

# The Arlington Forester



Volume 54, Number 6

Arlington, VA

March 2013

## Presentation on Arlington Economic Development by John Naland

The guest speaker at this month's AFCA meeting will be Tom Parker, Arlington County's director of Economic Development. Mr. Parker will give a presentation on the 50 year history of Arlington's "Smart Growth" policy, from the early debates on "what to do with Rosslyn" in the early 1960s, to the decisions concerning Metro station locations and the following decades of planning that continue to shape and define Arlington.

During the Q&A period, residents can ask about current issues such as the connection between the approval of large condo projects and the enrollment increases that our public

schools face for the remainder of this decade and beyond. The meeting is this Wednesday, March 20 at 7 PM in the Barrett School library. All Arlington Forest residents are welcome at AFCA meetings which rarely last longer than one hour.

Please see the calendar on page 10 for the schedule of other upcoming AFCA-sponsored activities and community events including the third annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup taking place the morning of Saturday, April 27. For a report on last month's meeting with Dominion Virginia Power, see the article below.

## Dominion Power Presentation by John Naland

Representatives from Dominion Virginia Power briefed a well-attended AFCA meeting last month on what Dominion is doing to ensure reliable power distribution in our neighborhood.

During the presentation followed by an extended Q&A period, the Dominion reps discussed future projects including re-routing the power feed to Southside Arlington Forest to make it less vulnerable to disruption. They reported that Dominion trims trees around power lines on a three-year cycle. They also said that Arlington customers over the next four years will be receiving "smart meters" which, among other features, will automatically notify Dominion of power interruptions. Residents' suggestions about burying all neighborhood power lines were characterized as being prohibitively expensive.

Much of the presentation focused on the challenges that Dominion faces. For example, the early February power outage in the Greenbrier section after a minor wind storm was caused by the fall of a tall tree that stood outside of ease-

ment in which Dominion is allowed to trim. Also, each of the three sections of Arlington Forest is on an electrical line of a different voltage (depending on the state-of-the-art when they were installed). Thus, it is not possible to simply connect one section to another so that power can be re-routed during an outage in one section.

The Dominion reps also said that it is a challenge keeping up with street light repair requests ....continued page 3

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Good Samaritans.....2	Around the Forest.....9
AF Gardening Tips.....3	Calendar/Exchange.....10
AF Online.....4	Nature News.....11
Tree Tour.....5	School News.....12-13
Spring Cleanup.....7	Kids for Hire.....14

*AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. March 20 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 events or issues specific to our neighborhood. The next deadline is April 4 for the issue to be distributed April 13-14. E-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space fills up, so check in advance if you wish to submit a long article.

## Good Samaritans

By John Naland

A storm earlier this winter blew two trees down across the trail leading from the N. Edison Street playground to Lubber Run Park. I e-mailed the County park maintenance supervisor about it on Sunday. On Monday morning, he sent out a work crew which found that some Good Samaritan had already used a chainsaw to clear the trail.

Acts of community spirit such as that are not uncommon in our neighborhood. For decades, one resident has cared for the historic Holly tree in the traffic circle near the Arlington Forest Shopping Center. Another neighbor cuts down summer weeds down along the service road between S. Columbus Street and S. Edison Street. Another neighbor often returns from walks along the WO&D trail carrying litter plucked from the stream bank. When it snows, a resident of N. Edison Street shovels the sidewalk all the way down to Arlington Blvd. And each April, scores of residents participate in the AFCA-sponsored cleanup of public spaces around our neighborhood.

Those, of course, are just examples that have come to my attention. I am sure that dozens of other Good Samaritans around our neighborhood pitch in from time to time to help maintain the beauty of our public spaces. Even simple actions such as picking up trash that fell in front of your house while being transferred from the cart on trash day help to keep our streets and streams clean.

Not only does Arlington Forest have many residents who actively work to make our shared spaces nicer, but we have few residents who counteract the good works of others. For example, I see far less litter along the Lubber Run Park trails that are used primarily by Arlington Forest residents than I see along the WO&D trail which draws users from afar.

