

The Arlington Forester



Volume 60, Number 2

Arlington, VA

October 2018

Meet the County Board Candidates

AFCA invites you to attend a County Board Candidates Forum at our Wednesday, October 17th, meeting at 7 PM in the Barrett Elementary School library. Candidates Matt de Ferranti (D) and John Vihstadt (I) will answer questions submitted by Arlington Forest residents in response to an AFCA listserv message sent last month. Following the moderated portion, the candidates will answer questions from members of the audience.

On Tuesday, November 6th, Arlington voters will fill one County Board seat. The winner will have a say on issues such as schools, parks, safety, public infrastructure, development,

County services, and taxes. So, come to the Candidates Forum to find out where they stand on the issues that are most important to you.

This forum and other AFCA activities that enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood are supported by your dues. If you have not already done so, please pay your dues online at www.arlingtonforestva.org/AFCADues.html or clip out the coupon on this page and return it with a \$10 check. If you include your e-mail address, you will be added to the AFCA listserv which sends one or two messages per month with news of neighborhood interest.

Children's Halloween Parade



Saturday, Oct 27th

Bring your little princesses, wizards, or other costumed wee ones to the annual Arlington Forest Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 27th at 11 am starting at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center in the courtyard.

Parents and polite pets are welcome to wear costumes also.

The parade will head down N. Park Drive to 2nd St., then on to the Lubber Run Amphitheater where the kids can play on the stage. After burning off some energy there, families are welcome to bring a packed lunch and enjoy some treats at the nearby Fire Ring/picnic area. The event will end at 12:30 pm.

This is a great neighborhood event that is always well attended -- we hope you will join the fun! Thanks to Brooke Johnson for organizing the event again this year.

AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

Deliver this form and your check payable to "AFCA" to your respective AFCA section representative.

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

Northside: Joel Yudken, 104 N. Columbus St. 22203

Southside: Sean Lyons, 34 S. Park Dr. 22204

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. October 17 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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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.

Carlin Springs Road Pedestrian Safety Update

By Beverly Johnston and Lora Strine

On September 19th, at the regularly scheduled Arlington Forest Citizens Association meeting, Dr. Hui Wang, Chief of the Arlington County Transportation Engineering and Operations Bureau, presented safety improvement plans for the intersection of North Edison Street and Carlin Springs Road.

Many residents attended the meeting to voice their frustration with the pace of progress on pedestrian improvements at both the North Edison and Harrison Street crossings. Residents reiterated concerns that traffic moves too fast and does not stop at the crossing where yellow rapid flashing beacons already exist. Families and individuals are unsafe when crossing the road. Many residents believe that a red signal is the only way to stop cars along Carlin Springs Road.

Residents also made critical comparisons between traffic and pedestrian safety improvements made on roads in Arlington with the same road conditions and neighborhood designations as Carlin Springs Road. There is a desire to see improvement in our neighborhood roads that we see being made on many other roads across the County.

Dr. Wang discussed the County's objectives. In addition to pedestrian safety, the County places a high priority on traffic flow, traffic studies and following technical information to make their decisions.

We have a commitment from the Department of Transportation to:

- Assess the effectiveness of the flashing beacon at the Harrison crosswalk
- Assess the sight lines at the Harrison crosswalk, particularly eastbound traffic
- Pursue a proposal to the County Board to place signs and increase the fine for speeding on Carlin Springs Road to \$200

To raise the pedestrian safety issue concerning Carlin Springs Road with the Arlington County Board directly, Eric Larsen and Jennifer Messman made verbal comments at the County Board meeting on September 22nd.

Discussions with Arlington County staff will continue. The conversation will focus on meeting both the need to keep traffic flowing and improve pedestrian safety. We believe that if pedestrians are efficiently crossing Carlin Springs Road it will help traffic flow more smoothly and there will be less confusion and wait time for drivers.

Thank you to all the residents who have participated in the pedestrian safety efforts. If you would like to be connected to the pedestrian safety google group, please contact Lora Strine at stine.lora@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan

The Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update Committee met in early October to learn more about the process for creating updates from Arlington County Neighborhood Planner Katie Brown-Henry. The group, comprised of Liz Kauffman, Hutch Brown, Julia Battocchi, Karen Uetrecht Burst, and Esther Bowring, discussed how best to get input from Arlington Foresters to help guide creation of the new plan.

