

# The Arlington Forester



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November 2014

## Schools and Parkland on AFCA Agenda

By John Naland

The last AFCA meeting of the year -- this Wednesday, November 19, at 7 PM in the Barrett Elementary School library -- will focus on two important topics.

First, representatives of the County's Department of Environmental Services and Department of Parks and Recreation will discuss the planned WO&D-Carlin Springs Road Connector Path in the western corner of Arlington Forest (details were reported on page 6 of the September Arlington Forester). This project is part of the BikeArlington program to make the County more bike-friendly. It would do so by placing an asphalt path over a strip of parkland that had previously been covered by railroad tracks for a century.

Second, representatives of the PTAs of Barrett, Barcroft, Kenmore, and Washington-Lee will discuss the enrollment pressures facing Arlington Public Schools (see page 8 of this newsletter for background information).

Finally, this is the month that we issue the last call for annual \$10 AFCA dues. If you did not send in your dues in September or October, please do so today using the form on page 6. So far this fiscal year, 306 of the 851 households in Arlington Forest (36%) have responded. Participation rates are Greenbrier Section (38%), Northside (35%) and Southside (32%). Your dues support AFCA's activities which enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood.

## Santa's On His Way

By Chris Scheer

Save the  
Date  
December 5th

Arlington Forest kids of all ages get a jump on the holidays with an early visit by Santa on Friday, December 5, at the annual Arlington Forest Holiday Party in the Lubber

Run Recreation Center.

The jolly old elf will arrive at 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 to 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 for the Arlington Forest holiday party. Volunteers are needed at the party 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](mailto:scheerjchris@gmail.com).

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*AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. November 19 at Barrett School Library*

## THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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## Editor's Note

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

## 75th Anniversary Gala Pictures



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# 75th Anniversary Gala

By Chris Scheer

Where were you in 1963? If you were around then it's likely you were not in Arlington Forest, but Jere Cummins was and is today. He moved into his Southside home in August 1963 as a young boy and still lives in the family home. That longevity earned him a special prize at the Arlington Forest 75th anniversary gala held at the Ballston Holiday Inn on October 18. Cummins narrowly beat Joe and Claire Cockrell who moved into their N. Park home in 1964.

Nearly a hundred Foresters took turns in joining their contemporaries on the floor as each five-year "Forest Arrival" period was called (see photos). Prize for the most recent Forest arrivals went to Rich and Bryna Stewart who moved to Arlington Forest a few months ago.

Two past Arlington Forest Citizens Association presidents, Julie Kirchhoff and William Moreland, received applause. Kirchhoff bowed out of the presidency this year after a record nine years in that position. Current president Allison Kennett presented her with a special gift honoring her leadership (see photo).

DJ Clayton Young of 38 Tracks kept the party upbeat and lively throughout the evening with music from each of the Forest Decades. Dancers reluctantly left the floor at the party's 11 pm close.

The dance floor was surrounded by displays documenting Arlington Forest history including photos of construction beginning in 1939, original ads for new brick colonial homes under \$6,000.

Even those who didn't receive special recognition gifts or hourly raffle prizes did not leave empty-handed. Each guest received a fashionable stemless wine glass engraved with the Arlington Forest 75th anniversary logo designed by Forester Genna Schwartz.





## Kids Halloween Parade

As pictured, dozens of little princesses, wizards and other costumed wee ones (plus a few costumed dogs) participated in the annual neighborhood Halloween Parade on the afternoon of Sunday, October 26. Starting at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center, they paraded down N Columbus Street to 2nd Street and on into Lubber Run Park at the amphitheater. They then proceeded to the fire ring where they roasted marshmallows and enjoyed s'mores. Again this year, we thank Jen Beer for organizing this event and her husband Paul for managing the fire.



## Apseloff Sets another Powerlifting World Record

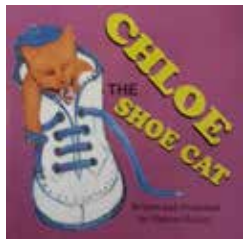
Arlington Forest resident Roy Apseloff set a new world record in the dead lift at the 100% Raw Powerlifting Federation world championship competition on Saturday, November 1st in Virginia Beach, Virginia (see photo). Lifting in the 55-59 year old 198 pound class, Roy, 57, dead lifted 227 kilos, or 500.25 pounds for a new 100% Raw Powerlifting federation world record, eclipsing his own world record of 218.5 kilos, or 481.5 pounds, set on September 20, 2014 in Zion Crossroads, Virginia.

