

The Arlington Forester



Volume 53, Number 1

Arlington, VA

September 2011

New Season, New Challenges

By John Naland

With the summer over, the Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) begins its 2011-2012 service year ready to continue its mission of advancing the interests of the 853 households in Arlington Forest as it has since 1940. Over the past twelve months, AFCA accomplished a great deal: from spearheading the successful effort to save the Lubber Run Amphitheater (see accompanying article) to organizing the neighborhood-wide spring clean-up that brought 125 residents out to improve six sites around Arlington Forest. AFCA will keep up the pace over the coming year as it takes on other neighborhood improvement efforts and organizes the traditional December holiday party and spring potluck picnic.

AFCA's new season begins this Wednesday, September 14, at 7 pm with its monthly meeting in the Barrett School library. If you have an issue to raise or just want to see your

association in action, please attend. On the agenda is an update on next steps regarding the Lubber Run Amphitheater. Also, Valerie Mosley of the Arlington County Parks Department will discuss our association's proposed Neighborhood Conservation project to enhance the existing playground in Glencarlyn Park at the end of South Park Drive. Any suggestions for changes to the playground or for adding new equipment would be welcome. We will also need to identify future Neighborhood Conservation projects for consideration at upcoming AFCA meetings.

September also marks the start of the AFCA fiscal year. So please send in your \$10 dues today using the enclosed form and envelope. Your dues support AFCA's activities. As Arlington Forest approaches its 75th anniversary in 2014, we want to increase AFCA membership along with the community spirit that it represents.

Foresters Spark Amphitheater Return

By Chris Scheer



They said it couldn't be done. That was in January. They said "maybe" in March. That changed to "do it" in April. And by July it was done – the Lubber Run Amphitheater was back in business after a two-summer hiatus.

What began as neighborhood concern over the unannounced

closing of the deteriorating amphitheater in 2009 mushroomed into a county-wide public call for county officials to restore the amphitheater. That campaign was spearheaded by the Arlington Forest Citizens Association and directed by

a hurriedly organized nonprofit group called the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation.

Foundation board members, most from Arlington Forest, met with county Parks and Recreation staff to clarify the safety and access issues that led them to close the amphitheater. They contested a negative architectural assessment of the facility and pushed for more information and study. They went straight to the County Board,Continued on page 2

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

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes your articles, news notes and letters which should focus on events or issues specific to our neighborhood and should not exceed 400 words. We also welcome photos accompanied by an explanatory caption. E-mail submissions to John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com. Deadlines vary with the date of the month's AFCA meeting. The next deadline is Oct 6. Space fills up early, so e-mail the editor in advance if you plan to submit a photo or long article. Submissions are subject to editing.

Amphitheater ...from page 1

testifying at county budget hearings and convincing the Arlington Civic Federation to request the County Board to cover costs of the amphitheater restoration.

Yet, as late as April, the amphitheater's future was uncertain and many didn't think it would be operational until 2012 at the earliest. "We kept working with Parks and Recreation and they kept talking to us," said Esther Bowring, "but it wasn't until we invited County Board members to meet with us at the amphitheater that we really felt something was going to happen."

Board members Zimmerman and Fisetta left their visit promising that "something will be done." A few weeks later, County Manager Barbara Donellon held a public meeting at Barrett Elementary School to discuss the future of the amphitheater. After getting community input, the county revamped their plans and came back for another meeting to outline how they would restore and even upgrade the amphitheater for a summer season of weekend performances beginning in late July.

In addition to a general cleanup, the upgrades included a new lighting system, new stage and increased access for those with disabilities. Working with Foundation input, the Parks and Recreation Department booked some of the area's most popular musical performers; many of whom, like season premier singer Mary Ann Redmond, boasted Washington Area Music Association "Wammie" awards.

"Hundreds of people turned out for the first concert, and we have seen record audiences at every performance," said Bowring. "In addition, concert goers have been extremely generous in donating to the Wishing Well to help with future performances, tripling the average amount collected by the county in the past." Our own Arlington Forester, Matt Baker, president of Action Music, provided a very generous donation that enabled us to print the great hand-held fans that were distributed on show nights to keep everyone cool.