We agreed that the first step will be asking attendees at the next AFCA meeting on October 17th to participate in an interactive exercise to get feedback on the neighborhood's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Sheets of paper will be posted around the room and post-it notes and pens will be available. Neighbors can provide their thoughts, either before or after the meeting.

This will be the first of many opportunities for Arlington Forest neighbors to provide their ideas and contribute to the plan updating effort. The Committee is looking at on-line tools that will help with this process, so stay tuned.

Neighborhood Conservation Plans typically serve a community for about 10 years, but Arlington Forest's plan was last updated in 1991. The plans help neighborhoods outline their goals for the community, as well as concerns.

In 1991, the primary goal outlined in the plan was to "help retain the park-like atmosphere of this rare wooded island in an urban environment."

We hope you will spend a few minutes thinking about your vision for Arlington Forest and begin sharing those ideas with us.

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No Scooters on Bike Trails: As the motorized-scooter fad expands, residents should note that the County Code (section 14.2-64.1) prohibits the operation of any motorized vehicle (except wheelchairs) on off-street bicycle paths.

Glen Forest Pool: Still on Arlington Forest's pool waitlist? Need a place to cool off during the summer heat. Take a look at Glen Forest Community Pool which is nestled in a 6-acre park suitable for badminton or frisbee or enjoy a family picnic. Glen Forest is still welcoming new members. Go to our website www.glenforest.us and sign up for a membership for next summer. For more information call AnneMarie 703-731-7773 or Karen 571-259-1413.



Tracy C Taylor, Author

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- United States Army Veteran
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Something Wicked in the Land of Ahhhs

Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation

By Esther Bowring

It was a long, wet summer and while nine of the 56 Arlington County Lubber Run Amphitheater free performances were rained out, attendance was stronger than ever and, according to this critic, the performers were better than ever.

Those performers provided music from around the world -- Africa, South America, New Orleans, and Nashville -- and covered virtually all forms of popular music from rock and country to folk and Broadway.

Season highlights included a night of American song-book favorites sung by Signature Theater professionals that ended with an encore and standing ovation. Four women from Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and the US known as Ladama got the crowd up and dancing to their unique blend of folk traditions. And Encore Stage celebrated its 50th anniversary since beginning at the amphitheater by inviting kids and parents to the stage to join for "Hamiltunes", a singalong of songs from the hit musical Hamilton.

There were no "off" nights (except for rain) and both County staff responsible for programming and Lubber Run Foundation Board members were pleased and promise more of the same next year.

The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation funded four

children and family programs in addition to the county-funded summer programs. The last children's-oriented shows were held in September.

The Arlington Forest Amphitheater Foundation is a 501c3 organization eligible for tax-deductible donations. Public donations at the amphitheater wishing well at each performance and generous gifts by individuals and businesses enable the Foundation to add to County funds, which pay for the performances. Donations can be made on the Foundation's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Lubberrunamphitheater by clicking on the blue "donate" rectangle at top right of page.

Foresters can keep up with Lubber Run Amphitheater news starting in the spring of 2019. Search "Lubber Run Amphitheater" on the Internet.



National & Local Housing Trends

Home-buying trends are shifting thanks to generational differences, a strong economy, student-loan encumbrances and a growing housing-affordability gap. Changing buyer characteristics and desires are altering the market. Only one half of American adults are married, versus more than 70% in the 1970s, and more unmarried couples are looking for homes. First-time home buyers have historically averaged at 32 years although the average age of buyers purchasing a home for the second time has risen steeply from 36 in 1981 to 54 in the 2017.

Buyers, many of them young, also carry a median loan debt of \$41,200 and median income of \$38,800 nationwide. Those with loans on average delay their home purchases by seven years

In the Metro DC there is more transition and higher income, which can equate to more relocation (Corporate, Govt, State Dept and Military) along with more frequent moving up locally.

