

The Arlington Forester



Volume 54, Number 3

Arlington, VA

November 2012

November AFCA Meeting Agenda

by John Naland

Local crime trends top the agenda of this month's Arlington Forest Citizens Association meeting on Wednesday, November 14, at 7 PM in the Barrett School library. Officer O'Daniel of the Arlington County Police Department will give an overview of recent trends, discuss crime prevention strategies, and then answer questions from meeting participants. See a related story on page 5.

Also on the agenda is a vote on the next project to propose for funding by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee. Our previous NCAC project was the \$485,000 improvement to the playground in Glencarlyn Park near the end of S. Park (construction will take place next year). Now is the time to propose our next project.

In response to calls for input publicized in this newsletter

and on the AFCA listserv in recent months, seven people suggested improving/upgrading the N. Edison St. playground to make it more attractive to older children, two people suggested constructing a dog park in Lubber Run Park on the site where the swings used to be, and one person suggested replacing all of the street lights in Arlington Forest.

Residents with additional input should send it to Tim O'Leary, Arlington Forest's Neighborhood Conservation Representative, at tfoleary310@gmail.com by November 11. Please attend the November 14 AFCA meeting to vote for your preferred project.

Finally, AFCA meeting participants will also likely discuss the extended power outages that followed Hurricane Sandy.

Last Call for Dues

The annual AFCA dues drive that began in September ends this month. If you have not yet sent in your \$10 dues, please clip out the coupon to the right and return it to your AFCA vice president today. Last year, 324 of the 853 households in Arlington Forest (38%) paid dues. So far this fiscal year, just 252 households (30%) have responded. Participation rates by section are Northside-31%, Southside-31%, and Greenbrier-28%.

Your dues support AFCA's activities which enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood. Examples include the annual Holiday Party (see page 4 for details), the Tree Grant program (see page 11 for details) and the printing and distribution costs of this newsletter that are not covered by advertising revenue. This year's dues will also help to fund the spring 2013 Arlington Forest Home Tour and initial planning for Arlington Forest's 75th anniversary celebration in 2014.

So please send in your annual dues today if you have not already done so.

AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES

ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

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

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

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

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

NAME: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. Nov 14 at Barrett School Library

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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

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Join AFCA listserv by e-mailing address to:
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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 January 3 for the issue to be distributed January 12-13. 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.

Neighborhood Notes

By John Naland

My family and I are getting better about preparing for multi-day power outages. After being caught short on vital supplies during winter storms several years ago and after the derecho storm this past June, we made sure to start preparing days before Hurricane Sandy hit. We stocked up on non-perishable food, topped off the car's gas tank, recharged our cell phones, and made plenty of ice for use in an ice chest.

Until after dark on the day the hurricane hit, it looked like our preparations might be unneeded. But, at about the same time that Reagan National Airport measured its highest gust of the storm (60 mph), the power went out on our block. Until our lights came back on 25 hours later, my family made good use of our emergency supplies.

While Sandy did not snap as many trees and branches in Arlington Forest as did the 70 mph derecho, parts of the Southside did lose power for three long cold days. With the power out, you could hear the hum of generators from a few houses. Other houses were quiet as people left to stay with relatives or in a hotel.

But most residents stayed put, dressed in layers, and added another blanket to their beds as nighttime temperatures dipped to the low 40s. Those with fireplaces put them to good use. Impromptu gatherings of neighbors took place as residents emerged from their powerless houses to walk around the neighborhood.

County government responded well to the emergency. Before sunrise on the day after the storm hit, I saw a police car driving through our neighborhood -- presumably checking for blocked roads or other hazardous conditions. The parks department was out quickly to clear obstructions from bike trails and parks.

More questionable was the responsiveness of Dominion Virginia Power which did not give estimates of when specific neighborhoods would see power restored -- thus leaving residents in the dark about how long they would be in the dark. Also, postings on the AF Moms listserv reported that some residents had to telephone Dominion customer service representatives several times before they inputted the outage report into their database.

Thankfully, hurricane and thunderstorm season is over for the year. But, with snow and ice season ahead, I guess it is time to buy more flashlight batteries.