Of course, there is always room for improvement. Long-time readers of this newsletter will recall occasional letters to the editor highlighting the problem of un-scooped poop along our sidewalks. While a small percentage could be from foxes, deer, or possums, the majority is from dogs whose walkers fail to clean up as required by County ordinance. And while some Good Samaritans will kindly pick up and properly discard a piece of trash that someone thoughtlessly dropped, the same is not true for a deposit left by someone else's dog.



# Arlington Forest Gardening Tips

The following question and answer is adapted from a January posting on the AF Mom's listserv.

**Q:** I'm planning a vegetable garden for the spring and, as a new resident to Arlington Forest, I'm looking for tips about what other residents have found in terms of conditioning the soil, what grows well (and doesn't) and anything else anyone would like to share. Thanks in advance!

**A:** Welcome to the neighborhood. Sun and drainage I guess. Now's a good time to mark places that have good and poor drainage, winter being the time when water is most apt to pool. When I plan a garden I find a can of landscape spray paint is handy. It's temporary, but allows you to go back to your planning after a week of doing something else. Anywhere water pools after a winter rain or melt, spray paint the area. Don't plant anything that requires good to superior drainage there unless you want to build raised beds -- eight to sixteen inches high sometimes.

Do a soil test for pH and minerals. There are a lot of pine and oak trees here and their leaves and needles can acidify the soil under them. The soil in my yard has been slightly alkaline. Even grass, which likes a neutral pH, has benefited more from an application of sulphur than of lime.

Draw lines with landscape paint of another color to show sunny and shady areas. Unfortunately summer is the best time to do this, but bare trees will still show shady spots. Last I looked, the "Satellite" layer for our neighborhood on Google Maps is from summer. A bird's eye view like that may help. Where the two spray paint colors overlap are the best places to grow something besides grass. Take the property plat or diagram they gave you at closing, make a copy, apply clear graph paper if you want, laminate the copy and use a grease pencil to draw in the areas you've spray painted, i.e. rough planning.

I've had success with mostly shallow-rooted crops in raised beds, since our yard has abysmal drainage: asparagus, onions, kiwi, passion flower, garlic, pumpkins. Water-loving and shade-tolerant plants have done well: lilac, mountain mint, hellebore, azalea, joe pye weed, angelica, ferns, and juniper species. Cultivated mushrooms have grown well, on logs set on the ground. Herbs that require lots of sun and superior drainage I have lost in legion: basil, parsley, celery, sorrel, bay, caraway, fennel, you name it.

I use a gas-powered tiller in new beds, then I don't till again. Mulch mulch mulch, from October to February. Two invasive plants that come to mind are Creeping Charlie and Manhattan Euonymous. The latter grows as a bush to ten feet high, usually planted as a privacy screen along fences, evergreen, and it grows prodigiously, though only where planted. Use hedge pruners on it and it will serve its purpose as a privacy screen, and birds like to nest in it. Manhattan Euonymous, often mistaken for ivy, grows

up and covers tree trunks, rotting the bark and killing the tree. Creeping Charlie will take over your lawn. Identify the source, usually along fence lines where it doesn't get mowed, and attack it with a dethatcher, metal rake, or kneel and start pulling it up. This won't eradicate it from the advancing edge ten or twenty feet away, but it's a good start.

Then I take fresh lawn clippings or fresh wood chips and dump them where I just pulled up the Charlie and the clippings or chips do a serviceable job of robbing it of nitrogen. Mulch buries it for a time but then feeds it and it returns with vigor. I have not and will never spray to get rid of it.

Lawn care is another chapter. Thanks for reading.

Cheers, Steve Bell

## Dominion Power ...from page 1



since an average of 75 are called in every day in Arlington County (about 90 percent of the street lights in Arlington are serviced by Dominion).

Several long-time residents observed that our power outages have been more frequent in recent years than in past decades. They noted that many Arlington Forest trees are nearly 75 years old and are increasingly susceptible to the adverse effects of disease and drought. The Dominion reps invited residents to report any dead, diseased, damaged or leaning trees that threaten power lines by calling the Dominion forestry line at 571-203-5026 to request tree trimming. The Dominion reps also urged that tall tree varieties not be planted under power lines.

The Dominion website at [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com) features a lot of information on Dominion's tree trimming program, the causes of power outages, how Dominion prioritizes repair efforts following a major storm, and the pros and cons of burying power lines. Dominion's customer service center can be reached at 1-866-DOM-HELP (1-866-366-4357).