Higher end homes are lingering on the market and price drops have started

It's the same case with upper end prices in other markets as well. Abundant supply and record prices are causing buyers to pause. Many markets are seeing a shift from seller's to buyer's market. Lower priced homes are still in short supply, and buyers are snatching up what's available.

Arlington's fall real estate market in the low to mid-price points is still robust while the upper end market of is showing some shifting with more price reductions and longer days on market.

As of this writing (10/5/18), rates jumped to their highest levels in seven years with the predominant rate for 30-yr fixed at 4.875% and some major lenders are at 5%.

Are you holding off buying a home because you don't have 20% down payment saved? Would you like to buy, but not sure if your credit score or income will limit what you can afford? Good news! There are many options available for you. Call or email me with questions and we can confidentially discuss your solutions for your situation.



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Around the Forest

Santa's moving, but not far: Because of the construction of the new Lubber Run Community Center, this year's AFCA Holiday Party (Friday, December 7th, 7 pm) is moving to Barrett Elementary School. Santa promises to be there along with live music, carolers, goodies, and plenty of Arlington Forest good will. But the lack of recreation center staff support means that Arlington Forest volunteers will be needed more than ever to provide decorations and help decorate, offer craft table activities for the kids, and help clean up. Call party coordinator Chris Scheer, 703-276-9725, to volunteer. If you have an old artificial Christmas tree in storage, let him know. Your help and ideas are welcome.

Fall at Lubber Run Farmers Market: The leaves are falling and it's a perfect time for a recently picked apple, squash, fresh snack, or another flavorful, locally produced item from the Lubber Run Farmers Market. If you haven't been by the Market in recent weeks, you may be pleasantly surprised by what is in season now compared to earlier in the year, not to mention our new vendors. The Market is open Saturday mornings from 8:00 am-12:00 pm in the Barrett Elementary School parking lot. The Market starts its winter hibernation at noon on November 17th. Learn more at <http://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org>.

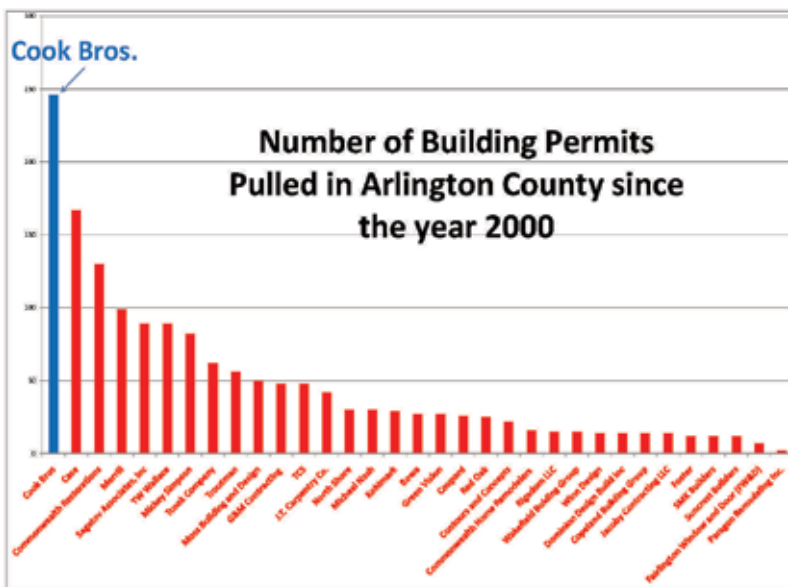
Lubber Run Park Access: The wooden footbridge at the north end of Lubber Run Park remains closed. The County has determined that it needs to be completely replaced. The County is currently pursuing bids from contractors, but replacement will likely take months.

Arlington Forest Precinct: Due to renovations at Culpeper Gardens, access to voting machines has been changed from the basement door to the building's front door. Look for signs pointing the way.

Arlington Forest History Book: Looking for a birthday or holiday gift for a long-time Arlington Forest resident? The 150-page history of Arlington Forest (published in 2015 on the 75th anniversary of our neighborhood) contains essays, photos, maps, and excerpts from the newsletter. We have sold nearly 300 copies and just 10 remain. The price per copy is \$15 for hand delivery in Arlington Forest or \$20 for mailing nationwide. You can order one by sending your address and a check made out to "AFCA" to John Naland, 100 N. Granada St., Arlington 22203. A PDF version is on the AFCA website (www.arlingtonforestva.org) under the Neighborhood tab.