Raw powerlifting is lifting without the aid of suits or wraps--only a weight belt is permitted for the dead lift. Ten percent of all lifters are drug tested at each meet and Roy was drug tested after his September world record lift. The dead lift consists of approaching the bar positioned on the floor, grasping it firmly, and in one motion lifting the weight to an upright position with arms straight. Video of this lift can be seen by searching "Apseloff" on YouTube.



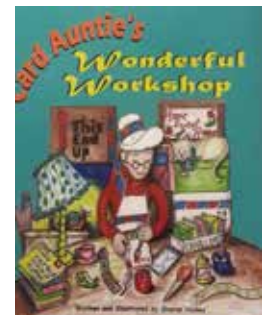
### Holiday Shopping for Kids?

Longtime Forester Sharon ("Sherry") Hickey of N. Park Drive recently published her second children's book, *Chloe the Shoe Cat* (Written & Illustrated by Sharon Hickey, Mirror Publishing 2014)!



It is available, along with her first picture book, *Card Auntie's Wonderful Workshop*, at amazon.com and other online sellers, or any bookstore can order it. "Card Auntie" was noted by the Midwest Book Review.

Both books are good for ages 4-8. A book by a local author and illustrator would be a wonderful holiday gift. Sherry is happy to sign books for you (sharonmhickey@gmail.com).



# How to Be a Good Neighbor

By John Naland

Whether you recently moved to Arlington Forest or are a long-time resident, it might be useful to review the following Arlington County Code rules for residential areas:

**Sidewalks:** Residents must trim their bushes, branches, and other foliage so they do not obstruct sidewalks or roadways.

**Snow and ice:** Residents must remove snow and ice from their sidewalks within 24 hours after snow stops falling (within 36 hours after a 6 or more inch snowfall).

**Grass:** Grass/weeds on front, side, and back lawns may be no taller than 12 inches.

**Noise:** Loud noises such as are made by lawnmowers and leaf blowers are prohibited before 7 AM on weekdays, before 10 AM on weekends and holidays, and after 9 PM daily.

**Trash Cans:** Refuse carts should be returned to their storage location within 24 hours of collection. The storage location should be behind the house's front line unless fencing or landscaping shields the container from view from the street.

**Dogs:** Dogs may not run off leash in public except at designated dog parks. Owners must clean-up after their pets.

**Junk:** Old furniture, appliances, tires, building materials, and inoperative vehicles may only be stored inside an enclosed building.

**Parking:** Commercial vehicles may not park overnight on residential streets. Motor homes and camping trailers may not park for longer than five days.

**Recycling:** Residents are required to recycle aluminum cans, cardboard, glass (bottles and jars), metal cans, paper (cardboard, magazines, newspapers, etc.), and plastics.

**Dumping:** It is illegal to dump trash, grass cuttings, tree trimmings, or anything else on public land. Refuse may not be burned.

**Leaves:** Residents must place leaves in biodegradable paper bags or place loose leaves at curbside for collection during the designated leaf collection season.

**Trash:** Residents must schedule a special pickup for certain oversize or hazardous items such as electronics (TVs, computers), brush/branches, and bulk metal. See the County website for details.

In addition, here are a few suggestions:

**Wildlife:** Animal control services are provided by the Animal Welfare League of Arlington which will respond to calls about injured animals (taking them for rehabilitation or euthanasia). They do not capture healthy wildlife such as fox, opossums, deer, rabbits, or snakes.

**AFCA:** Support the work of your neighborhood association by paying dues each year and attending meetings on issues of interest to you.



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# Around the Forest

**Decision 2014:** How did Arlington Forest vote in the most-discussed County Board election in the last quarter century? In the Arlington Forest precinct Independent John Vihstadt received 680 votes and Democrat Alan Howze received 371 votes. Mr. Vihstadt's 64.7 percent of the Arlington Forest vote was surpassed in only seven of Arlington's 52 precincts. In addition, Arlington Forest had the highest ticket-splitting in the County.

**Leaf Season:** Between now and early January, do not put leaves in plastic garbage bags or trash carts. Vacuum leaf collection in Arlington Forest is tentatively scheduled to start on or soon after November 19 (although the vacuum truck has already visited at least one block). 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. If your street is on a steep slope, pile the leaves in the street one foot from the curb otherwise a heavy rain will wash them down the block. Pile up only leaves (no sticks, etc.). Biodegradable bag collection has begun and will continue until the week of January 9 on the day after your regular trash pickup. Please do not include dirt, stones, litter, or other debris. Bags are available for free at numerous locations (get extra bags now so you are ready for spring cleanup season). See the County website for details.