## Arlington Forest Online

By John Naland

There is more going on than can fit in this newsletter. These websites and e-mail lists that can keep you informed:

**AFCA Website:** AFCA's official website at <http://www.arlingtonforestva.org/>. Webmaster Laura Smialowicz posts a variety of current and historical neighborhood-related information, including a detailed neighborhood map, the 1987 homeowner's maintenance manual, and back issues of the Arlington Forester.

**AFCA Listserv:** Your neighborhood association's listserv typically sends one or two messages per month about neighborhood issues and AFCA activities. To join the 400+ member listserv, e-mail your street address to [Arlington-Life@gmail.com](mailto:Arlington-Life@gmail.com).

**AF Moms Listserv:** This listserv focuses on Arlington Forest household and family issues. The listserv averages 250 messages per month which can be received individually or in one-a-day batches. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AFMoms/join>.

**LRA:** The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation's Facebook page "Lubber Run Amphitheater" will soon provide details of the upcoming summer performances.

**AF Memories:** The Facebook group "I Grew Up in Arlington Forest" has nearly 90 members who share reminiscences of life in the Forest in past decades along with vintage photos.

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# Neighborhood Tree Tour

By Kenny Kraft

Over 10 Arlington Forest neighbors recently pooled their resources to hire professional arborist Ed Milhous of TreesPlease to inspect their trees for any disease or insect problems, provide advice on tree preservation and landscape maintenance as well as discuss any needs for tree trimming and removal. Ed spoke at the January AFCA meeting about the challenges of maintaining healthy trees in our suburban environment, especially after last year's derecho and Hurricane Sandy toppled so many trees across the region.

Interested in learning more about their own trees, neighbors gathered together on a cold Saturday in early March and walked from house to house as Ed diagnosed specific concerns and discussed general issues that helped us all better understand our neighborhood forest.

For example, we learned to spot strong branches and healthy tree bases as well as the work of a novice tree-trimmer. We identified White Oaks and Black Gums as excellent trees to plant in our neighborhood as well as the Ailanthus or "Tree of Heaven" as a tree to avoid. We learned how to properly expose the base of a Japanese Red Maple that might otherwise have been choked by its radial roots as well as a recipe for spreading moss (blend it with buttermilk!).

While we all hoped to save our trees, Ed also gave candid advice when he believed a tree should be removed to protect homes and surrounding trees. Several of the AF residents may again work in concert to hire one of Ed's recommended tree-trimming agencies to address some of the more serious concerns.

All in a well, the neighborhood tree tour was a great success. Not only did we learn a great deal about our individual trees, but we also built a bit more community amongst our neighbors in Arlington Forest. Wouldn't want to miss the forest for the trees!



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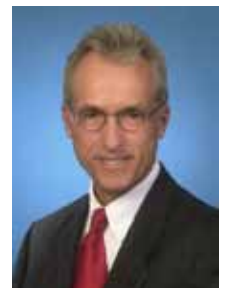


Do you know someone thinking of buying, selling or renting? The spring market is heating up! Give Lauren, your neighbor and Arlington Forest expert, a call today!



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## Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

By John Naland

Our third annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup will take place Saturday, April 27, from 9 to 11 AM. We will pick up trash, remove invasive plants, and otherwise beautify public spaces around our neighborhood. Please mark your calendar and plan to join your neighbors in improving our shared environment.

Again this year, we will be joined by Cub Scout Pack 548 and members of Boy Scout Troop 648. Do you have a child who sees the value of protecting our environment? Maybe they also need to log volunteer hours for school or church or could use an activity to list on those eventual scholarship and college applications. If so, their help is welcome.

The confirmed cleanup sites are: the Lubber Run streambed above the amphitheater, the Arlington Blvd southside buffer strip, the N. 2nd Street traffic circles, the N. Granada trailhead area, and the wooded area near the N. Edison Street playground.

In addition, the County's invasive plant control specialist has agreed to participate in our cleanup day to remove invasive plants in the area along Carlin Springs Road between the historic Mary Carlin House (on N 1st Place) and the WO&D trail. We need at least four volunteers in order to make the desired progress, so please contact John Naland at [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com) by March 31 if you can help out at this site.