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Improved Entrance to Lubber Run Park

Scouts and parents from Troop 648 improved the Lubber Run Park entrance of North Edison Street on September 22nd. Led by Troop 648's Truman Lisk, this Eagle Scout project graded and framed out the entrance to the path with new landscaping timbers, gravel, and two metal benches

(see the before and after photos below). Over 25 people participated in the day-long project. Please contact Carey Johnston (johnston.carey@verizon.net) if your son or daughter is interested in joining Troop 648.



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St. John's Episcopal Church

Spaghetti Supper - Saturday, November 3 6 - 7:30 pm

All are welcome to join in a hearty meal and great conversation. You will have a choice of sauces to top off the pasta, several salads, bread and a large selection of desserts.

The cost is only \$5 - kids 3 to 6 \$3 - under 3 free and a maximum of \$15 for a family.

BINGO			
12	18	41	61
7	20	39	54
4	27	49	63
5	23	35	58
3	30	32	52

Bingo Night - Saturday, November 17 7 - 9 pm

\$5 for a dessert, 2 cards and a raffle ticket. Prizes will be awarded.



Sunday Worship Services
8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education
Adults 9 am — Youth 10 am

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Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, October 17th at 7 PM, Barrett Elementary School.

Halloween Parade: Saturday, October 27th at 11 AM.

General Election: November 6th. U.S. Senate, County Board, and School Board.

AFCA Holiday Party: Friday, December 7th at 7 PM, Barrett Elementary School.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 27th. Help beautify our neighborhood parks.

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 18th. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

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

Future AFCA Meetings:

November 20th: Ballston Development Update

January 16th: Lubber Run Amphitheater Update

February 20th: County Board Member

March 20th: School Board Member

April 24th: Farmers Market Update

May 15th: Picnic and Annual Membership Meeting

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Barcroft School News

Barcroft Elementary School is full of excited students and energized staff. This year, our goals are to Work Hard, Get Smart and Have Fun! One highlight of the year so far is welcoming Gaby Rivas as our new Assistance Principal. Ms. Rivas was previously the Elementary English for Speakers of Other Languages/High Intensity Language Training (ESOL/HILT) Specialist for Arlington Public Schools.



We also enjoyed a family picnic on August 10th, Chalk for Peace on September 22nd and International Night on September 27th. We are almost finished with our first quarter and are looking forward to Intersession from October 15th-26th.

For those of you that vote at Barcroft, we will be hosting our fantastic bake sale on November 6th again this year. If baked goodies are not your thing (although we always

have healthy items), then join us for the Barcroft Snowball Stride 5K on December 15th. More details and registration link coming soon!

You can connect with us at www.barcroftpta.org and @BarcroftEagles on both Twitter and Instagram. Go #TeamBarcroft!

Children's Halloween Parade on October 27th



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Homeowners also have a record amount of available equity — \$5.5 trillion as of third quarter 2017 according to Black Knight Data & Analytics. If you have been thinking about selling your home, now is undoubtedly the time to make a move.

Get started with me! Every advantage is yours when you do business with Long & Foster.

The Quartz in Our Creeks: Why So Much?

By Hutch Brown

Quartz is that common white pebble or rounded white rock you see in the gravel along Lubber Run and Four Mile Run. You can probably find it in your own yard in potato-size lumps. It might be white or orange or even reddish.

While the gravel beds along our creeks is more quartz than anything else, the bedrock you see is not quartz at all. The bedrock is the massive gray or brown rock that underlies our creeks. It has parallel angles and planes, as though it were all bedded in the same way.

And it was. Half a billion years ago, the bedrock formed from layers of silt and sand in a deep-sea trench. The accumulating layers became miles thick, condensing into sedimentary rock. Then the continents collided, and the tremendous heat and pressure transformed the original sedimentary rock into the metamorphic rock we see today. If you look closely, you can still see the original grains of sand, now mixed with glistening bits of mica and other minerals.

