how ordinary Virginians lived in colonial times. For more info, see [www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

**Trash Can Etiquette:** Long-standing Arlington Forest tradition and an Arlington County ordinance call for residents to return their trash carts and recycle bins to their normal storage location within 24 hours after trash pickup. That normal storage location may not be in front of a dwelling, unless fencing or landscaping shields the containers from view from the street. Help us keep Arlington Forest looking good by promptly pulling back your trash cans.

# How Safe is Our Water?

By Lisa Larimer  
Environmental Engineer

Does our drinking water have lead? After hearing about lead in the drinking water in Flint, Michigan, you may be wondering if it could happen in Arlington Forest. We get our water from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Washington Aqueduct's Dalecarlia water treatment plant, which treats water taken from the Potomac River. Tests show that water in Arlington has very low lead levels and it has since 1992, when the EPA's lead and copper rule went into effect and Arlington started monitoring the water for lead.

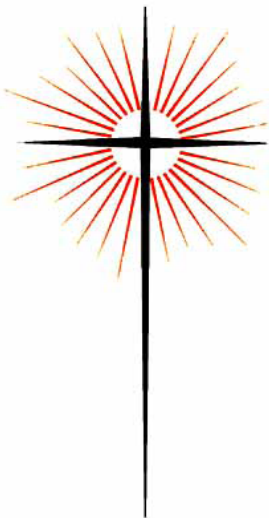
There are at least three solid reasons why Arlington will not have a lead problem in the future either:

- Arlington does not have lead service lines, and Arlington Forest homes do not have lead pipes.
- Washington Aqueduct adds orthophosphate to coat any lead-containing metal such as older solders and brass or bronze fixtures and piping (and lead pipes in DC, which also gets water from the same treatment plant). The insoluble layer that forms also prevents corrosion and leaching in copper and iron pipes and fixtures.
- The Potomac's water is not corrosive like the Flint River. However, Washington Aqueduct adds calcium hydroxide to

adjust the pH of the water so the orthophosphate is most effective.

Why does the water smell/taste different every spring? It's March, so that means it's time for the water treatment plant to switch the type of disinfectant it uses to kill bacteria and other pathogens. For most of the year, the Washington Aqueduct adds chlorine and ammonia to the water, but every spring it switches to chlorine only for about six weeks. This year it will be eight weeks, until early May.

This switch weakens the biological film that forms in pipes and that can lead to water quality problems if not controlled. The County then opens up fire hydrants to flush the system and remove the biofilm. If your water looks rust-colored, it is from iron oxide sediments that are stirred up when the fire hydrants are opened. Just let the water run until it turns clear and you'll be fine. On the off chance that the reddish water messed up a load of laundry, keep the clothes wet, call Arlington County's utilities services 24-hour hotline at 703-228-6555, and an operator will have a special laundry detergent delivered to your home.



## ***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

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Sun. Mar. 20</b>   | Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms - 8 am and 10 am   |
| <b>Thurs. Mar. 24</b> | Loaves & Fishes Meal & Service - 6:30 to 8 pm   |
| <b>Fri. Mar. 25</b>   | Good Friday Services - 12 noon and 7 pm   |
| <b>Sun. Mar. 27</b>   | Easter Holy Eucharist with hymns - 8 am<br>Easter Festive Holy Eucharist with children's message - 10 am<br>Easter Egg Hunt for all kids and reception at 11:15 |

**Tues. Apr 5** Book Club *The Sword in the Stone* by T.H. White - 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.*



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stjohnsarlingtonva.org

# Nature News

**Arlington's Biodiversity Open House:** Long Branch Nature Center, Sunday, April 3, 2 to 5 PM. Meet Arlington Forest resident David Howell who has photographed the surprising diversity of Arlington wildlife around the Long Branch Nature Center and Glencarlyn, Bluemont, and Lubber Run Parks. Join us to view his photos and chat with him and the nature center naturalists. Light refreshments will be provided. Free, but pre-registration is required by going to <http://arlingtonparks.us/snag/> and then clicking on the event's hyperlink on page 2. For info call 703-228-6535.