*Electronic versions of
this newsletter are available
on the AFCA website:
www.arlingtonforestva.org*



Kids Halloween Parade

As pictured, dozens of little princesses, wizards and other costumed wee ones participated in the annual neighborhood Halloween parade on Saturday, October 27. Starting at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center, the parade headed to the playground at Lubber Run Community Center. Attendance was very good despite the last minute date change to beat the arrival of Hurricane Sandy. Many thanks to Jen Beer for organizing this event again this year.



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Santa's On His Way

By Chris Scheer

Arlington Forest kids of all ages get a jump on the holidays with an early visit by Santa on Friday, December 7, at the annual Arlington Forest Holiday Party in the Lubber Run Recreation Center.

The jolly old elf will arrive a 7 PM borne by an Arlington fire truck -- his traditional mode of transportation -- and he won't depart until he's had a personal chat with every child. But don't wait until 7 PM arrive! Before Santa shows, everyone will gather on the lawn along George Mason Drive to light the Lubber Run tree and wait to greet Santa's exciting arrival aboard a siren-blaring pumper. Then it's inside for live music, caroling, holiday goodies and Santa lap-sitting.

Don't forget to bring a plate of goodies to share. AFCA will provide holiday punch and a few snacks to get things started; and parents, don't forget your cameras.

This Wednesday's AFCA meeting (Barrett School library at 7 PM) will discuss planning and preparation for the Arlington Forest holiday party set for Friday, December 7, at 7 PM. Volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down, lead singing and manage activities for the kids. If you want to help or if you have a group that might provide special assistance – table crafts for kids, elf assistance for Santa,

caroling – please contact Chris Scheer at 703-276-9725 or by email at scheerjchris@gmail.com.

Holiday Party

FRIDAY DEC 7 AT 7 PM



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Crime Prevention

By John Naland

Below are suggestions gathered from various law enforcement agency websites on steps that we can take to prevent crime.

-- At home: Good locks, simple precautions, neighborhood awareness and common sense can help prevent most property crimes. Do not leave bicycles or other easily-stolen items outside. You may want to leave porch lights on at night or install motion-activated lights that come on when someone approaches the house at night.

-- Help your neighbors: Be alert to any suspicious activity outside your neighbors' houses since half of all home burglaries in the U.S. occur during the day when alert neighbors could potentially spot and report the thieves.

-- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle: If you must leave packages, GPS devices or other valuables in your car, put them in the trunk.

-- Maintain the neighborhood: Dark streets, litter and run-down areas attract criminals. Report streetlights that are out (see page 9 for details). Participate in neighborhood cleanups.

-- Take precautions in public: Stay alert and trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, leave. Carry your purse close to you, with the opening or flap

towards your body. Never leave a purse unattended in a shopping cart.

-- Whenever possible, park and walk in well-lit areas: Be aware of your surroundings, especially the people around you.

-- Carry a cell phone: If someone makes you suspicious or uncomfortable, call the police.

-- When away, make your home look "lived in": Have a friend or neighbor collect your mail and newspapers or have your service suspended while you are away. Use timers to turn lights off and on.

-- Involve all family members: Following simple rules such as "the last one in locks the door" and "store your bike when you finish riding it" can help to avoid thefts.

-- Protect credit card numbers and other personal information: Carefully dispose of receipts that have a credit card number on them. Never provide credit card information in response to unsolicited calls or emails.

-- Report all incidents: Even if the loss is minor and/or the criminals are long gone, reporting incidents allows the police to look for trends that might help to identify, arrest, and convict crooks responsible for multiple crimes. In Arlington, call 703-558-2222 for non-urgent reports. For emergencies, call 911.



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Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest

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What Arlington Forest Means to Me

By Amanda Bisnauth-Thomas

On September 30th, I was typing up an email to send to my neighbors about our annual Columbus St. block party and it made me realize that I have been living in Arlington Forest for 16 years. That makes me and my family old timers. People have moved since and we have gotten new neighbors but the spirit of the community has remained the same. My neighborhood is made up of houses, businesses and a school (Barrett Elementary) but it is not the buildings that make it special to me. It is the PEOPLE that live and work and occupy those buildings that make Arlington Forest special to me.

I have been critically ill several times and I never knew that people can be so extremely generous and supportive until it was directed to me and my family. I would like to let all those wonderful people know that they have touched our lives in numerous ways that they are not aware of. They have shown us what it means to be part of a caring and giving community. During my illness I have gotten to know my old friends better and made some new ones.