Finally, we are still looking for volunteers to step forward now to agree to serve as coordinators at two sites: the Arlington Blvd northside buffer strip and Four Mile Run at the foot of S. Park. Coordinator duties only consist of keeping the other volunteers generally pointed in the right direction on cleanup day. If no coordinator steps forward, the site will not be included in this year's cleanup. To volunteer, e-mail [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com) by March 31.

See next month's newsletter for final details on cleanup day activities.

## Pack 548 News

Arlington Forest's Cub Scout Pack 548 held its Pinewood Derby on Saturday, February 23 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 825 South Taylor St., Arlington (see accompanying photo). There were 36 Scouts from first to fifth grade that participated in the speed and design competitions. There were some very fast cars and some very interesting designs include pirate ships, water skis and a grand piano! In June the Pack will be camping at the McMillan Woods Youth Campground on the Gettysburg National Military Park to learn about the famous battle (that was almost 150 years ago). Any parent interested in Cub Scouts can contact Carey Johnston, [johnston.carey@verizon.net](mailto:johnston.carey@verizon.net), for more information.



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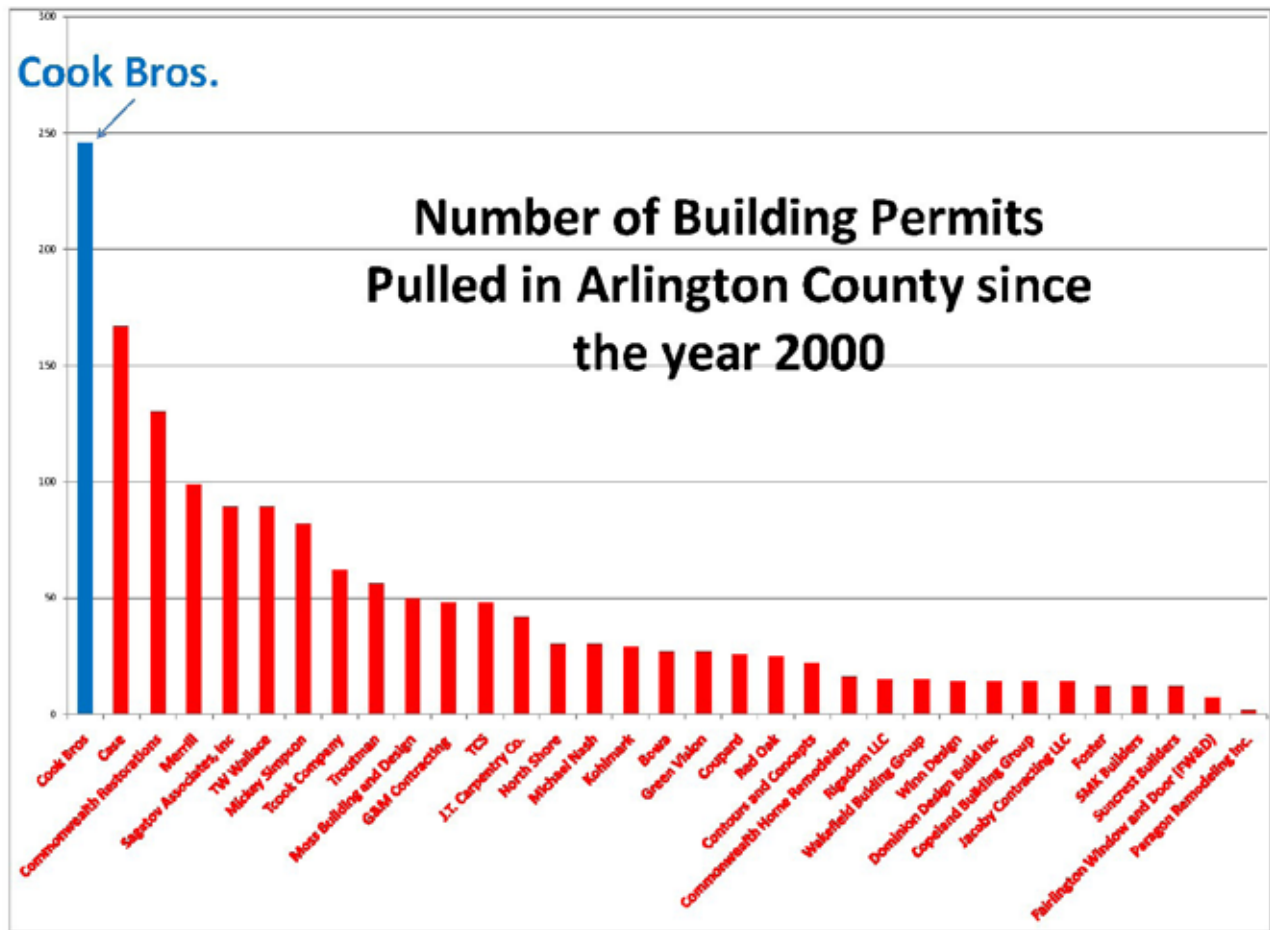
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# Around the Forest

