

The Arlington Forester



Volume 56, Number 2

Arlington, VA

October 2014

Spotlight on Affordable Housing



The Arlington Forest Citizens Association is pleased to announce that County Board Chair Jay Fisetto will attend the AFCA meeting this Wednesday, October 15, at 7 PM in the Barrett School library. The meeting will focus

on affordable housing and its potential impact on the future of the Lubber Run Community Center and nearby parkland.

The first speakers will be County officials Russell Danao-Schroeder (Senior Housing Planner) and David Cristeal (Housing Development Supervisor) who will discuss the Affordable Housing Study Working Group and the relationship between that group and the "Public Land for Public Good" initiative.

Mr. Fisetto will then make comments on the affordable housing issue. He will be available to answer questions and listen to comments from residents.

At last month's AFCA meeting, participants voted 50 to 3 to endorse an AFCA statement urging the County to continue its long-standing policy to preserve, enhance and expand parks, recreation centers, and other public open space assets and to therefore not construct housing on County parkland. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for other information relating to the future of the Lubber Run Community Center.

AFCA encourages Arlington Forester residents to continue their active engagement with the County on this vital issue by attending this month's AFCA meeting.

Call for Dues

AFCA's annual dues drive began last month. If you have not yet sent in your \$10 dues, please clip out the coupon to the right and return it today with a check made out to AFCA to your neighborhood vice president (an addressed envelope was included in last month's newsletter).

As part of the ongoing celebration of AFCA's 75 years of neighborhood advocacy and service, we encourage every resident to pay their dues. Last year, 317 of the 853 households (37%) in Arlington Forest paid dues. The record high membership was 655 (77%) in 1972.

Your dues support AFCA's many activities which enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood. Annual examples include the holiday party, the spring cleanup, the community yard sale, the tree grant program, and modest grants to the PTAs of our neighborhood schools. This year's dues will also help fund Arlington Forest's 75th anniversary activities.

So please send in your annual dues today if you have not already done so. If you include your e-mail address on the form you will be added to AFCA's listserv which sends out one or two messages per month with news of neighborhood-wide interest.

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

www.arlingtonforestva.org

AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. October 15 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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Historian: John Naland

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Join AFCA listserv by e-mailing address to:
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Forester is printed by *Minuteman Press*

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.

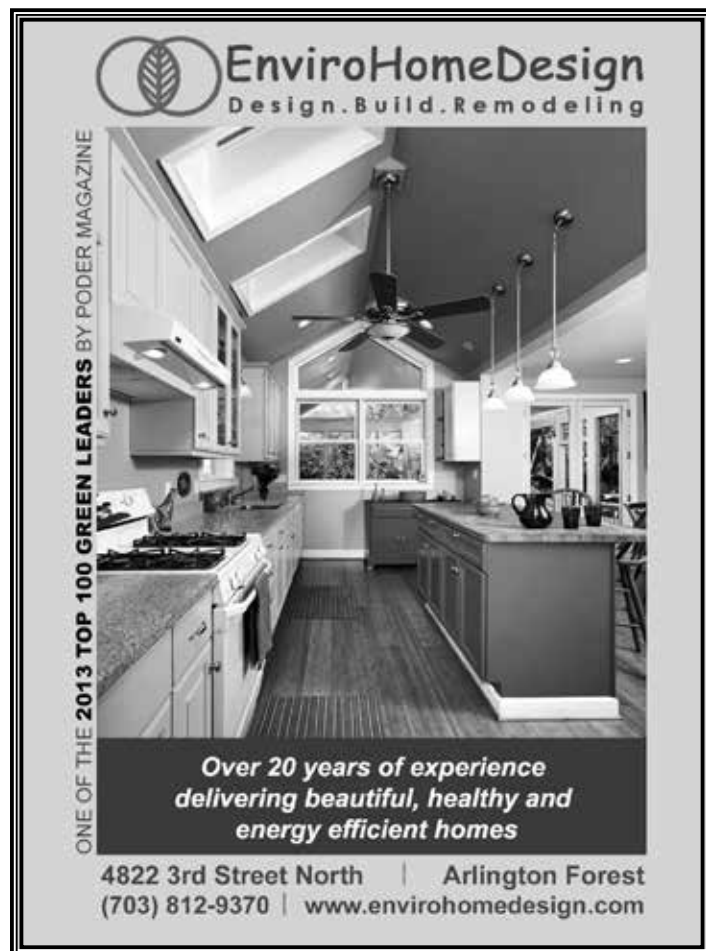
Update on Lubber Run Community Center

The following exchange took place at a September 29 public debate between the candidates in the November 4 County Board election:

Question: Given the strong opposition across Arlington County to using parks, recreation centers, and park-like green space for affordable housing or schools, do you support granting an exemption to the "public lands for public good" policy and corresponding site evaluation guidelines for such properties?

John Vihstadt's response: I have come to the conclusion that parkland should be "off the table" for housing and schools. An example is the proposal to build housing at Lubber Run. I believe that Lubber Run should be rebuilt as a community center only -- with nothing else added. With parks like Lubber Run, the only structures that should ever be added are those that support the park itself, e.g., comfort stations. Our parks are already a "public good".

Alan Howze's response: Our parks are very important and we should look for housing and schools solutions that are "win-win", not solutions that divide the community. For example, at the Thomas Jefferson site, one might consider building up vertically, rather than horizontally to reach a consensus among all the parties.



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Sidewalk Repairs Underway

By John Naland

Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services (DES) has started repairing or replacing the 104 sections of sidewalk that AFCA's survey team documented as presenting serious tripping hazards or having a badly-crumbled surface.

As detailed here last month, DES promises to repair or replace 79 sections in the coming months at no cost to the adjacent property owners. So far, the damaged tops of three storm sewer catch basins have been replaced (see accompanying photo) and several sidewalk sections that were badly displaced by large tree roots have been replaced by asphalt (asphalt will flex as the tree roots continue to grow, whereas pouring new concrete would result in the roots just breaking and displacing the new concrete again in a few years).

Future work will include 61 sections of sidewalk that present serious tripping hazards (i.e., vertical displacement of over 1.5 inches). They will receive an asphalt wedge to bridge the vertical displacement between sidewalk panels. Some residents may not find that to be an eye-pleasing repair, but asphalt wedges are a cost-effective way to eliminate a tripping hazard while allowing DES to ameliorate as many problem areas as possible within its limited budget.

DES views an additional 19 sidewalk sections as representing minor issues and will wait to repair them during the normal zone maintenance. Under the County's 10-year sidewalk repair cycle, Northside and Greenbrier sidewalks will be attended to in fiscal year 2016 and Southside sidewalks will be attended to in fiscal year 2019. Residents who have damaged sidewalk that was not bad enough to get on the AFCA list will have their sidewalks checked by DES when their neighborhood's turn comes in the County's sidewalk repair cycle.

Thanks again to my fellow team members who surveyed Arlington Forest's sidewalks to document the problem areas: Larry Bowring (Northside), Todd Lee (Greenbrier section), and Brett Mikoy (Southside).

What You Can Do

With the County doing its part to keep our sidewalks usable, it is up to us to do our parts. On more than a few blocks in Arlington Forest, the summer growing season has allowed vines, bushes, or tree branches to encroach on sidewalks (see accompanying photo). Arlington County Code 10-15 requires the owner or occupant of each property to cut back or remove trees (or parts thereof), hedges, shrubs, vines and other vegetation that encroach upon any sidewalk and impairs pedestrian traffic. Thus, if neighbors are forced to walk single file past protruding vegetation or duck down under limbs to walk past a house, it is time to get out the trimmers and clear the way.



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Sunday Worship Services
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Sunday Christian Education
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Friday, November 7
Bingo Night 6:30 - 8:30 pm
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Episcopal Church***

415 S. Lexington St. Arlington, VA 22204
703-671-6834 stjohsarlingtonva.org

“Family Fun Day” Lived Up to its Name

By John Naland

AFCA's Family Fun Day at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center on Saturday, September 20, was a great success. The weather was perfect, all shopping center merchants participated, and, extrapolating from the 250 snow cones that were served to kids, at least 500 adults and children joined in the four hours of fun.