## Holiday Party

FRIDAY DEC 5 AT 7 PM  
LUBBER RUN REC CENTER



**Snow Watch:** As another winter nears, please remember that Arlington County requires residents, businesses, and churches to clear snow and ice from their sidewalks within 24 hours after snowfall ceases (within 36 hours if snowfall exceeds 36 inches). Noncompliance can result in a \$50 or more fine, plus being billed for removal fees if the County does the shoveling. Despite the 24-hour rule, the County urges shoveling "as soon as possible" since snow and ice left for any length of time could cause a pedestrian to fall and be injured. Any resident who is unable to shovel due to ill health, travel, or other reasons should coordinate for someone else to do the work. A low-cost option is to utilize "Kids for Hire" on page 14 of this newsletter for a list of energetic neighborhood students who stand ready to assist. Bottom line: now, before the first winter weather warning is issued, is the time to check your shoveling supplies and make plans to clear your sidewalks of snow and ice.

**Christmas Tree Collection:** The County's Christmas Tree collection program runs January 5 to 16 on your regular trash pickup day. Trees are ground into wood mulch, so please remove the tree stand and decorations and do not place the tree in a plastic bag. It is illegal to dump Christmas Trees (or anything else) in parkland.

**Better to Light One Candle...:** With the longer nights here, please 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. Please do not assume that someone else will report it. 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.

**Final Dues Notice:** This is the last call for annual \$10 AFCA dues for the fiscal year that began in September. If you have not sent in your dues, please do so today using the form on this page.

## 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:* Joel Yudken, 104 N. Columbus St. 22203

*Southside:* Erin Clougherty, 16 S. Park St. 22204

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

# Fox News

Messages on the Arlington Forest Families listserv recently discussed the foxes that are increasingly seen trotting through our neighborhood (see October photo by Marsha Lederman). One posting quoted guidance given last year by Arlington County's Natural Resources Advisor Alonso Abugattas:

"Foxes are not known to attack cats or dogs; they're usually scared of them both actually. They may growl at cats to try and keep them away and also do so if defending their young, but they don't kill cats and dogs like coyotes do. Foxes, if healthy, pose no threat to those pets. A fox that is habituated to people though is not a good thing; hopefully no one is feeding them. Foxes should run away if yelled at. If seen doing this again and not getting scared when yelled at, Animal Control should at least investigate to make sure there's nothing wrong with them."

Additional guidance is provided on the website of the Arlington Animal Welfare League (which provides animal control services in Arlington):

"In Arlington we share our environment with an abundance of wildlife, catching glimpses of opossums, turtles, deer, birds, even snakes. Watching a fox and her kits play is exciting and educational. There's no need to fear wildlife. If you don't bother them, they generally won't bother you. Wild animals seem to be very bold these days, but this is

because the wooded areas where they reside are being destroyed to make way for human expansion. As a result, animals are being forced out into the open to search for food and lodging.

"Foxes are primarily nocturnal, but healthy foxes may be spotted during daylight as long as they feel safe and are close enough to safety. They may pursue prey, such as squirrels, which are out during daylight hours. If you encounter a fox during the day, it does not mean that it is suffering from rabies as people often believe. You should not approach a fox as it may feel cornered which may, in turn, provoke an attack."



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# Facts about School Capacity

## By John Naland

Here is background on the enrollment pressures facing Arlington Public Schools:

**Enrollment Growth:** Last year, APS projected that Pre K-12 enrollments would rise from 24,213 in 2014 to 30,575 in 2023. That would leave APS with these capacity gaps in 2023: 1,900 elementary seats, 1,600 middle school seats, and 2,800 high school seats. By 2023 in current attendance districts, Washington-Lee was projected to add 1,100 students, Wakefield add 800, and Kenmore add 180 students. Barrett was projected to add just 14 students and Barcroft to lose 33 students by 2023. But those projections were revised this month after enrollment countywide jumped in September by 316 more than was projected. APS now projects that enrollment will reach 31,805 in 2023, an increase in 1,230 from last year's projection.

**Financial Constraints:** Limits on APS bond issuance capacity and debt service ratio will limit the number of new seats

that can be constructed by 2023 to 1,100 at the elementary school level, 1,300 at middle school, and 1,600 at high school. That is 3,500 fewer seats than are now projected to be needed in 2023. The only ways to fund additional construction would be for APS to use current revenue rather than bonds (requiring cutting the APS budget elsewhere and/or getting the County Board to share more revenue with APS) and/or getting the County Board to cancel/postpone some of its capital projects to shift that bond capacity to APS.