The season was short, but the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation is already at work to bring an even better and longer summer season of free weekend live entertainment to Lubber Run in 2012. The Foundation is working on its certification as a nonprofit group able to accept tax-deductible donations. In the meantime, an agreement has been worked out with the Arlington Community Foundation that allows tax-deductible donations to be made right now for the amphitheater. To make a donation, mail a check to the Arlington Community Foundation, 818 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22203. Please make the check out to Arlington Community Foundation and write Lubber Run Amphitheater Fund on the memo line.

The Foundation is also seeking input on what local area entertainers you would like to see next year. Send ideas to lubberrunamphitheater@gmail.com. Keep up with Amphitheater news on Facebook.

Lubber Run Amphitheater Photos



Honoring the Niewegs

Luncheon
Sat, Sept 24
Noon

Please join us at Crystal Thai Restaurant at noon on Saturday, Sept 24, for a luncheon honoring Elroy and Dorothy Nieweg who recently relocated to an area retirement community after living for four decades at the corner of N. Granada and N. 2nd Street. Elroy served as AFCA treasurer for thirteen years from 1973 to 1986 and in recent years was the AFCA webmaster and historian. He and Dorothy were co-editors of the 2000 Arlington Forest history book published on the association's 60th anniversary. Elroy and another neighbor were co-editors of the 50th anniversary book. Come honor the Niewegs for contributions to the AFCA and for being great neighbors. RSVP to John Naland, nalandfamily@yahoo.com by September 21.

Hurricane Irene Comes to the Forest

By Jennifer Klapper

Wow, hurricane Irene sure did pack a punch at the Klapper household. I thought I'd share my harrowing story.

I prepared for the storm much like I did for a snow storm. I raced to Total Wine and bought some Boones Farm. Unsure of how much to get, I bought a case. Once home, I pulled out a few flashlights. I didn't feel the need to see if they had working batteries, because my sixth sense told me they would work in an emergency. Then I locked all the doors and popped open my Boones Farm. I sat down to watch some TV. After a bit of channel surfing, I narrowed down my choices to Storm coverage (I had lots of channels to choose from) or Bravo. Settling on Bravo, I watched reruns of Millionaire Matchmaker. During the second episode my kids started bugging me to play a game with them. I yelled, "Mommy's busy watching Millionaire Matchmaker, quit bothering me!" I went back to my little bit of TV heaven.

Suddenly the power went out! I huddled the family together and grabbed the flashlights. Thankfully one of the lights worked. Here's a helpful hint for emergency preparedness, check flashlight batteries before a power outage. The kids started screaming, "What'll we do, what'll we do?" My motherly instincts kicked in and I yelled, "OK, I'll play Uno with you!" We gathered around the flashlight and passed out Uno cards. Then a miracle on 2nd Road happened, the power came on. I didn't have to play Uno after all and went back to Millionaire Matchmaker.

This event was perhaps the toughest 10 minutes of my life; it went by in slow motion. The 10 minute power outage tested my character like nothing else ever has. Here's what I've learned from Hurricane Irene; I'm a survivor and check flashlight batteries before a storm.

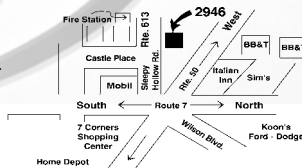
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Neighborhood Notes

Fifty Years Ago in the *Forester*

By John Naland

The *Arlington Forester* is the oldest civic association newsletter in Arlington County. Started in 1942 as an oversized post card mailed to residents, it took on its present name and format in 1947. I recently took possession of a box of past newsletters. They provide a fascinating window into how life in our neighborhood has changed over the years. For example, here are vignettes from fall 1961 issues:

- The newsletters -- four-pages long with the same mast-head still in use today -- contain numerous notices of kids' achievements, scouting activities, marriages, births, deaths and new residents. A monthly gardening column gave tips on growing annuals. An article urged residents to patronize the Arlington Forest Shopping Center to avoid seeing conveniently located businesses move out as had happened in the past.