Special thanks go to Chris McIntosh of New Forest Valet who co-organized the event with me. Shopping Center co-owner C.O. North paid for the two Moon Bounces and other expenses. Sunny of Crystal Coiffure arranged for the live band. Brooke Rental provided the snow cone machine plus dozens of chairs and tables. Brick's Pizza, Crystal Thai, Outback Steakhouse, and Subway gave away delicious food samples. Crystal Coiffure, Fashion Nails, Fiesta Oriental Store, Mathnasium, and New Forest Valet offered complementary gifts. DaVita offer health information.

For 75 years, AFCA has encouraged residents to "shop local" by patronizing our neighborhood shopping center. In past decades, there were periods when many store fronts were empty. So please think first of our conveniently-located Arlington Forest Shopping Center when you need a good or service.



Leaf Collection - Ready, Rake, Recycle

Arlington County's annual leaf collection and recycling begins November 3 for bag collection and November 10 for vacuum truck collection. During November and December, the County will not collect leaves left curbside in plastic bags or placed in trash bins. Instead, utilize one of three easy ways to reduce landfill waste by recycling leaves into useful mulch:

- Place leaves in biodegradable paper bags. Do not include grass clippings, stones, or litter in the bags. Bags are collected on the day after your regular trash day beginning the week of November 3 through January 9. Free leaf bags are available while they last at Lubber Run Community Center, Long Branch Nature Center, Thomas Jefferson Community Center and other locations starting October 20. They also may be purchased at most hardware stores.
- Rake leaves to the curb for vacuum truck collection that begins the week of November 10 through December 19. Remove stones, branches, and litter from the leaf pile. Crews will make two passes -- one in November and one in December. Look for signs posted in the neighborhood three to seven days before each pass. If you miss the last pass, please rake and bag any remaining leaves. Pile your leaves away from storm drains. Never park your car on leaf piles -- it's a fire hazard.
- Alternatively, you may compost leaves into a valuable

organic soil supplement. Numerous websites explain how to get started.

Christmas Tree collection will be January 5 to 16. Please remove all decorations from the tree. It is illegal to dump leaves, Christmas Trees, branches, or anything else in County parkland. For more information on the County's yard recycling program, search "leaf collection" on the County website.

If you would like reasonably-priced assistance with leaf raking or other fall yard work, check out the newly-expanded Kids for Hire listing on page 14. You can even plan ahead by making contingency reservations now for snow shoveling help this coming winter.

As a byproduct of the yard waste recycling program, leaf mulch and wood mulch are available free for pickup at two locations and can be delivered to your house for a \$40 to \$50 charge. For details, search "mulch" on the County website. Keep in mind that even a \$40 half-load of 2.5 cubic yards is a lot of mulch.



*Kids Halloween
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Around the Forest

New AFCA Listserv!: Please note that starting October 10th the Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) email announcements will be generated from a new listserv address. Instead of using the old ArlingtonForest@google-groups.com for sending AFCA messages, messages will be generated using the arlington-forest-citizens-association@googlegroups.com sender. All current listserv recipient addressees will be automatically moved over to the new listserv, so there is no need for you to rejoin. However, you may need to add arlington-forest-citizens-association@googlegroups.com to your contacts as a "safe" sender so those messages do not wind up in your junk folder as sometimes happens. If you are not on the AFCA listserv but would like to join, please e-mail arlingtonforestva@gmail.com requesting to be added. The AFCA listserv is a great way to stay informed on news directly impacting our Arlington Forest neighborhood!

Kids Halloween Parade: Bring your little princesses, super heroes and other costumed wee ones to the annual neighborhood Halloween parade on Sunday, October 26, at 3 PM starting in the Arlington Forest Shopping Center parking lot near the Mathnasium. Parents and pets are welcome to wear costumes as well. This year, the parade will avoid crossing numerous intersections by instead heading to the Lubber Run Amphitheater where the kids can parade on the stage. After burning off some energy there, families that are interested in continuing the fun may proceed to the nearby fire ring to enjoy a bonfire. If you would like to make s'mores, please bring the fixings and suitable sticks/skewers for roasting marshmallows. The event will end by 5 PM. This is a great neighborhood event that is always well attended. Many thanks go out to Jen Beer for organizing the parade and bonfire again this year.