**Annual Community Yard Sale:** This year's yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 18. Check next month's newsletter for tips on how to turn unwanted stuff to cash.

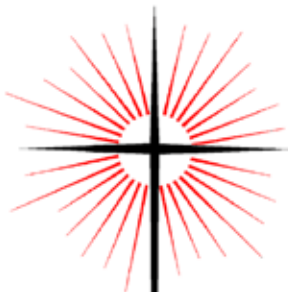
**Tree Grant Program:** As detailed in last month's newsletter, AFCA is offering matching grants to Arlington Forest residents interested in planting a shade tree on their property. Grants of up to \$125 will cover one-half of the cost of buying and planting a tree. There is a limit of two grants per property and the application must be approved before the purchase of the tree. For details and the application form, see Tree Grant Program Application on the AFCA website ([www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)) under the AFCA tab.

**Right Turn Warning:** Earlier this year, the County quietly switched numerous intersection signs from "no turn on red when pedestrians present" to "no turn on red 7 AM-7 PM". The new sign locations include Carlin Springs at Glebe and Carlin Springs at Arlington Blvd. Police are actively ticketing those who disobey the signs. Bottom line: check the signs at even familiar intersections before you turn on red.

**E-CARE:** Saturday, April 20, 8:30 AM to 3 PM in the Thomas Jefferson Middle School parking lot. Safely dispose of hazardous household materials (paint, motor oil, lawn chemicals, household cleaners, propane gas cylinders, etc),

computer monitors, and televisions -- items that the County will not pick up during regular weekly trash collection. During the semi-annual event, you can also recycle small metal items, electronics, eyeglasses, and durable medical equipment. Serviceable bikes will be collected by Bikes for the World to be sent to countries where they are needed for basic transportation. The group Art for Humanity will collect "gently used" but functional clothing, linens, shoes, microwaves, rugs, mattresses, bed frames, and kitchen items. For more info, visit [www.arlingtonva.us/recycle](http://www.arlingtonva.us/recycle).

**Cutbacks Proposed at Nature Center:** Cutbacks at the Long Branch Nature Center are included in the County Manager's proposed 2014 budget that was presented to the County Board on February 23. The proposal would eliminate the Natural Resources Specialist position which would reduce the number of nature programs available to residents. The proposal would also reduce nature center hours, temporary staffing, and operating supplies leaving the center open just four and a half days per week. The County Board will hold a Budget Hearing on March 26, at 7:00 PM, at which the public is invited to speak (advance registration is required). See the County website for details.



## Want to make a connection with God?

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

*-Reverend Ann Barker, Rector*

### Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

- Sun. Mar. 24** Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms - 8 am and 10 am
- Thurs. Mar. 28** Loaves & Fishes Meal & Service - 6:30 to 8 pm
- Fri. Mar. 29** Good Friday Services - 12 noon and 7 pm
- Sun. Mar. 31** Easter Holy Eucharist - 8 am  
Easter Festive Holy Eucharist with children's message - 10 am  
Easter Egg Hunt and reception after the 10 am service

### Book Club - 7:30 pm

**Tues. Mar. 5** *Beyond the Beautiful Forever* by Katherine Boo

**Tues. Apr. 2** *Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey* by The Countess of Carnavoni

**All are welcome to all services and activities! Visit our new expanded website.**

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## Community Calendar

**Next AFCA Meeting:** Wednesday, Mar 20, 7 PM, at Barrett School library. See page 1 for the agenda.

**Future AFCA Meetings:** Apr 17 and May 15 (annual membership picnic in Lubber Run Park). No meetings are held in summer months.