**Non-Capital Strategies:** Since financial constraints will leave APS with 3,500 fewer seats that needed in 2023, a variety of non-capital strategies must be utilized to address shortfalls between enrollment and seating capacity. The options -- which will be discussed in the coming years -- include: increasing class size, expanding the school day with students divided between coming

in earlier or staying later, more online classes, more students taking classes at colleges, holding classes in leased commercial space, and adding more relocatable classrooms.

**Next Steps:** The recently approved \$106 million school bond issue will fund 1,100 elementary seats, 300 high school seats, and initial steps to add 1,300 middle school seats. APS wants to construct most of the new elementary seats on the County-owned Thomas Jefferson Park next to Jefferson Middle School. A decision on that is expected by January 31. The fall back plan is to expand two existing elementary schools; including adding 265 seats at Barcroft. At the middle school level, APS is considering six options focusing on building 1,000 to 1,300 middle school seats at either the Wilson site in Rosslyn or on the H-B Woodlawn/Stratford site (moving the H-B program to either the Wilson site or to the Reed site in Westover). A decision is expected in December. At the high school level, meetings have begun at Washington-Lee to identify renovations to increase the capacity of core spaces and right-size some classrooms to expand capacity by 300 seats.



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**AFCFA meeting on  
November 19th, 7 pm**



# Nature News

By  
**Cliff Fairweather**  
Park Naturalist,  
Long Branch  
Nature Center

## The Evergreen Advantage:

As the last leaves slip off of deciduous trees and shrubs in late autumn any remaining green really stands out in the forest. Local evergreens, such

as Virginia pine, eastern red pine, eastern red cedar, and American holly, provide a visual break from the grays, blacks, and browns of our winter woods. Even in their winter prominence evergreens are clearly a minority among local vegetation.

Deciduous plants drop their leaves because photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce their own food using chlorophyll, carbon dioxide, water, and sunlight, doesn't work in the short days and cold of winter. Indeed, those leaves could be a liability in winter because of water loss through leaf pores and the risk of broken branches from the weight of snow-covered leaves.

Losing leaves in the fall and growing new ones in the spring works well if the nutrients, water, and long growing season are available to do so. These conditions occur throughout most of our region, giving the fast growing deciduous plants an advantage over evergreens. Where nutrient poor soils, drier conditions, or shorter growing seasons

and they can dominate.

What gives evergreens the advantage in these circumstances? They are masters of nutrient and water conservation and of cold resistance. They achieve nutrient conservation through long-lived leaves or needles and by shedding just a few these at a time, continuously throughout the year. This means they don't need the huge amounts of nutrients and water necessary to grow a vast number of leaves all at once. Moreover, the leaves or needles of evergreens have waxy coverings that reduce water-loss in the drier conditions of winter.

In the mid-Atlantic region, evergreens tend to occur in a few areas with favorable conditions. Eastern red cedar and Virginia pine are often pioneer trees in old fields almost anywhere in the region. These old fields often have nutrient-poor and dry conditions that most deciduous species find inhospitable. However, the evergreens will create conditions over time that favor deciduous plants and the evergreens will fade from the site.

Where different plants grow can be governed by many factors, but availability of nutrients, soil moisture, and the length of the growing season are key factors. The next time you come across a patch of evergreens, consider why they are growing there and not deciduous plants.

The Northern Virginia real estate market experienced some positive trends in September. Homes across the region are selling in about six weeks or less on average. The Northern Virginia market includes the city of Alexandria and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties.

Homes have continued to sell rapidly throughout Northern Virginia, according to September data. In Arlington County, the average days on market (DOM) was 34 days, followed by Fairfax County with a DOM of 36 days. Alexandria City experienced an average DOM of 39 days, while Prince William and Loudoun counties followed with DOMs of 41 days and 42 days, respectively.

The number of units sold in the Northern Virginia region decreased in all areas except Arlington County, which experienced an 8% increase, when compared to September 2013. Other areas saw declines that ranged from 8% to 16%. Similarly, median sale prices throughout the region decreased in all areas but one.

Arlington County experienced no change, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William each saw a 1% decrease, and Alexandria City saw an 11% drop.

Inventory increased throughout the entire region when compared to the same month last year. Alexandria City saw a 12%, and Prince William County increased 27%. In Fairfax County inventory rose by 30%, while it rose by 36% in Arlington County and 37% in Loudoun County.