New Playground: County Board members J. Walter Tejada and John Vihstadt participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 15 to open the expanded playground in Glencarlyn Park near the end of S. Park Drive (see accompanying photos). This project was proposed by AFCA and was funded with a \$485,000 grant from the County's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) program. If you have young children but have not been to this new playground yet, you should definitely check it out. Special thanks go to Timothy O'Leary, Arlington Forest resident and AFCA's NC point person, who worked for over five years to make the new playground possible. Our neighborhood's next NC project -- an upgrade of the N. Edison Street playground -- is still a number of years from reaching its turn in the County-wide NC project funding queue.

Newsletter Delivery Crew: This newsletter is delivered to your doorstep eight times a year by one of our 12 dedicated carriers. The next time that you see these young neighbors making the rounds on a cold day, please say "Thank You": Alex Brown, Nikki Brown, Sarah and Spencer Brown, Ely Constantine, Emily Engelken, Jack Holt, Emilio Luz-Ricca, Colin Mashkuri, Abigail and Catherine Taylor, and Sean Werfel.

New Voter ID Requirement: When you go to vote on November 4, be sure to bring a suitable photo ID as required by the new state law. Acceptable photo IDs include: a Virginia driver's license or DMV ID card; any photo ID issued by the U.S. Government, Virginia Government or any Virginia local government; an employer photo ID; and a student photo ID card from any Virginia college or university.

75th Anniversary Party: Look for photos in next month's newsletter of the Arlington Forest 75th Anniversary party being held on October 18 at the Ballston Holiday Inn. Ticket sales have closed, but, if you already bought yours, please remember to stop at the registration table on arrival to pick up your drink tickets.

Wanted: Your AFCA Dues: If you have not yet returned your annual \$10 AFCA dues, please do so today using the coupon on page 1.



Walkable Arlington Forest

By John Naland

In our busy modern lives, walking in the neighborhood is sometimes limited to the distance from our front porch to our car door. But if you have 30 to 60 minutes to spare on a nice fall day, there is a lot to see in and around Arlington Forest.

Our beautiful public parks come to mind first. Everyone is of course familiar with the peaceful pathways through Lubber Run Park in the center of our neighborhood and the often-busy WO&D Bike-Hike Trail that runs along our neighborhood's southwestern border. But, if you are willing to go just a little further, there is more nature to be seen.

For example, several quiet paths traverse the forested slopes that rise from Four Mile Run to the Glencarlyn neighborhood. A beautiful dirt trail winds through the woods behind the Arlington Forest Club south to the intersection of N. Carlin Springs Road and N. Kensington St. The Long Branch Nature Center can be reached by a longish walk through Glencarlyn Park. A map depicting those trails was published in this newsletter two years ago. You can download a copy from the AFCA website at www.arlingtonforestva.org under the Neighborhood tab.

Another source of ideas for pleasant walks is the County's WalkArlington website at www.walkarlington.com. There you can download the Arlington Forest walkabout map that depicts a 2.3 mile route through our neighborhood that includes such landmarks as the Mary Carlin House (the second oldest house in the County). The George Washington's Forest walkabout map covers the area immediately southwest of Arlington Forest and includes the oldest house in Arlington (dating from 1755) and a survey marker used by George Washington in 1785.

The Bluemont/Bon Air walkabout map covers the area to our northwest and includes the last dairy farm in Arlington and the Bluemont Junction caboose.

The following suggestion may not appeal to everyone, but if you put on a raincoat or pick up an umbrella immediately after a heavy downpour (and after any associated lightning has passed) and walk down to Lubber Run or Four Mile Run, you will be amazed to see those babbling brooks transformed into temporary torrents. For example, several times a year Four Mile Run rises over four feet after a heavy rain storm.