- Arlington Forest Shopping Center merchants advertising in the newsletter 50 years ago were Bruffey's Hardware, F.E. Malcolm Realtor, Forest Delicatessen, Forest Pastry Shop, Markham's Esso, Sophie Hair Stylist and Sullivan's Arlington Forest Pharmacy. One advertiser sold coal and

fuel oil. The only 1961 advertiser who is still advertising in 2011 is St. John's Episcopal Church.

- All listed phone numbers were two letters followed by five digits. For example: JACKSON 1-2345 instead of today's 703-521-2345.

- The annual AFCA Summer Picnic and Field Day in Lubber Run Park featured a bicycle parade and track events for neighborhood youths and included performances of Hawaiian music and dancing. Seven local merchants donated door prizes.

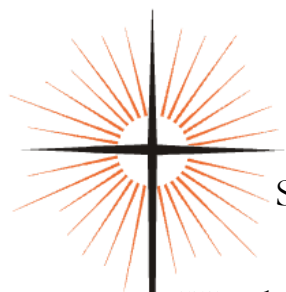
- The October AFCA monthly meeting at Barrett School featured presentations by candidates for the Arlington County Board, candidates for the House of Delegates and representatives of the Democratic and Republican gubernatorial candidates.

- The AFCA Beautification Committee was working to plant dogwoods in public spaces around the neighborhood.

- AFCA collectors went door-to-door to collect the annual \$1.50 association dues.

- The "Babysitters Club" (which is still going strong in 2011 as the Babysitting Co-Op) was formed.

A complete set of past *Arlington Foresters* and other historical materials submitted by AFCA is preserved in the Virginia Room archives of the Arlington Central Library.



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Study with us - Sunday Christian Education - Adults 9 a.m.; Children 9:20 a.m.

Enjoy Fellowship with us - Coffee hour after 10 a.m. Sunday service

Coming up at St. John's:

September 17 - Movie Under the Stars - check the church signs for starting time

September 25 - Service in the Park and Picnic to support the Arlington Food Assistance Center

Service begins at 10 a.m. -Enjoy neighborhood worship and fellowship and bring a food item to donate to AFAC

October 2 - Blessing of the Animals, 5 p.m. Bring your pets for a blessing!

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5

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If you are considering selling, please call me and let's arrange a time when we can discuss your future sale; there is no obligation. I want to show you how I market homes and help you determine what your selling price should be, and I have all the tools that Long and Foster has to offer. Don't wait too long to market your home as timing is very important. I look forward to meeting with you.

Jim

Tomato Overload: The U-Pick Farm on Granada Street

By Ryoko Reed

Like in Forrest Gump, I've become the equivalent of Bubba, just with tomatoes instead of shrimp. I've been making roasted tomatoes with feta, fresh tomato pasta sauce, salsa, tomato and shrimp tapas, tomato sauce for freezing, tomato and basil salad, the list goes on! While we are in tomato overload, it still is wonderful to ponder, "What is for dinner?" and just look outside in our front-yard vegetable garden.

This year, we grew (on purpose) four different types of tomatoes—pink, red, orange, and yellow beefsteaks. We ended up with more varieties—from cherry to sun tomatoes—due to our compost preserving tomato seeds from previous years. Forrest Gump would be proud, our compost is like a box a chocolates!

Speaking of forests, in June, we had a forest of tomato plants growing, where I couldn't keep track of which I grew on purpose, and which just sprouted. Because you need to thin out the seedlings, letting about two feet or so between tomato plants, I gave away a huge bucket filled with tomato seedlings to our neighbors and school.

By August, I was still giving away tomatoes, this time as a U-Pick farm. While I still pick tomatoes and hand deliver them to neighbors, I couldn't keep up with the abundance of produce. In need of extra manual labor, I e-mailed neighbors to stop by our garden and pick tomatoes and other produce. Great success! Not only was it helpful to get extra pairs of hands helping in the garden, but also it was



wonderful to hear about all the great dinners made from our produce.

As we wind down the summer harvest season, and look forward to the fall planting season, I reflect on the things that worked and did not work in our garden. This year, we diversified by planting a lot more flowers. From marigolds, nasturtiums, sweet pea, to cosmos, we made dozens of bouquets for many Moms on our block. The flowers also helped the garden by having more beneficial insects and decreased the amount of aphids, slugs, and other garden pests. What did not work this year is growing our soybeans. We tried twice but nothing grew, not from one seed! My organic gardener brother-in-law suggested getting a "bean activator" enzyme that helps beans sprout and grow.