**Remove Invasives at Long Branch Nature Center:** Sunday, Mar. 20, 2 to 4 PM. Want to increase species diversity right here in Arlington? Join us as we keep the park free of destructive invasive plants. Work parties are held every month and are making a real difference. We are starting to see the return of ferns and wildflowers in areas once covered in ivy. Come for all or part of the time. For info call 703-228-6535.

**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 in regular trash. The next E-CARE takes place between 8:30 AM and 3 PM on Saturday, April 16 (held rain or shine) at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in the West Parking Lot (one block east of Glebe Rd.). Just load up your car with the unwanted items and then drive through the various stations -- dropping off paint cans at one station, TVs at another station, and so on. There is a \$15 recycling fee for computers and \$20 fee for TVs. The non-profit group Bikes for the World will collect serviceable bikes to be sent to countries where they are needed for basic transportation. This time only, you can exchange an old CFL lightbulb for a new LED bulb (one per household). For more info, search "E-CARE" on the County website.

**Make Your Own Rain Barrel:** Saturday, April 2, 10:30 AM to Noon at Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 S. 16th St. Arlington. Come to this workshop and make a rain barrel to collect rainwater for use in your yard and garden! Cost: \$55 per barrel; two barrels per household limit. Pre-registration is required at [www.arlingtonenvironment.org/barrel.php](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/barrel.php) and follow the links from there.

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

**Turtle Trot 5K:** Sunday, May 15, 9 AM check in; 10 AM race, Bluemont Park. Each year, Long Branch Nature Center receives injured turtles and other wildlife that need our help. Proceeds from the race help us give them medical attention and a place to live until they are strong enough to be released back into the wild. This is a chip-timed race on a certified course. Register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). Adults \$30; Kids 12 and under \$15.

**Choose a Green Landscaping Company:** Do you hire a company to take care of your lawn and property? Landscaping companies registered with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as "Green & Clean" agree to follow landscaping practices that will reduce the amount of fertilizer runoff into our streams and rivers. Such practices include testing the soil for nutrient content before applying any fertilizer, adhering to caps on the amount of nitrogen applied to grass throughout the year, sweeping up any fertilizer that lands on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways, and recycling grass clippings back into the soil. To see the list of companies on the Green & Clean registry, visit [www.dcr.virginia.gov/](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/) and then search "green and clean".

**StormwaterWise Landscapes Program:** This program provides a financial incentive for property owners to remove pavement or install pervious driveways, rain gardens, or conservation landscaping. Participants who install one (or more) of the four stormwater-reducing practices will be eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of the installation cost, up to a pre-determined limit, whichever is less. Potential applicants should visit <http://environment.arlingtonva.us/stormwaterwise/> to learn about the program. Application deadline is April 1.



# On Writing a Novel

## by Eric Lotke

My new novel came out in 2015. I've been to various book events and discussion groups, and some questions come up regularly. I share them here in case they're interesting (though feel free to ask your own in person).

**Question: What is the book about?** *Making Manna* is a story of love, betrayal and forgiveness. Set in northern Virginia in current times, it shows the harsh underside of the modern economy, the tragic conflicts of the American justice system, and people who triumph anyway. Along the way, it provides cooking lessons for free.

Libby Thompson is 14 years old when she flees her abusive home. Now she must survive on her own, with dead-end jobs, kindness from strangers, and the confusing assistance of police, drug dealers and even children. She must also find a way to heal from her abuse and deal with her original family.

One reviewer called it "a wonderful story of family, redemption and love that takes the reader from the prison to the school yard in a touching human way that we rarely experience."

**Question: Where did you get the idea?** I worked in the justice system for many years. I managed community-based programs, represented people accused of crimes, and flushed every toilet in the DC jail. The precise starting point came from a death penalty case. I wanted to take that child's beginning and give him (spoiler alert!) a happier ending.

It also comes from time in the kitchen - both working as a chef and as a parent cooking for kids.