Of course, when the weather is nice, there are pleasant walks, jogs, and bike rides to be had along any of our neighborhood streets. It is interesting to stroll down the street looking at the variety of architectural enhancements that many houses have gotten over the years. And what about walking to the Arlington Forest Shopping Center to grab a bite to eat (there are picnic tables in the park there) or drop off your dry cleaning? With the kids, you can walk to one of Arlington Forest's three playgrounds (N. Edison St, Lubber Run Recreation Center, and Glencarlyn Park). Or walk Fido to the Glencarlyn "community canine area" (dog park) not far from the foot of S. Park Drive. The great outdoors awaits you and your family this autumn!



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

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Personal Emergency Preparedness

By John Naland

Extended power outages following summer and winter storms in recent years underscore the fact that, even in our urban environment, we must be prepared to fend for ourselves for a few days. Below are suggestions compiled from government websites on how to take charge of our own personal preparedness for natural or other emergencies.

- Always maintain at least a five day supply of non-perishable food, water, pet supplies, and medications.
- Prepare an emergency kit of essential items: first aid supplies, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, flashlights, extra batteries, and cash (in case merchants cannot process credit cards due to telephone lines being down).
- Fill your car gas tank if a storm is approaching.
- Recharge mobile phones and other portable devices.
- If a power outage is likely, turn off and unplug any non-essential electrical equipment to protect them from possible power spikes.

- During a power outage, refrigerator food is safe as long as power is out no more than 4 hours. Keep the door closed as much as possible.
- A freezer section that is half full will hold food safely for 24 hours without power. A full freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours. Do not open the freezer door.
- Discard any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers) from either the refrigerator or freezer that has been above 40 °F for over 2 hours.
- Decide on a meeting place outside of your neighborhood if your family is separated and cannot return home because of closed roads.
- Designate an out-of-town friend or relative as a telephone point of contact should your family members lose contact with each other.
- Before, during and after a storm, listen to local media for instructions from emergency officials.

- Avoid non-essential travel when weather or road conditions are poor.
- Stay clear of all downed lines. Do not attempt to guess which ones are deadly power lines and which are potentially non-threatening telephone lines.
- Show all family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches in the event of structural damage to your home.
- Talk with your neighbors about cooperating after a storm: A neighbor with an emergency generator could offer to recharge cell phones. A neighbor with a chainsaw could help to clear downed branches. Younger residents could clear older neighbor's sidewalks of snow and ice.
- When the power goes out or when you see a street blocked by trees or downed lines, report it immediately to the Power Company or County by cell phone if you can. Emergency response can be delayed if everyone assumes that someone else has already called it in.



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The next AFCA meeting
is October 15th
at 7 pm in the
Barrett School Library

Nature News

By
Cliff Fairweather
Park Naturalist,
Long Branch
Nature Center

Where do all the Leaves Go?: It happens every autumn; the leaves turn color and then drop to the ground. So why don't the leaves pile up high, along with all the twigs and branches that fall through-

out the year? The reason is because a vast army of organisms recycles all that organic material back into the soil, releasing nutrients that support new plant growth. This critical task goes on virtually unseen by the most humans.

Fungi and bacteria do the heavy lifting, decomposing of 80-90% of forest detritus. But other than mushrooms -- the fruiting bodies of fungi -- they are mostly visible only under magnification. More visible are a wide variety of animals that also play an important role in breaking down all that stuff that falls from the trees. Though are microscopic, others are visible to the naked eye.

Collectively, these animals are often called litter critters, since they dwell in the leaf litter covering the forest floor. Perhaps the best known are earthworms, which emerge from their burrows at night to feed on dead leaves. Another

litter critter is the roly-poly which is a crustacean rather than an insect and stays in the moist microclimate under leaves or other cover.

Other readily-visible litter critters include slugs, snails, millipedes, adult beetles, beetle grubs, and fly larvae. Much smaller, and usually found under logs, termites play a huge role in decomposing fallen branches and logs. They are among the few animals capable of digesting cellulose, the major component of wood. Smaller still are various springtails and mites. These are best appreciated through a hand lens, although you might spot a bright red velvet mite walking across the dead leaves.