**E-CARE:** April 20 at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Drop off hazardous household materials and recycle bikes and other items.

**Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:** April 27. Our third annual volunteer clean-up of public spaces around Arlington Forest. See page 7 for details.

**Annual Community Yard Sale:** May 18. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

**Taste of Arlington:** May 19 in front of Ballston Mall.

**Lubber Run Amphitheater 2013 Season:** Live entertainment under the stars resumes in June. See next month's newsletter for a preview.

**Arlington County Fair:** August 7-11. Carnival rides and good eats. See <http://arlingtoncountyfair.us/>



Earth Day 2013 is April 22

## Forest Exchange

**Pool Memberships:** Arlington Forest residents who are on the wait list for the AFC pool are welcome to join the Glen Forest Community Pool at 3300 Kaywood Place, Falls Church, VA. Just around the corner in Baileys Crossroads, the Glen Forest pool is a place to seek refuge from the summer heat at a reasonable price. Amenities include partially shaded toddler pool, limited snack and drink bar, private wooded park with picnic tables, and BBQ pits. You can find info and application forms at the Glen Forest website (<http://www.gfca.us/>). More info plus pictures are available at the pool's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Glen-Forest-Community-Pool/287353708121>. If you have questions, please contact Karen at [kkhaworth@gmail.com](mailto:kkhaworth@gmail.com) or 571-259-1413.

**Kids for Hire:** Need reasonably-priced help with babysitting, yard work, pet sitting, or other tasks? Check out Kids for Hire on page 14.

**AFCA Listserv:** Follow late-breaking neighborhood news by joining the AFCA listserv by e-mailing your address to [ArlingtonLife@gmail.com](mailto:ArlingtonLife@gmail.com).

**Put Your Free Notice Here:** Send it by April 4 to [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org).

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# Nature News

By Cliff Fairweather  
Park Naturalist,  
Long Branch  
Nature Center

## The Quickening Pace

Nature's calendar gets crowded in the spring. Already, wood frogs, spotted salamanders and other amphibians have mated and

laid their eggs, while tiny spring peepers are making a big sound in local wetlands. Spring beauty, cut-leaf toothwort, bloodroot and many other early spring wildflowers have flowered or are doing so now. These wildflowers have only a few short weeks of sunshine before trees leaf out and shade the forest floor.

Overwintering queen bumblebees shake off their dormancy as temperatures rise to visit those wildflowers for pollen and nectar to feed their broods. In the process, they, along with other native bees, flies and even beetles, pollinate the flowers. Early butterflies, such as mourning cloaks, question marks and commas have been making appearances on warm days. They will be followed by a succession of sulphurs, swallowtails, fritillaries, skippers and other butterflies in search of nectar and mates.

Eastern phoebes and other early spring migratory songbirds are showing up in parks and backyards. They are the

vanguard of millions of songbirds that will pour through our area in the coming weeks. Some, such as wood thrushes and catbirds, stay in our area to nest, while others press further north to their breeding ranges. Many year-round resident song birds, such as chickadees, cardinals and robins, have already set up territories and begun nesting.

All of this could be going on in a local park near you. Even small neighborhood parks play host to the rush of nature's spring activity. To help you discover these wonders, Arlington County nature centers and Arlington Regional Master Naturalists have teamed up to launch our Roving Naturalist program. Under this program, trained volunteer naturalists will conduct free nature walks with a seasonal theme in smaller county parks not served by one of the nature centers.

These walks will be scheduled and announced on park kiosks, in community newsletters, on the nature center's Facebook and website pages and at other venues. We plan to get started in April, so watch for announcements.

As always, nature abounds at the Long Branch Nature Center which is currently open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and Saturday, 1 to 5 PM. Please check the newsletter *The Snag* on the County website for a list of the many programs for children and adults.



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# Barcroft School News

On March 7, Barcroft Elementary students, parents, staff, and neighbors learned that our beloved principal of 20 years, **Miriam D. Hughey-Guy**, will be retiring at the end of the school year. We wish her only the best in her new endeavors. She will be sorely missed by all. She will leave us with many happy memories, and a legacy of academic excellence and professional integrity. We will treasure always her positive example and influence that exemplified her tenure at Barcroft. Planning for the retirement party of the century is already in the preliminary phases. More details to follow soon.