First let me say that the teachers, parents and students at Barrett Elementary are the best. They are providing a caring and nurturing environment for my son Thornton but even more so when my family was experiencing our medical crisis. Parents and teachers delivered meals to my home and provided child care when necessary and they listened when

Thornton needed to talk. I am fortunate to know each and every one of you. Your words of encouragement contributed tremendously to my speedy recovery. I treasure the stack of get well cards and the largest Valentines card I have ever received. They were done with love and caring from the students and teachers.

My neighbors what can I say you are the BEST. Every kind word, visit and expression of concern is appreciated. You all stepped up to the plate when we needed your help without us asking. This is one of most rewarding and experiences of my life and this Thanksgiving I would like to say to all of you that have touched our lives and continue to do so that we are grateful to be living in Arlington Forest neighborhood. Happy Thanksgiving.



Hurricane Sandy: Swept through the Forest on Oct 29th leaving fallen trees and branches in her wake and earned the nickname "Frankenstorm".



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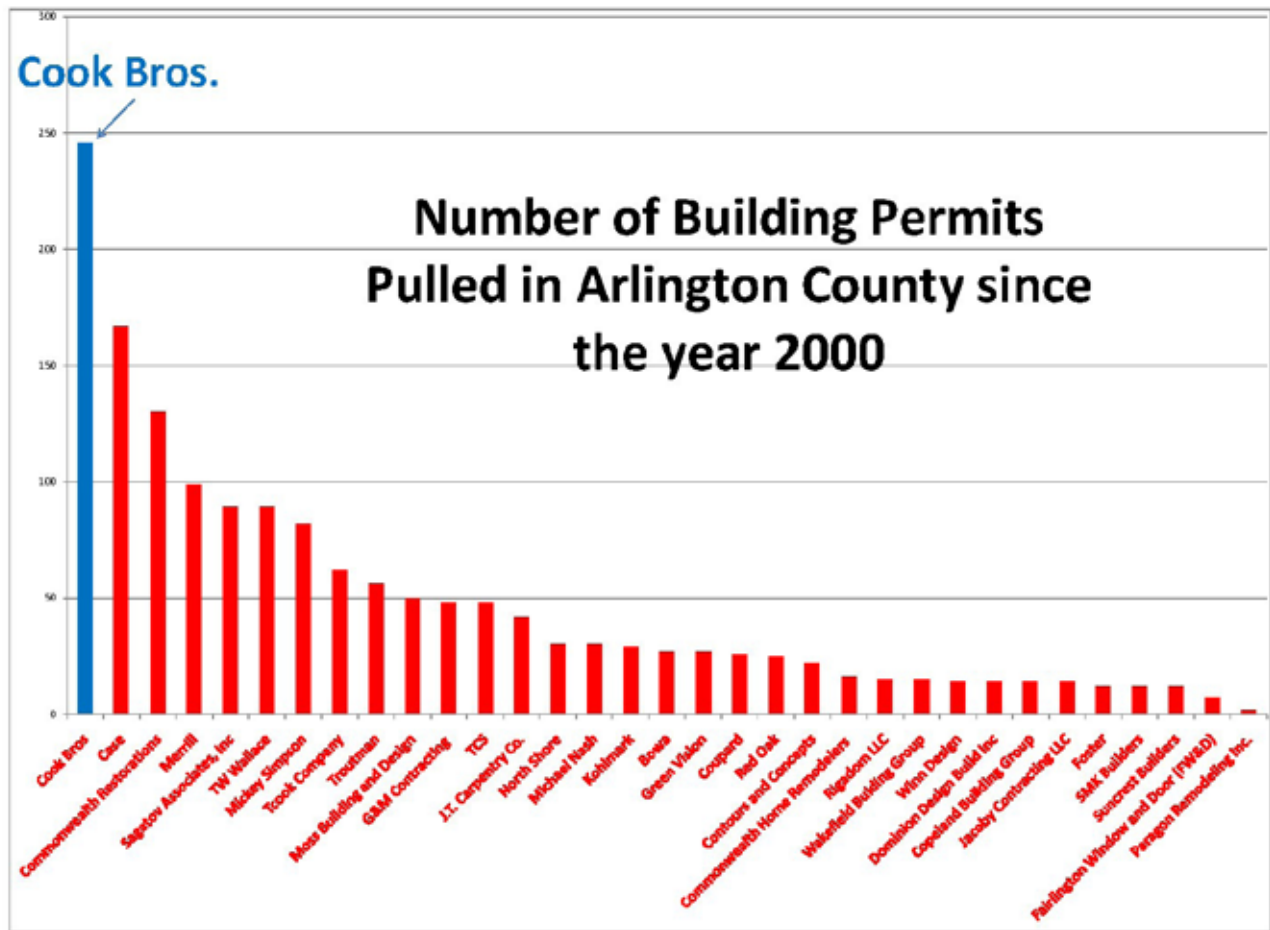
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Around the Forest