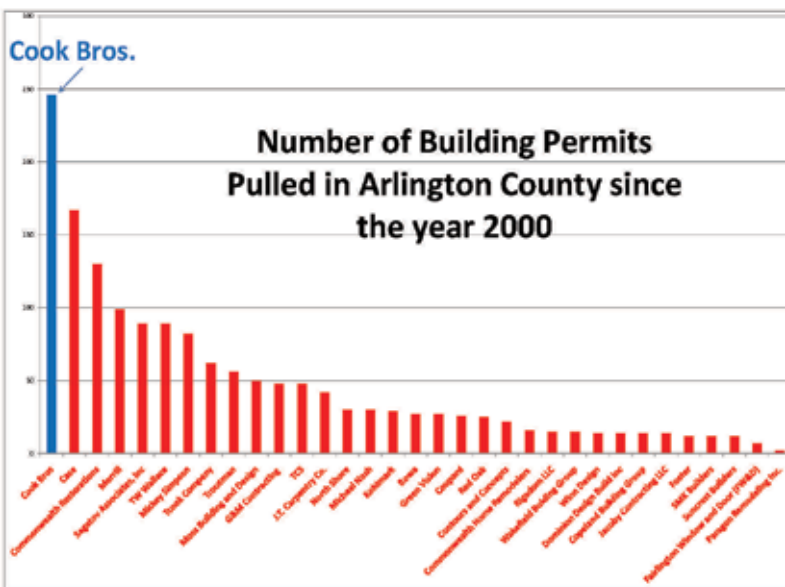
**Question: How did you find time to write?** I write opportunistically. I work full time and have two kids. I drive them to practices, lessons and activities - and have an hour or two while I wait. Plenty of work was done in the balcony at Barcroft. When I was lucky I'd have a whole half-day on a weekend. It mattered that I wasn't on deadline. If I needed time to figure something out or went a month without a free minute, that was okay. I just kept my notebook handy.

**Question: How can I find out more?** I'd be happy to join your book group! Or knock on my door and ask me a question. You might even end up with a signed copy or a slice of fresh bread. Also check out my web page, [www.making-manna.com](http://www.making-manna.com).



# You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But...

## Why Wouldn't You?



For a larger Graph image and more information about the Graph, visit our website at

[www.CookBros.org/ArlForest](http://www.CookBros.org/ArlForest)



# It's Block Party Season

## By John Naland

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 setting one up this spring. Block parties are a great way to bring together neighbors who live more than a few doors apart. Kids have a blast playing in the closed-off street while adults enjoy a pot-luck dinner and good conversation. You can put out a sign-up sheet to voluntarily collect e-mail addresses in order to create a block e-mail collective to communicate throughout the year.

To organize a block party, first talk up the idea with a few neighbors and get them to agree on a date and time (typically a Sunday afternoon). Then create a simple printed flyer and deliver it door-to-door inviting everyone else on the block and informing them of the temporary street closure. The lead organizers might want to volunteer to provide tables to put food on and paper plates, cups, napkins, and eating utensils. Everyone should bring chairs for themselves along with food or dessert to share.

If you live in a cul-de-sac, you might be able to informally close off the end of the street during your block party. But if you live on a through street, you need to get the County to deliver six large orange safety cones for you to put at the ends of the block to detour non-resident traffic. To do so, apply to the County for a block party permit at least 72 hours before the event (they strictly enforce that deadline). There is a \$64 fee for the permit and safety cones which you can recoup by putting out a donation jar during the block party.

For full details, search "block party" on the County website.



# Mosquito Control Begins at Home

The Zika virus has raised public awareness about the need for mosquito control. Protection from a wide range of mosquito-borne diseases starts at home with steps we all can take to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

Mosquitoes require as little as a tablespoon of water to lay eggs in. They can successfully breed in any area or container that has still, shallow standing water for more than three days. The number-one source of mosquito bites in our area is the Asian Tiger mosquito, which is a container breeder.

To eliminate breeding sites, conduct a neighborhood "dump the bucket" inspection and walk-around. Look for:

- Blocked gutters, downspouts and drain pipes. Make sure that water is flowing freely and consider replacing corrugated non-perforated pipes with smooth-walled pipes that flow freely.

- Buckets, pet water dishes, plant pot saucers, watering cans and bird baths. Do not allow water to stand undisturbed for more than three days and clean regularly.

- Old tires, car parts, unused toys and gardening equipment. Remove these and similar items that may collect water.

- Tarps over boats, firewood, cars, patio furniture and other items. Tighten them down and make sure that they do not trap water or allow it to puddle.