Not all litter critters eat leaf litter. Spiders, centipedes, ground beetles and other tiny predators search the forest floor for other litter critters. Salamanders, relative giants in this world, feed on predators and non-predators alike. It's a real jungle down there!

You can get a glimpse of this world by sifting a few handfuls of leaf litter through some hardware cloth onto a white sheet. Watch for tiny creatures moving a few moments after you stop sifting. But be sure to put them back in the leaf litter to continue their important work. They might be tiny, but they are essential to the health of the forest.

Repair or Replace Your Windows?

Repairing windows is better for the environment. Keeping the windows you have keeps them out of the landfill and cuts down on the waste and energy consumption associated with the manufacturing process. If sustainability is important to you, repairing them will be your greenest option.

The most common question a homeowner has regarding new windows is whether or not they're worth it. That depends. Do your current windows barely open or have rotted frames? Are they drafty and prone to excessive condensation? More important, will you be staying in the home for more than a year or two? If you answered yes to any of these, new windows make sense.

For one, windows that don't open are a safety hazard, especially if there's a fire. Second, drafty windows drive up your utility bills and diminish indoor air quality, while excessive condensation could lead to wood rot and mold growth. Last but not least, new windows can boost your home's curb appeal and value.

How much can you expect to pay? If the window frame is intact, you can expect to spend between \$300 and \$700 per window, including tear out, disposal and installation for most standard window sizes. Custom windows are more expensive, often \$1000 or more per window (these costs do not include replacing the window frame). Expect to spend up to twice as much per window if you need to replace the frame.

Given the costs involved, it's easy to understand why so many homeowners get stressed out about what to do. Clearly define your needs and weigh your options against your budget and acceptable payback period.

The 2014 Cost versus Value Report shows a 93% (vinyl) and 96% (wood) Cost Recouped for midrange window replacement in the \$10,000 to \$11,000 price range.

What are the Top 5 Money Making Home Improvements for Getting the Highest Percentage Return upon Resale? *Spend Your Dollars Wisely - Contact me for a consultation!*



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Nature Notes

Tree Grant Program: To help keep the "forest" in Arlington Forest, AFCA will pay you to plant a tree on your property. AFCA offers matching grants to neighbors who plant tree from an approved list of shade trees. Grants of up to \$125 will cover one-half of the cost of buying and planting a tree. There is a limit to two grants per property and the application must be approved before the purchase. For details and the application form, go to the AFCA website at www.arlingtonforestva.org and click on the AFCA tab. Funding is limited, so act now if you want to be assured of getting a grant.

Remove Invasives near the Nature Center: Sunday, Oct. 19, 2-5 PM, Ages 9-Adult. Not all plants are good for the environment. Kids and adults will learn what these trouble-some beasts look like and can help rescue the park from these alien invaders! Volunteers should dress for the weather in clothes that can get dirty. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, and bring work or garden gloves if you have them. Gloves and tools are provided on site, too. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center.

Campfire: Wildlife Folktales: Saturday, Oct. 25, 6-7 PM. All ages. The whole family is invited to join us at the Long Branch fire ring for lots of old-fashioned fun -including s'mores - as we hear stories and 'tails' of local wildlife, and maybe meet a few! Register adults and children; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. \$5 fee due upon registration. Program #612954-C

English Ivy is Destructive: While many people find English Ivy's 3-pointed, dark green glossy leaves to make pretty groundcover, if left unattended this invasive plant can kill trees. If allowed to cover fences, it can invade adjacent lawns and public parkland. But you can easily remove ivy from trees and fences by cutting all vines at the ground level. Cut them again several feet up the trunk and then carefully peel away the cut section of ivy. Do not pull off the remaining upper portion as that could harm the tree bark. That remaining ivy will eventually dry out and die. Pull ground ivy back a few feet from the base of the tree to slow regrowth up the tree trunk.



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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

Crime Prevention

Captain Karen Herchenroder, the Arlington County Police Department's First District Commander, reports that there has been a rise in burglaries in North Arlington over the last couple weeks. Burglaries and thefts from cars often increase as the holiday season nears. Here are suggestions gathered from various law enforcement agency websites on steps that we can take to prevent crime any time of year.