Storm Cleanup: Residents must make a special request for the County to pick up unbundled brush. Go online to <http://egov.arlingtonva.us/SolidWasteRequests/> or call 703-228-6570 to request pickup. The normal requirement for brush to be less than 18-inches in diameter has been temporarily waived. Any cut wood left at curbside is fair game for free pickup by other neighbors to use as firewood unless otherwise marked with signs.

Newsletter Delivery Crew: This newsletter is delivered to your doorstep eight times a year by one of our 15 dedicated carriers. The next time that you see these young neighbors making the rounds delivering the newsletter, please say "Thank You": Alex Brown, Sarah Brown, Spencer Brown, Ely Constantine, Alex Hendel, Colin Mashkuri, Marika Mortimer-Lotke, Chris Mutty, Justin Szczerbinski, Ryan Szczerbinski, Abigail Taylor, Katherine Taylor, Jonathan Tiernan, Jackson Towle and Truman Towle.



Cub Scouting News from Pack 548: Your Arlington Forest Cub Scout Pack is off to a great start this school year. At the October Pack meeting (see photo) the Scouts listened to a guest speaker from the Guide Dog Foundation (www.guidedog.org) and learned about why people need guide dogs, how they are trained, and what the boys should do and not do when they see a guide dog. It was a very interesting presentation and the Scouts now have a deeper awareness of the challenges faced by people with disabilities. Pack 548 is looking for new Scouts (1st through 5th grade) so please contact Cubmaster Carey Johnston at 703-243-3570 or johnston.carey@verizon.net for more info.

Arlington Villages Project: The second speaker at the October AFCA meeting explained the "Arlington Villages Project" which helps people over age 65 remain in their own homes as long as possible by coordinating social services such as daily check-in and rides to medical appointments. An article about the project appeared in the September

Arlington Forester. The project's website is arlingtonvillages.org. To get involved, contact Pete Olivere at peter.olivere@arlingtonvillages.org or at 703-626-2520.

Washington-Lee HS Holiday

Bazaar: W-L's Annual Holiday Bazaar will take place on Saturday, December 1 from 10 AM to 4 PM. More than 60 local artisans will be showing quality gift items for sale, including handcrafted jewelry, ceramics, glassware, pet items and clothing. W-L clubs and sports teams will be selling holiday greenery, poinsettias, citrus, nuts and other items. Enjoy home-made multi-ethnic food and baked goods while you shop. There will be musical performances by the Madrigals and other school musical groups. This event is sure to get you into the holiday spirit, so come get a jump on your holiday shopping. Admission is free. Free parking is available in the I-66 parking garage off Stafford St. This event is a fundraiser for W-L Class of 2013.

*Save the Date:
Washington-Lee
Holiday Bazaar
Sat, Dec 1st
10 am - 4 pm
Fundraiser for the
Class of 2013*

Better to Light One Candle ...: With the longer nights here, it is a good time to look up and down your block to see if any street lights are out. It takes only a few minutes to report an outage to the County online or by telephone. See the County website for details. While some street lights are serviced Dominion Virginia Power, reporting them to the County is supposed to initiate corrective action regardless of which entity is responsible.

Code Enforcement: Representatives of the Arlington County Code Enforcement Office gave an informative presentation at the October AFCA meeting. They reported handling 45 cases in Arlington Forest over the past year. Some began as complaints from residents regarding a neighbor's non-compliance with care of property regulations. Other cases were initiated by the Code Enforcement Office itself during quarterly block-by-block inspections of all neighborhoods. An owner who fails to correct their violation faces fines and, in extreme cases, being charged with a criminal misdemeanor. With winter coming, the Code Enforcement Office is gearing up to enforce the snow ordinance that requires residents, businesses and churches to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours after snow stops falling. They are also enforcing a recently-strengthened Code provision that prohibits leaving inoperative motor vehicles outside. A list of key Code provisions was printed on page 5 of the October *Arlington Forester* (available at www.arlingtonforestva.org under the "Newsletters" tab).

Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, Nov 14, 7 PM, at Barrett School library. See page 1 for the agenda.

Future AFCA Meetings: Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17 and May 15 (annual membership picnic in Lubber Run Park). No meetings in December or summer months.

AFCA Holiday Party: Friday, Dec 7 at Lubber Run Center. A neighborhood tradition with Santa and tables lined with treats. See page 4 for details.

Leaf and Christmas Tree Recycling: See page 11 for the schedule.

Big Snow Storm: It could come next month or not for several years, but now is the time to check your emergency supplies and preparations.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: April date TBD. Our third annual volunteer clean-up of public spaces around Arlington Forest.

Annual Community Yard Sale: May date TBD. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

Lubber Run Amphitheater 2013 Season: Live entertainment under the stars resumes in June.

Forest Exchange

Wanted: Your AFCA annual dues. Mail in the membership registration coupon on page 1 along with \$10 in annual household dues today to your AFCA section VP. Thanks!

Charity Fundraiser: Support local charities (Arlington Food Assistance Center, Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, and Doorways for Women & Families) by participating in the 7th annual Arlington Turkey Trot, hosted by Christ Church of Arlington, corner of Highland and Pershing, on Thanksgiving morning. Advance registration is required. See www.ccapca.org/turkeytrot.htm.

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

Wanted: Your neighborhood news, photos or views. E-mail submissions to John Naland at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org (maximum length is 400 words).

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

Put Your Free Notice Here: Send it by Jan 3 to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

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4701 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203, 703-525-0961

www.arlingtonforestumc.com and on Facebook

8:30 Casual Worship, Godly Play & Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Traditional Worship 11:00

Thanksgiving Cover dish Dinner, 11/22, 12 noon

Breakfast with St. Nicholas, 12/1, 9am

Children’s “Island Christmas” Musical, 12/15, 4:00pm

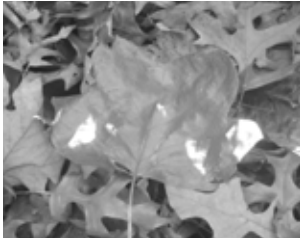
Children’s Christmas eve service 4pm, Candle-light 7pm

Montessori Primary and Toddler Programs, Now Enrolling



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Nature News



Leaf Season: Reminder, between now and mid-January, do not put leaves in plastic garbage bags or trash carts. Vacuum leaf collection in Arlington Forest is tentatively scheduled to take place Nov 12-14. Look for

notices on telephone poles for updated scheduling. The second and final vacuum collection will not occur until mid-December, so now is a great time to get your fallen leaves out to the curb. Please pile up only leaves. Biodegradable bag collection has begun and will continue until Jan 11 on the day after your regular trash pickup. Please do not include dirt, stones, litter, or other debris. See the County website for details.

AFCA Tree Grants: As detailed in last month's newsletter, a matching grant is available to Arlington Forest residents interested in planting a shade tree on their property. Available are grants of up to \$125 to cover one-half of the cost of buying and planting a tree. There is a limit of two grants per property and funding is limited to the first 10 applicants. The tree must be selected from the list of desirable shade trees endorsed by the County's Urban Forester as listed on the Tree Grant Application which is on the AFCA

website (www.arlingtonforestva.org) under the AFCA tab. The application must be approved before the purchase of the tree. For more info, contact AFCA Tree Grant Coordinator Colleen Green at greencolleen@gmail.com.

Tree Stewards: Applications are being accepted for the 2013 Class of Tree Stewards. Tree Stewards are volunteers dedicated to improving the health of our urban trees through educational programs, tree planting, demonstrations and tree maintenance. New volunteer training will be held on Wednesday evenings, starting Feb. 13 through April, with some Saturday mornings. Fun and interactive training on tree care is provided by recognized experts. For more info, visit www.TreeStewards.org or call 703-527-2349.

Christmas Tree Collection: The County's Christmas Tree collection program runs Jan 7-18 on your regular trash pickup day. Trees are ground into wood mulch, so please remove the tree stand, lights and decorations and do not place the tree in a plastic bag.