Water in standing drains like sumps and rain barrels can be treated with a natural larval control that will not harm other insects or animals. Virginia Cooperative Extension's Pest Management Guide for Home Grounds and Animals Publication 456-018 is accessible online at [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu) and contains information about control options for mosquito larvae and adults that are effective and rated for homeowner use.

The Arlington County VCE Horticulture Help Desk deals with questions and concerns about insects, plant identification, pesticides, plant disease, plant selection, household insects, ticks and mosquitoes and attracting and deterring wildlife. Located at the Fairlington Community Center, it is staffed from 9 a.m. to noon weekdays by VCE Master Gardener volunteers. Appointments are not required, and walk-ins are welcome. The Help Desk can be reached by phone at 703-228-6414 or by email at [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).



*An electronic version of this newsletter is available online at AFCA's website:*

[www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)

## Forest Exchange

**AFCA Listserv:** The AFCA listserv is a great way to stay informed on news directly impacting our neighborhood. On average, two messages are sent out per month. If you are not signed up, e-mail [arlingtonforestva@gmail.com](mailto:arlingtonforestva@gmail.com) requesting to be added.

**AFCA Website:** AFCA's website at [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) features a variety of information about our neighborhood including: a printable Arlington Forest map, the entire contents of the 2015 Arlington Forest history book, the 1987 Arlington Forest Home Owners' Manual, copies of all issues of the Arlington Forester since mid-2011, the AFCA Bylaws, the 1991 Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan, Arlington Forest's approved 2005 nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, and a list of AFCA officers and other points of contact.

**Your News and Views:** This newsletter (the oldest civic association newsletter in Arlington County) welcomes articles, news notes, letters, and photos focusing on events or issues specific to our neighborhood. If you have news or views to share, please let us know. For example, events on your block, gardening tips, a scout troop update, home repair tips, or an expression of your views on some neighborhood issue. See the Editor's Note on page 2 for submission guidelines.

## Community Calendar

**Next AFCA Meeting:** Wednesday, March 16, 7 pm at Barrett Elementary.

**Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:** Saturday, April 16. Help beautify our neighborhood parks and other public areas. See page 1 for details.

**Old Growth Forest Tour:** Saturday, April 16. See page for details.

**E-CARE:** Saturday, April 16, 8:30 AM to 3 PM. Semi-annual recycling event at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

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

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

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

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

### Future AFCA Meetings:

April 20: Traffic Issues & Ballston Mall Update

May 18: Picnic & Membership Meeting



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# Barcroft School News

The 29 days of February were event-filled for Barcroft families. On February 3, Grade 4 and 5 students participated in the National Geography Bee. Congratulations to the participants and the winner, Barcroft resident Anneliese Odegard! Parent-Teacher conferences were held on February 4–5. On February 8, the school hosted a Read-In Day to celebrate African American Heritage. On February 12, visiting author Sharon Robinson discussed a book she had recently written about her father, Jackie Robinson with students in Grades 2-3.

The school also celebrated the 100th Day of School on February 12. On February 18, Barcroft hosted the first of three School Information Sessions and Tours for interested incoming kindergarten families. The additional dates are March 15 from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. and April 14 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. All are welcome to visit the school at these times and learn more about Barcroft Elementary.

A Jump Rope 4 Heart event to benefit the American Heart Association was held during the week of February 29 to March 4. Participating students jumped rope that week during P.E. classes to raise money for charity. On March 1, the PTA held its monthly meeting and several lead teachers discussed their work to revise the School Mission and Vision Statements.

On March 2, the school distributed free books to students as part of the Reading is Fundamental program and also celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with special guest readers and Seuss-inspired treats. On March 3, Barcroft hosted a Children's Science Center Family Science Night. Barcroft was one of 84 schools that submitted applications for the Family Science Night. The Children's Science Center provided hands-on activities related to science, technology, engineering and math for families.

**SAVE THE DATE EVENTS:** On March 14, to mark the end of the Third Quarter, Barcroft will host a Leonardo Learning and Math (Celebration of Pi) event. Spring Intersession classes will be held from March 28 to April 8. During Intersession, students may take time off from school or enroll in interesting Intersession classes. Barcroft's International Night celebration will be held on April 28. The Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m. We hope that you can join us for these events!