When the continents collided, the tremendous friction melted the rock and sent plumes of magma rising upward. Superheated waters percolated up through the bedrock, filling cavities there. The waters were rich in dissolved

silicon dioxide, which precipitated out, leaving solid quartz in veins, nodes, and lenses.

Some quartz veins and lenses are huge, but they still make up less than one percent of the overall bedrock. So why is most of the gravel in our creeks made up of light-colored quartz rather than dark stones from the metamorphic bedrock?

The answer is weathering. The metamorphic bedrock in our area readily reacts with air and water, quickly breaking down into rusty red soil. You can easily find crumbling pieces of it along our creeks.

By contrast, quartz is a stable mineral. In our creek beds, quartz gradually wears down into sand, but the process is slow because quartz is so hard, with a hardness of 7 on the scale of 1 to 10 that geologists use. So as the bedrock weathers away, quartz remains behind. That's why you find so much of it in our creeks.



Paul Cachion, MBA

Cell: 571-216-6802

Email: CachionHomes@gmail.com

Language I Don't Always Understand

School is now in full swing, and that means our girls and their friends are zipping through the house, and speaking in ways I don't always understand. Here's a real quotation: "Tomorrow is Hoco...rolling up to Audrey's crib before is for sure the move. We finna be wildin' and that's the tea, sis."

I don't always understand what any of the above means, but if you don't understand all the terms and jargon of buying and selling houses, I'm here to help.

When you get in touch for any real estate needs, don't forget to ask about our exclusive Arlington Forest Neighbor Discount. All neighbors in the Forest always receive a special deal - don't miss out on yours!

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- Ethan O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, yard work, 571-699-5079
- Andrew Rogers: yard work, dog walking, pet sitting, andrewmcyt@gmail.com, 703-892-0226
- Caroline Rogers: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, carolinearogers@verizon.net, 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers (college breaks only): babysitting (RC certified), yard work, private swim lessons, juliaerogers23@gmail.com, 703-892-0226

Greenbrier Section:

- CeCe Collinson: babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, mail collection, 703-528-3595
- Donna Corina: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-248-8885
- Shae Dempsey: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, mail collection, swim lessons, tutoring, yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, Shaelyn.dempsey@gmail.com, 703-350-7650
- Jack Holt: babysitting (RC certified), yard work, snow shoveling, leaf raking, watering plants, tutoring, jackloginname@gmail.com, call or text 703-470-8040
- Anthony Lawson: yard work, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Charlotte Lawson: leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Reid Messman: pet sitting, dog walking (references), 703-469-1988
- Shea Messman: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-469-1988
- Alexandra Orli: babysitting (references), mother's helper, pet sitting, watering plants, call 703-528-5618
- Carsten Schoer: math tutoring, soccer lessons, snow shoveling, leaf raking, yard work, carstenschoer@gmail.com, call/text 703-209-0905
- Leah Shvedova: babysitting (references), tutoring through 8th grade (Social Science, English, Algebra), pet sitting, watering plants, 571-426-6818
- Ava Smialowicz: babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, text 703-424-0895, ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com
- Emma Weaver: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-875-8185

Northside:

- Daniel Brancati: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, daniel@bmb.org, 571-279-2710
- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting (ages 4-12), yard work, riittishachoudhary@gmail.com
- Ely Constantine: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, lawn mowing, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Tyler Dinan: babysitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, chrisbettdinan@aol.com, 703-525-5763
- Alex Eng: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dcharveydc@yahoo.com, 703-861-1890
- Evan Eng: pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dcharveydc@yahoo.com, 703-861-1890
- Jeremy Fagen: pet sitting (any animal), dog walking, plant watering, jdoxen11001@gmail.com, 703-200-2396
- Leina Gabra: babysitting (ages 4-12), house sitting, leinagabra@gmail.com, 703-973-8914
- Ethan Nissenson: lawn mowing, leaf raking, snow shoveling, Enissenson@verizon.net, 703-201-0523
- Sophie Stewart: mother's helper, pet sitting, sophiestewart4@gmail.com, 703-402-5494

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