Between March 8 to April 1, students will break from regular classes and may take morning and afternoon **Spring Intersession** classes at the school from March 11 to 22. Intersession is a wonderful time for students to further explore areas of interest in-depth. Courses offered cover such topics as French, geometry, bicycling, ocean life, and Masters painters.

All students will then enjoy Spring Break from March 25 to April 1. Students may enroll in the school's **Fitness and Nutrition (FAN) Camp** during Spring Break between March 25 to 28.

Classes will resume on April 2 and Third Quarter Report Cards will be handed out shortly thereafter. Fifth Graders will take the **Virginia Standards of Learning** Writing Test when they return during April 3 to 5.

The next **PTA meeting**, on April 16, will consider several important agenda items. The PTA membership will vote on a set of revised by-laws, consistent with the Virginia PTA's requirement to update the by-laws every 5 years.

Moreover, spring fundraisers will be highlighted, including a **Plant Sale** in April and a Stella and Dot jewelry and handbag fund-raiser during early May. **Spring Picture Day** will be April 26 with both individual and class portraits.

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft, go to <http://www.apsva.us/Page/13363>. Like us at: <https://www.facebook.com/BarcroftElementary>.



**DID YOU KNOW?:** Blue Jays feathers aren't actually blue. The blue color comes from the way their feathers refract light. The pigment in the feathers are really brown.

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**Holy Thursday Communion 3/28, 7:30 p.m.**

**Good Friday Service, 3/29, 12 noon**

**Easter Worship, 8:30 & 11, Pot Luck Breakfast 9:30-11**

**Community Easter Egg Hunt, Sun. 4/7 12:30p.m., Home of Lily the Bunny**

**Come to worship at 11 a.m. and then stay for the Hunt!**

**Chesterbrook Montessori School now enrolling.**

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# Barrett School News

Even with weather challenges and competing events that same evening, **Family Gym Night** on February 22 was a hit! Families chose from several fun activities: yoga, Zumba, Fitness Boot Camp, Heart Bingo, and Gym Games.

Over 1,000 people attended Barrett's exciting **Discovery STEM Night** on February 28. Families enjoyed talks by astronaut Leland Melvin and NASA Program Executive of Mars and Lunar Exploration George Tahu, Angry Birds launching, the Human Hamster Ball, a meteorite display, a display and discussion of Mars rovers, measurement activities, the STEM Book Fair, and all of the wonderful science projects by Barrett students.

Congratulations to Barrett's eight **Odyssey of the Mind** teams that participated with over 100 other elementary school teams in the regional competition on March 2.

On March 20, **Roving Readers** will visit classrooms to share their favorite books about groundbreaking women in celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month. If you would like to become a Roving Reader, please contact [rosa.briceno@apsva.us](mailto:rosa.briceno@apsva.us).

Barrett's **Used Book Sale** is April 18 in conjunction with the Arts and Writer's Fair. We are collecting gently used books, videos, DVDs, CDs, board games, and puzzles. Donations are welcome (collection box in Barrett lobby) from the community and Barrett families. The Used Book Sale

is a wonderful opportunity for students, parents, staff and neighbors to purchase books at low costs.

Mark your calendars for the Third annual **Barrett 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run** on April 20. We invite the community to join us to run, walk and cheer our runners. For details and to register visit <http://barrett5k.jimdo.com>. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Lori Engelken at [lori.engelken@verizon.net](mailto:lori.engelken@verizon.net).

Don't miss a movie screening of "**Stacker**" at the Arlington Cinema and Draft House on May 5. One of the featured stackers, former Barrett student William Polly, became the World US Sport Stacking Champion. Proceeds will be split between Barrett and William's current school, Jefferson Middle.