Each year, our front-yard vegetable garden helps us connect with nature, fresh food, and our neighbors. I can't wait for next growing season—U-Pick strawberries, here we come!

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

www.arlingtonforestumc.com

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8:30 Casual Worship, Godly Play-Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,

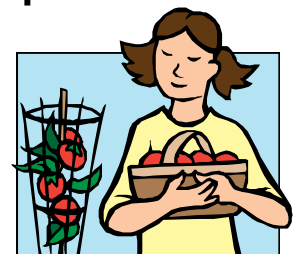
Traditional Worship 11:00 a.m., & Children's Church

Animal Blessing Service Saturday 9/17, 3pm



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What's the deal with English ivy?

By Paul Kovenock

Our "Forester" Editor asked me: "I see numerous houses in the neighborhood with English ivy vines climbing up their trees. I wonder if the residents know the danger that poses to the trees. What's the deal with English ivy?"

According to the National Park Service, English ivy is one of the most abundant and invasive plants in our region. "In climbing up trees, it slowly kills the tree from the base upwards by enveloping branches and twigs, blocking sunlight, causing branch and eventually tree death. The added weight of vines also makes trees susceptible to blowing over during storms. It's also a reservoir for bacterial leaf scorch, a harmful pathogen."

"I wonder if the residents know the danger that poses to the trees."

In recent years several states have enacted legislation to outlaw the sale or transport of English ivy, declaring it a noxious weed. Seeing English ivy as a threat to Arlington's tree canopy, our own Arlington County Board proposed a bill for consideration in Richmond to declare English ivy a noxious weed

weed in Virginia. Introduced into the General Assembly by Senator Mary Margret Whipple, the bill failed in Committee by a tie vote.

At home here in Arlington Forest, several neighborhoods have declared war on English ivy, cutting the vines off trees and pulling its roots out of the ground in front and back lawns. On September 10, neighbors cut ivy off trees at the entrance to the Four Mile Run Trail at N. Granada & Arlington Blvd. In our largest neighborhood public space, our 25 acre Lubber Run Park, volunteers began work more than ten years ago cutting ivy vines from hundreds of trees and pulling the ivy out of the ground by its roots. To continue this endeavor, in 2005 AFCA received a Neighborhood Conservation Grant which funded the hiring of an excellent private contractor, Invasive Plant Control, Inc. Now Lubber Run Park is 99.9% ivy free. To protect those now pristine woodlands, nearly all of the owners of the 70 properties abutting the park have removed backyard ivy, either pulling it out themselves or hiring day laborers to remove it.

Virginia Creeper, unlike English ivy, is native to Arlington and is a welcome climber on trees. A good source of fruits for birds and other wildlife, Virginia Creeper is easy to identify because of its five-parted leaves (sometimes six-parted). Unlike English ivy which is an evergreen and holds trees in a death grip all year long, our native Virginia Creeper rests lightly on tree trunks and disappears completely in winter. It represents no threat to the environment.

On the other hand, the non-native invasive English ivy relentlessly encases trees year round. The moisture that



ivy holds against the girdled trunk causes decay and disease. On the ground, the thick vines deprive trees of necessary nutrients and trees must compete with English ivy for life-giving moisture. Also, thick English ivy on the ground provides a refuge for rats. Mosquitoes breed in the moist darkness under the shallow-rooted English ivy.

So that's the deal with English ivy!

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Around the Forest

Changes at Arlington Forest Park: During a June 16 on-site briefing, Arlington County naturalist Greg Zell explained that Arlington Forest Park (located in front of the shopping center) contains a once commonplace, but now rare, plant community called "dry gravel cap - poverty oat grass glade." One tree, a Saul's Oak, is the largest of its kind in the County. To protect this environment, the County has designated it a Natural Resource Conservation Area. They have reduced mowing to about once a year and will restore a limited number of native shrubs to the park. Because most of the park's native grasses are short grasses, the park is expected to largely retain its previous appearance despite the reduction of mowing.