Long Branch Nature Center: Nature abounds at our nearby nature center which is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and Saturday, 1-5 PM. Check the newsletter The Snag on the County website for a list of the many programs for children and adults.

Thanks for your business!

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

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Barcroft School News

Many thanks to the Arlington Forest Citizens Association for your most generous support of the Barcroft PTA! Your \$200 donation will be used to fund student field trips.

If you still have candy leftover from Halloween, drop it off at Barcroft Elementary to benefit **Treats 4 Our Troops**. Through November 16, neighbors may drop off bagged candy, surplus Halloween candy, cards, and letters into the orange bin at the Front Office. Treats 4 Our Troops will send our donations to U.S. military personnel and to our Wounded Warriors. Cash donations will be used for shipping expenses.

Highlights for November also include a **Book Fair and Holiday Shop**, November 14-16. Start your holiday shopping before Thanksgiving this year and support a great cause – your neighborhood school! Choose from a selection of books from the Book Fair, and other goodies for everyone on your list. The Holiday Shop will be held at 6:30 p.m. on November 15. The Book Fair is open 3:00-6:00 p.m. on November 14; 3:00-8:00 p.m. on November 15; and 8:00 a.m.-noon on November 16. The **Thanksgiving** holiday is November 21-23.

In December, celebrate a wonderful 2012 with the PTA at the Clarendon Silver Diner. On Monday, December 3, between 5:00-8:00 p.m., the PTA will host a **Silver Diner**

“Moms, Dads and Grads” Night. We hope that our neighbors and esteemed alumni join us for delicious food and fabulous company!

Plan to join us at the school on Thursday, December 13 for the **Winter Concert**. Performances will include: 4th and 5th Grade Chorus, Spanish Chorus, and individual student performers. Winter Break begins December 19.

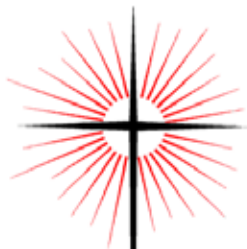
Many thanks to ALL of our wonderful neighbors who have linked their Harris Teeter VIC card to Barcroft Elementary. To help more, please link your Giant Card to Barcroft! Barcroft's ID # for the Giant A+ School Rewards Program is 02199. The program runs through March 28, 2013. Log onto www.giantfood.com/aplus to register on-line. Or dial 1 877 275 2758 for phone registration. If you do not know your 12-digit Giant Card number or if you need help, contact Meg Neill at meg.rob.neill@gmail.com.

We wish everyone safe and **happy holidays**, and we'll talk again in 2013!

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>

*Next AFCA Meeting:
Nov 14th, 7 PM at Barrett School*



Want to make a connection with God?

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

-Reverend Ann Barker, Rector

Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education

Adults 9 am — Youth 9:20 am

Book Club:

December 4 7:30 pm *A Kiss for a Yankee Dime* by Billie Jean Keith
(contact St. John's for a copy)

January 1 7:30 pm *Village School* by Miss Read

The St. John's community invites you to celebrate the birth of Christ with us.

December 16 – Children's Pageant at the 10 am service

December 23 – Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood - 6 - 7 pm followed by cocoa & cookies

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services - 5 pm family service and 11 pm

December 25 – Christmas Day Service - 10 am

December 30 – Hear the Christmas story in Bible lessons and Carols - 10 am

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

703-671-6834

stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net

Barrett School News

A lot has been happening in our community! Luckily, Barrett students were able to return to school on Wednesday, October 31. We're glad that our neighbors at Barcroft were back on track shortly after. Thank you to the Arlington Forest Civic Association for its generous donation of \$200 to the Barrett PTA. These funds will help support a quality education experience at Barrett.

Barrett held its annual **Halloween parade** on November 2. Students submitted posters and essays to compete in the Career Poster and Essay Challenge on October 31. Barrett families had a great time ice skating together at Kettler on Election Day.

Barrett's **Dogfish Head Alehouse Fundraiser** has been rescheduled to Tuesday, November 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. All day, Dogfish Head will donate 15% of their gross sales to Barrett's PTA. There will also be a raffle with great prizes. All community members are welcome!

The **Barnes and Noble Bookfair** will be held on Saturday, December 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Barnes and Noble Seven Corners. Join us at this popular annual event. Listen to your favorite teacher read a story; play games; sing songs; buy a raffle ticket; shop for the holidays and raise money for Barrett!