- 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. Park in a well-lit area when possible.
- 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. At night, you may want to leave on a porch light or install a motion-activated light that turns on when someone approaches.
- Help your neighbors: Be alert to suspicious activity on your block since half of all home burglaries in the U.S. occur during the day when alert neighbors could potentially spot and report the thieves.
- Carry your purse close to you, with the opening or flap towards your body. Never leave a purse unattended in a shopping cart.
- Carry a cell phone: If someone makes you uncomfortable, call the police.
- When away, make your home look "lived in": Have a neighbor collect your mail and newspaper or have your service suspended. Use timers to turn lights on and off.
- Involve all family members: Following 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 data: Shred receipts that list credit card numbers. Never provide credit card data in response to unsolicited calls or emails.
- Report all incidents: Even if the loss is minor and 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.



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Barrett School News

Before telling you about all the exciting events ahead, Barrett would like to first announce that under the Virginia Department of Education testing program, it has met the objectives for all "gap groups" and demonstrated increases in many categories for math and reading. This means Barrett has been removed from the list of Virginia "focus schools." This is a true testament to the dedication and hard work of Barrett's staff, students, and families. While this is a significant achievement, Barrett will continue to improve learning for all, focusing on individualized instruction to support all learners.

At the start of the school year, Principal Dan Redding instituted a number of key changes for arrival and dismissal times, and requested a new crossing guard stationed at the back of the school on Park Dr. These changes have created a smoother and much safer environment for children when they arrive and leave the school every day. Principal Redding has also issued a BIG challenge to Barrett students: to read a cumulative 2 million minutes during the 2014-15 school year. If the children are successful (and we know they will be) a Reading Fun Day celebration will be held at the end of the year. This challenge is in line with Mr. Redding's Literacy Initiative, which is a five-year plan to raise student's literacy achievement.

Other upcoming events include the Heritage Parade & UN Assembly on Friday, October 24; the always-popular Halloween Parade, Friday, October 31; and the KW Barrett 5K Race and Fun Run, Saturday, November 8 at Bluemont Park. Further information and registration forms are available online at <http://barrett5k.jimdo.com>. Registrations can be dropped off or mailed to: Lori Engelken, 219 N. Granada St., Arlington, VA 22203. Late registrations will also be taken race day.

Finally, as we head into one of the busiest months of the year we invite everyone to come and shop for your favorite young readers at the PTA's annual book sale Oct 20-24.

Hours are as follows:

Monday, October 20: 7:45 am - 4 pm

Tuesday, October 21, 7:45 am - 4 pm

Wednesday, October 22, 7:45 am - 10 am; 12:30 pm - 2 pm

Thursday, October 23, 7:45 am - 10 am; 2:30 pm - 6 pm

Friday, October 24, 7:45 am - 12 pm.

Avoid the crowds by taking advantage of early morning shopping hours.

Upcoming Events:

October 20-24: PTA Annual Book Sale

October 24: Heritage Parade & UN Assembly

October 31: Halloween Parade

November 4: PTA meeting: 5th Grade Team, 7 pm

November 8: KW Barrett 5K Race and Fun Run



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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.

Southside:

- Daniel O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, t.omara@LTwell.com, 703-769-3767
- Ethan O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, t.omara@LTwell.com, 703-769-3767
- Sophia Polisar, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, sophiapolisar@gmail.com, 571-429-2289
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), yard work, 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, 703-276-2840
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, Stealers12@gmail.com, 703-243-8777

Northside:

- Laura Brancati, babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, laura@barms.org, 703-243-1916.
- Daniel Brancati, yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, car washing (in your driveway), daniel@barms.org, 703-243-1916
- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting age 4-12, yard work, riittishachoudhary@gmail.com
- Ely Constantine, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, 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, 703-740-6972
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), house sitting/chores, 703-276-9046
- Allison Vernon, babysitting (references), pet sitting, catharinevernon@aol.com, 703-522-9147
- Gabby Young, babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, 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



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