Year to date there have been 20 homes sold and settled in Arlington Forest with an average DOM of 17 days, an average list price of \$680,000 and an average sales price of \$697,970. There are 5 homes under contract - average DOM of 18 days.

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# Nature Notes

**Keeping the "Forest" in Arlington Forest:** For the second year in a row, enough applications have been submitted to utilize all of the funds allocated for AFCA's annual Tree Grant Program. The program offers matching grants of up to \$125 to plant tree from an approved list of shade trees. If you were considering participating this fall but did not get around to it, check this space next September for the announcement of the next open season. If you want to go ahead on your own to plant a shade tree suitable to our climate, a list is on the AFCA Tree Grant application form at [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) under the AFCA tab.

**Make Holiday Crafts:** Saturday, December 6, 1-4 PM. Adults and kids 12 and up. Come to Long Branch Nature Center to make holiday crafts. Enjoy music, refreshments, basic instruction and enough materials for each participant to make at least two decorative crafts. Pre-registration required. For information: 703-228-6535. To register: 703-228-4747

**Become a Tree Steward:** The Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria are volunteers dedicated to protecting and promoting our urban tree canopy through educational programs, tree planting and care, and tree maintenance throughout the community. The next new volunteer training starts Tuesday evening, February 3 and runs through

April 14, at Fairlington Community Center. Registration is open now and class size is limited. Learn more at [www.treestewards.org](http://www.treestewards.org).

**Native Plants:** Here are three recent publications that may assist Arlington Foresters interested in using more native plant species and making their yards more nature-friendly:

-- Fairfax County has published A Field Guide to Fairfax County's Plants and Wildlife. The guide has descriptions of each species appearance, life history, habitat, role in the food web and distribution. You can find it at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/fieldguide/>.

-- The Virginia Native Plant Society has a new guide to plant species native to Northern Virginia emphasizing the theme "Right Plants in the Right Place". It is free and available in print and online at [www.plantnovanatives.org/](http://www.plantnovanatives.org/).

-- Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy, a professor of ecology at the University of Delaware, has a website and book called Bringing Nature Home. Dr. Tallamy discusses the loss of native habitat and introduction of invasive species caused by years of urban and suburban expansion and the widespread adoption of lawns. However, he contends that even on small, suburban properties gardeners can contribute to reclaiming and maintaining a valuable balance in our environment.



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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*



# Barcroft School News

Barcroft Elementary's students are well ensconced in second quarter learning and enjoying the cooler weather. Fall Intersession was a resounding success with over 300 students participating in the two-week enrichment program. Hispanic Heritage Month was commemorated with an afternoon celebration featuring food, music and dance performances on October 17. On Saturday, October 18 Barcroft families participated in Barcroft Elementary School Night at D.C. United, watching D.C. United play against the Chicago Fire at RFK Stadium.

The school celebrated Halloween by hosting its annual Halloween Dance Party on Friday evening, October 24. A spooktacular time was had by all 700+ attendees! On October 31, Barcroft's Principal, Colette Bounet -- dressed in a minion costume voted on by students -- handed out treats to hundreds of neighborhood trick-or-treaters.

On November 4, the Barcroft PTA hosted an Election Day Bake Sale that raised over \$1000 for student programs. Thank you to all of our neighbors for your wonderful support. Also, as part of its annual Treats for Troops project, the PTA collected excess Halloween candy to donate to the Veterans Hospital in Washington D.C.

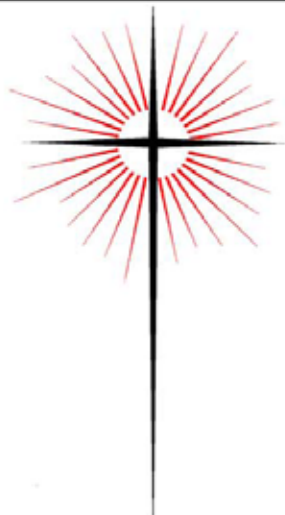
Discussions continued in November regarding Arlington Public Schools (APS) plans for addressing increasing enroll-

ment in South Arlington, including a potential addition at Barcroft Elementary School. Under the current plan, if an elementary school is not built at the Thomas Jefferson site, then APS proposes to increase Barcroft from a school with a seating capacity of 460 (the school currently holds 540 students with a 10-room trailer/relocatable) to a school with a seating capacity of 725. [Editor's note: For more information on this, see the articles on page 1 and page 8 of this newsletter.]