## Upcoming Events:

- Spring Musical, Thurs., March 21 (1:30 and 7 p.m.)
- Spring Break/Teacher Work Day, March 25-April 1
- PTA Meeting, Tues., April 2
- Monday Morning Movers, April 8, 7:45 a.m.
- Kindergarten Info Session, Thurs., April 11 (12:45)
- Used Book Sale/Arts & Writer's Fair, Thurs., April 18
- Barrett 5K and Fun Run, Sat., April 20
- Earth Week, week of April 22
- Library Night, Tuesday, April 23

2012 was a pivotal year for the real estate market, both nationally and locally. Consumer confidence increased and interest rates eased down from about 4% at the first of the year to 3.5% at years' end.

The real estate market in the DC Metro area continued to strengthen in 2012. Northern Virginia's median prices increased from \$344,750 to \$385,000 while detached homes increased from \$450,000 to \$500,000.

For all residential property types Arlington County saw the median prices drop from \$513,500 to \$475,000 while the median detached home prices increased from \$644,100 to \$703,500.

Arlington Forest saw the average sales price increase from a median of \$605,000 with 26 homes closed in 2011 to \$609,900 with 35 homes closed in 2012. Arlington Forest hasn't seen a high turnover rate of homes with large additions although the highest price in 2011 was \$712,500 and in 2012 the high was \$975,000.

**Looking to maximize value for your home?** I can help you with advice on smart improvements! Below are a few stats from the 2013 Cost vs. Value report. Nationwide, stabilized home values and decreased construction costs played a role in the improved remodeling market and costs decreased about 1.9% overall. The central Atlantic region did better than the national average.

For mid-range projects one of the most popular is the kitchen remodel in the top 10 category. In the Washington DC area the average minor kitchen remodel had a job cost of \$18,608 with a resale value of \$16,799 at about a 90% cost recouped. (The cost recouped could be greater when other consistent improvements are factored in). The highest cost recouped in Washington DC was a wood deck addition at a job cost of \$9,455 and a resale value of \$10,282 = 108.7%. It is interesting that a composite deck addition yielded only an 87.5% return at an average cost of \$14,697 and a resale value of \$13,103. If you want a copy of this report let me know and I can mail fax or email it to you!



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# Kids for Hire

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

## Southside:

- Caroline Rogers, pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, snow shoveling, [carolinearogers@verizon.net](mailto:carolinearogers@verizon.net), 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), yard work, snow shoveling, [juliaerogers23@gmail.com](mailto:juliaerogers23@gmail.com), 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, yard work, snow shoveling, [Wonton81@gmail.com](mailto:Wonton81@gmail.com), 703-979-5046
- Liz Tiernan, babysitting (RC certified-my brother and I will babysit together. Two for the price of one!), dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, [lizzytiernan@gmail.com](mailto:lizzytiernan@gmail.com), 703-979-5046

## Greenbrier Section:

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

- Kate Felsenheld, pet sitting, dog walking, [k.cliffhero@gmail.com](mailto:k.cliffhero@gmail.com), 703-276-9874
- Alex Hendel, babysitting (RC certified), experienced Tot Camp counselor (High school student), snow shoveling, [alexhendel@gmail.com](mailto:alexhendel@gmail.com), 703-622-2884
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, [Stealers12@gmail.com](mailto:Stealers12@gmail.com), 703-243-8777
- Alice Naland, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, snow shoveling, [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com), 703-888-0125
- Lucy Naland, babysitting (RC certified), [LucyMNLand@gmail.com](mailto:LucyMNLand@gmail.com), 703-888-0125
- Katherine Taylor, babysitting (RC certified), 703-525-0148

## Northside:

- Northside yard work trio: Leo Horwitz, Zhibek Phillips and Kara Shapiro, [leahorwitz.com](mailto:leahorwitz.com), 703-243-2395
- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, [cpconstantine@comcast.net](mailto:cpconstantine@comcast.net), 703-841-9229
- Sophie Frank, babysitting (RC certified), tutoring, [sophie.e.frank@gmail.com](mailto:sophie.e.frank@gmail.com), 703-859-0722
- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (RC certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013
- Alyssa Luz-Ricca, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, [alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com), 571-274-1453.
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), 703-276-9046
- Bo Sampson, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, tutoring, [bo.i.samps@gmail.com](mailto:bo.i.samps@gmail.com), 703-447-7678
- Allison Vernon, pet sitting, babysitting (references), [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

## All Neighborhoods:

- Julia Franchi, babysitting (RC certified), mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, 703-220-4894

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