To learn more, contact our PTA President Tara McCabe at [tscm04@gmail.com](mailto:tscm04@gmail.com).

#### Important Dates:

Leonardo Learning and Math event, March 14th

International Night, April 28th | Spring Concert, May 5th



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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

The students at KW Barrett Elementary have been busy learning as they enjoy better weather and steam toward Spring Break.

March 3rd marked the 100th day of school, which younger students used as a chance to count, sort, and work on understanding the calendar. After a long weekend for Parent-Teacher Conferences, the students will return ready for Women's History Month. Our Roving Readers will share stories of women in history and other lessons will focus on women's contributions to society.

On March 17th, Barrett will celebrate our marquee event, STEAM Night, in which students get the chance to show off their Science Fair projects. There will also be several hands-on activities and programs focused on science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Parents are encouraged to come and learn, too!

Parents should also be gearing up for the big PTA auction, which is our biggest fundraiser of the year. This year's auction will be April 29 and we are still gathering items for bidding!

#### Important Dates:

STEAM Night, March 17th | Spring Break, March 21-27  
PTA Meeting, April 5th | PTA Auction, April 29th



## Earth Day is Friday, April 22nd



Students work on a puzzle with 100 pieces as part of their 100 day celebration! (Photo credit: Jen Flores)



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# Kids for Hire

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

## Southside:

- Daniel O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, [tomara@teamcfw.com](mailto:tomara@teamcfw.com), 703-769-3767
- Ethan O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, [tomara@teamcfw.com](mailto:tomara@teamcfw.com), 703-769-3767
- Sophia Polisar: babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, [sophiapolisar@gmail.com](mailto:sophiapolisar@gmail.com), 571-429-2289
- Caroline Rogers: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, [carolinearogers@verizon.net](mailto:carolinearogers@verizon.net), 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers: babysitting (RC certified), yard work, [juliaerogers23@gmail.com](mailto:juliaerogers23@gmail.com), 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan: babysitting (RC certified, references), pet sitting, [jontiernan16@gmail.com](mailto:jontiernan16@gmail.com)
- Liz Tiernan: babysitting (RC certified, references), pet sitting, [lizzytiernan@gmail.com](mailto:lizzytiernan@gmail.com)

## Greenbrier Section:

- CeCe and Zephren Collinson: babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, plant watering, mail collection, 703-528-3595
- Donna Corina: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-248-8885
- Mary Corina: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-248-8885
- Allison Ferrell: babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, [Allisonrocket@aol.com](mailto:Allisonrocket@aol.com), 703-276-2840
- Ethan Hall: babysitting (RC certified), snow shoveling, leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, [k.hall.b@verizon.net](mailto:k.hall.b@verizon.net), 302-650-4428
- Bridget Holt: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, 703-465-0580

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

## Northside:

- Daniel Brancati: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, car washing (in your driveway), [daniel@barms.org](mailto:daniel@barms.org), 703-243-1916
- Laura Brancati: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, [laura@barms.org](mailto:laura@barms.org), 703-243-1916
- Alex Brown: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [alexhutchinsb@gmail.com](mailto:alexhutchinsb@gmail.com), 703-314-8840
- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting age 4-12, yard work, [riittishachoudhary@gmail.com](mailto:riittishachoudhary@gmail.com)
- Ely Constantine: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [cpconstantine@comcast.net](mailto:cpconstantine@comcast.net), 703-841-9229
- Sophia Constantine: pet sitting, dog walking, [srconstantine@comcast.net](mailto:srconstantine@comcast.net), 703-841-9229
- Fiona Hickey: babysitting (RC certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey: babysitting, 703-351-7013
- Olivia Kennett: babysitting (RC certified), 571-277-4441
- Tenley Kennett: plant watering, dog walking (25 lbs. max), 571-277-4441
- Alyssa Luz-Ricca: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, [alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:catharinevernon@aol.com), 703-522-9147
- Gabby Young: babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, [merrywesing@yahoo.com](mailto:merrywesing@yahoo.com), 703-622-4229

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