Volunteer Opportunity Interested in enhancing literacy in the classroom? Consider becoming a **Barrett Roving**

Reader. This popular program welcomes parents, grandparents, and other community members into the classroom as guest readers during special days. If you love children's literature, enjoy reading to groups, and believe in the power of stories for promoting positive self-esteem and appreciation of diversity, then contact Rosa Briceno (rosa.briceno@apsva.us) to find out more.

Clothing donations needed for **Barrett's clothing closet**. Specifically: leggings, sweatpants, short sleeved shirts, underwear, socks, tennis shoes, coats, jackets (new or gently used for K-5th graders only). These items can be dropped off at the front office. Contact Pamela Rodriguez at Pamela.rodriguez@apsva.us with any questions.

Upcoming Events:

- Veterans Day-No School, Nov 12
- PTA Meeting/FLES Spanish Info Night, Nov 13
- Monday Morning Movers, Nov 19
- Dogfish Head Alehouse Fundraiser, Nov 20
- Kinder Thanksgiving Feast & Blueberries Game, Nov 20
- Thanksgiving Break-No School, Nov 21-23
- Bingo Night, Dec 7 Library Night, Dec 11
- Early Release, Dec 12 Roving Readers, Dec 19
- Winter Break-No School, Dec 24-31
- PTA Meeting & Social Studies Information Night, Jan 8
- Winter Concert, Jan 10

How's the Market? The biggest factor affecting our local market this year is a higher demand and a much lower inventory of homes for sale. September 2012 activity in the local housing market has cooled slightly (which is a typical seasonal pattern) although remains above September 2011 levels. Closed sales are up 4.7% from last year and the median sales price is up 6.5% from last year (the highest September median price in five years). New contract levels are strong, up 9.6% above last year although down 6.4% from last month. The overall supply of active listings is down 43.5% from this time last year and will likely keep prices stable even as demand slows. Home prices in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range are still the most sought after for affordability although we are still experiencing multiple offers for many sectors of the market. Arlington remains one of the strongest real estate markets in the DC area.

What remodeling project in the Washington DC area provides the highest cost recouped? According to the Remodeling 2011-2012 Cost vs. Value Report (www.costvsvalue.com) an entry door replacement (steel) yields 98.1% of the estimate job cost of \$1,207 at resale. Other popular improvements are a wood deck addition yielding 91.3% (est. cost of \$10,696) and a minor kitchen remodel yielding 85.1% (est. cost of \$19,700). Check out the website for nationwide and Washington DC averages or contact me and I'll send you a hard copy or email you a PDF copy. Curious about resale values of improvements for your home? Contact me for advice on what to do (and more importantly what not to do) when investing on home improvements! If you have the desire to move up to a larger home, or just move in general, now is a great time to take advantage of the buying power today's rates offer.



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Kids for Hire

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

Southside:

- Caroline Rogers, pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, carolinearogers@verizon.net, 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), leaf raking, snow shoveling, juliaerogers23@gmail.com, 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, yard work, snow shoveling, 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, 703-979-5046

Greenbrier Section:

- Zephren Collinson, babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-528-3595
- Kate Felsenheld, pet sitting, dog walking, k.cliffhero@gmail.com, 703-276-9874

- Alex Hendel, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, tutoring, alexhendel@gmail.com, 703-763-0070
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, Stealers12@gmail.com, 703-243-8777
- Alice Naland, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, nalandfamily@yahoo.com, 703-888-0125
- Lucy Naland, babysitting (RC certified), LucyMNaland@gmail.com, 703-888-0125

Northside:

- Northside leaf raking trio: Leo Horwitz, Zhibek Phillips and Kara Shapiro, leaves@leohorwitz.com, 703-243-2395
- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Sophie Frank, babysitting (RC certified), soccer training, tutoring, 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, 571-274-1453.
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), 703-276-9046
- Sammy Patecell, yard work, 703-524-6891
- Bo Sampson, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, tutoring, bo.i.samps@gmail.com, 703-447-7678
- Allison Vernon, pet sitting, babysitting (references), catharinevernon@aol.com, 703-522-9147
- Gabby Young, babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, 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
- Zach Gasper, yard work (mowing/edging, drain installations, etc), zachary.gasper@gmail.com, 703-304-1159

Add an Important Item to Your Back-to-school List.

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