Barcroft Silver Diner Night is Monday, December 1 at the Clarendon Silver Diner from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. We hope that you can join us for a wonderful evening of food and fun! And on Thursday, December 11 the Barcroft Elementary Winter Concert will be held at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., featuring performances from our 4th and 5th Grade Chorus, School Band and School Orchestra. Please join us! We hope that you have a wonderful Winter Break, and we'll see you again in January.



*Electronic versions of this newsletter are available:*  
[www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)



## Celebrate the Birth of Christ 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 families are supported in their spiritual growth and questions and discussion are always welcome.

*-The Reverend Ann Barker, Rector*

**Sunday Worship Services**  
8 am and 10 am

**Sunday Christian Education**  
Adults 9 am — Youth 9:30 am

**All are welcome to all services and activities!**

**Book Club:**

**December 2** 7:30 pm *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline  
**January 6** 7:30 pm *Solar* by Ian McEwan

- December 14** 10 am Children's Christmas Pageant at the 10 am service
- December 21** 6 pm Join in Christmas carol singing in neighborhood
- December 24** 5 pm Christmas Eve Service - special music and a children's message  
11 pm Christmas Eve Service with carols
- December 25** 10 am Christmas Day Service with carols
- December 28** 10 am Hear the Christmas story in Bible lessons and carols



*St. John's Episcopal Church*



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# Barrett School News

Barrett Elementary was buzzing with activity in October! From Garden Work Day to the Halloween Parade, to Walk to School Day to workshops, work days and holidays -- what a whirlwind!

One of the highlights was the annual Heritage Week/Parade and UN Assembly. Heritage Week encourages cross-cultural understanding across the school community. The UN Day Assembly was filled with songs, short videos of personal stories by teachers, and a parade where 128 students wore traditional outfits honoring their ancestors from 42 countries!

Another favorite event is the Halloween Parade, which featured lots of little ghosts and goblins as well as quite a few princesses and super heroes parading through the Culpepper Gardens Senior Center (see photo). The parade was led off with drumbeats by the always-spirited assistant principal, with the help of lots of dressed up teachers.

As we head into November and the holiday season, the Barrett PTA will be launching "Barrett Gives" on November 17. Barrett Gives is a PTA initiative focused on helping families at our school when they need a little extra support. The Barrett community works together to support these families in different ways, such as providing meals or transportation to doctor visits. The largest campaign takes place each holiday season as we coordinate a gift drive for families in need. If you would like to help, please contact Amanda Bisnauth-Thomas at [mandy.bisnauth@gmail.com](mailto:mandy.bisnauth@gmail.com).

There are other ways you can help Barrett through your everyday activities too. If you shop at Amazon or iTunes, click on those links through the Barrett PTA website and Barrett will earn 4 to 8% of all purchases! Visit <http://barrett.my-pta.org> then click on "Everyday Counts."

Upcoming events include the always-fun Family BINGO! Night on Friday, December 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bingo Night is an exciting evening where families come together for pizza and prizes as well as BINGO!



## Upcoming Events:

- Pre-K Day/Night:** Nov 18, 8:15-9:30 a.m. & 6:15-7:30 p.m.
- Blueberries Game:** Tuesday, November 25
- Thanksgiving Holiday:** November 26-28
- Family BINGO! Night:** Friday, December 12
- Winter Break:** December 24-January 2

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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, leaf raking, [t.omara@LTwell.com](mailto:t.omara@LTwell.com), 703-769-3767
- Ethan O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, [t.omara@LTwell.com](mailto:t.omara@LTwell.com), 703-769-3767
- Sophia Polisar, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, [sophiapolisar@gmail.com](mailto:sophiapolisar@gmail.com), 571-429-2289
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), yard work, [juliaerogers23@gmail.com](mailto:juliaerogers23@gmail.com), 703-892-0226

## Greenbrier Section:

- Zephren Collinson, babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-528-3595
- Donna Corina, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-248-8885
- Mary Corina, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-248-8885

- Allison Ferrell, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, [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.
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, [Stealers12@gmail.com](mailto:Stealers12@gmail.com), 703-243-8777

## Northside:

- Laura Brancati, babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, [laura@barms.org](mailto:laura@barms.org), 703-243-1916.
- Daniel Brancati, yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, car washing (in your driveway), [daniel@barms.org](mailto:daniel@barms.org), 703-243-1916
- 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 (20 lbs max), 571-277-4441
- Alyssa Luz-Ricca, babysitting (RC cert), 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

## All Neighborhoods:

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



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*Arlington Forest references*

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