Cub Scout News: Your local Cub Scout pack is gearing up for another great year. Pack 548 draws from Arlington Forest as well as from the Barrett, Barcroft and Campbell elementary schools. We are looking to recruit boys in 1st through 5th grade (esp. the 1st and 2nd grades). We have fun through monthly den meetings (groups of about 4-8 boys in the same grade) and monthly Pack meetings (always 7 pm on the third Friday of the month at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 825 S Taylor St, Arlington, Virginia 22204). We also try to have one optional fun event or special outdoor activity each month (e.g., hiking, camping or visit to local attraction). In the summer we also have a great time camping at the local Cub Scout camp in Prince William, VA. Finally, we have an awesome pinewood derby where boys get to build and race their cars. For more info, you can also see our parent information guide (<http://bit.ly/oyMTgj>) or check out our pack photos (<http://bit.ly/w42fP>). Interested in joining? Please contact Cubmaster Carey Johnston at johnston.carey@verizon.net, 703-243-3570. There's no deadline in registration but we hope you can join us for our first meeting at 7 pm on Friday, Sept 16 at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Thanks!

Washington-Lee Crew News: The 2011 Washington-Lee crew team, which included Foresters Alex Beranek, Gabrielle Canning (coxwain, Freshman Men's 8), Emily Janson, Brent and Ariel Pizzamiglio (Freshman Women's 8), and Savannah Young (Women's 2nd Varsity 8), had a successful year, in spite of weather which resulted in two regattas being cancelled. Among other highlights, the team's Men's Novice 4 boat (Brent Pizzamiglio, Kenmore MS, rowing) took second place at the Virginia Rowing Association (VASRA) Ted Phoenix Regatta, the Virginia state championships for lower boats. The team's Women's 1st Varsity 8 (Emily Janson rowing) took second place in the Petit Final at the VASRA State Championship Regatta, and the Women's Junior 8 boat (on which Emily also rowed) advanced to the semifinals at the Stotesbury Regatta in Philadelphia. The team's Men's Junior 8 (Alex Beranek rowing) took the

gold medal at the VASRA State Championship Regatta, and were the bronze medalists at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America's National Regatta in Camden, NJ, on May 28. Alex, Gabrielle, Emily, Ariel, Brent, Savannah, and their families would like to thank the Arlington Forest community for their support of the W-L crew team during their spring mulch fundraiser, and hope to improve on this year's successes in 2012.

E-CARE: Properly dispose of half-empty paint cans, hazardous household chemicals, and electronics (computers, TVs, etc.) at the County's semi-annual E-CARE drop off event on Saturday, Oct 15, 8:30 am to 3 pm at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. See the County website for a list of eligible items. Serviceable bikes will be collected by Bikes for the World to be sent to countries where they are needed for basic transportation.

Ballston Outdoor Markets: The Ballston Farmers Market runs each Thursday from 3 to 7 pm through Oct 13. The final 2011 Ballston Arts & Crafts Market is Saturday, Oct 8, from 10 am to 4 pm. Both are held in Welburn Square across from the Metro entrance.



WHAT TIME IS IT MR FOX?: ...it's time for hide-and-seek. Foxes were spotted in the neighborhood playing this game. Animal Welfare League of Arlington says "There's generally no need to fear wildlife. If you don't bother them, they generally won't bother you."

Forest Exchange

Help a Child: ADORE Children and Family Services (adore-children.com), a new Arlington-based therapeutic foster care agency, is looking for foster families. If you have a big heart for children, are a two parent or single parent family, have a stable income, complete 30 hours of training and pass a criminal background check, you may qualify. For more information, contact Mark Riley (Arlington Forest neighbor), ADORE's Foster Home Developer at rilesm@verizon.net, 703-927-0328.

Dear Dog and Cat Lover: I am raising money for the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) and ask that you support this important cause. AWLA provides shelter care for vulnerable and hurting animals and fosters and adopts them to loving families. Many of you are familiar with AWLA which is in Shirlington across from the dog park on Arlington Mill Drive. Please write a check payable to AWLA and send it to me at 5201 N 1st Street, Arlington, VA 22203. If you have questions, please email or call me at rilesm@verizon.net, 703-927-0328. Many thanks, Mark Riley (animal lover)

Put Your Notice Here: Send your notice to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by Oct 6.

Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, Sept 14, 7 pm, at Barrett School library. See Page 1 of this newsletter for details.

Luncheon Honoring Elroy and Dorothy Nieweg: Saturday, Sept 24, Noon at Crystal Thai restaurant. See Page 3 of this newsletter for details.

E-CARE: Saturday, Oct 15, 8:30 am to 3 pm at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Drop off hazardous fluids and old computers. See Page 9 of this newsletter for details.

Future AFCA Meetings: Oct 19, Nov 16, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21, Apr 18 and May 16.

AFCA Holiday Party: Friday, Dec 2, at Lubber Run Center. A neighborhood tradition with Santa and tables lined with treats.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 21, 2012. Join us Earth Day weekend for our second annual volunteer clean-up of public spaces around Arlington Forest.

Annual Community Yard Sale: Date in May 2012 to be determined. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

Lubber Run Amphitheater 2012 programs: Performances resume in June for a full summer schedule of live entertainment under the stars.

Upcoming AFCA Meetings for 2011 are Sept 14, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16

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Nature News

Free Trees! Fall is just around the corner and it's the perfect time to plant a tree! Once again, Arlington County is offering residents free trees to plant on their property. The program offers nine types of canopy trees: American sycamore, black oak, black gum, cherrybark oak, pin oak, red maple, river birch, poplar, and Virginia pine. There also will be eight smaller understory trees: American hazelnut, arrowwood viburnum, Eastern redbud, serviceberry, stag-horn sumac, sweetbay magnolia, winterberry holly, and American Witch hazel. Homeowners should pick up their own tree at the County Nursery or carpool with neighbors to pick up several trees. The County Nursery is behind Barcroft Recreation Center on Four Mile Run off of George Mason Drive (look for signage). There you can see the large variety of trees in Arlington, meet staff responsible for our street trees, and learn best practices for planting and care of the tree you receive. You can order a tree online from the County at www.tinyurl.com/TreeDistribution. The deadline for ordering is Oct 7. Pick up is Oct 15 and 16 from 8 am to 5 pm. If you have questions, contact Colleen O'Hara at cmohara@comcast.net (no tree orders please).

Please Water the Trees: Despite the August rains, our area's longer-term rain deficit has stressed our trees, especially those planted in the last three years. Residents can make a big difference just by watering their trees says

TreeStewards (www.treestewards.org), a volunteer group that provides education and support to our trees. Please water both your own and street trees you see in need. To water, leave your hose turned on low for a half hour once a week or install a slow-release watering bag (sold in hardware stores). Trees help clean the air and provide shade and beauty.

Proper Disposal of Yard Waste: Arlington County naturalist Greg Zell urges residents not to dump yard waste – vines, bush trimmings, branches, leaves, grass cuttings, dirt – in the forest. While the material may be of natural origin, there is nothing natural about creating large piles of dead plants on the edges of County parks. Also, any invasive plants contained in the yard waste can easily spread to pristine park land if dumped there. Instead of dumping yard waste on public land, please bag it for regular trash collection or schedule a special pick up.

Helpful Hint

Brush piled up in curbs throughout Arlington Forest show that residents have been diligently cleaning up after recent storms. Take the next step and get that brush picked up by going to the County's user-friendly website to request a brush pickup. The brush will be picked up on the next trash day and your neighbors will appreciate your clean curb.



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New Customer Specials: Hair Color & Haircut \$80; Permanent \$75
 (Bring this Arlington Forester coupon with you.)

Barcroft School News

Barcroft Elementary School is back in session. The 2011-2012 school year began on Tuesday, Aug 2. Welcome back, students!

Barcroft is the only Arlington Public School with a Modified School Year Calendar. Barcroft starts school a month before other schools and each quarter takes a multi-week break. This October, students may enjoy a two-week vacation or take interesting **Intersession** classes. These classes are consistent with the Virginia Standards of Learning and introduce students to new learning experiences, through classes such as cooking, singing, and forensic science.

If you have a **Harris Teeter VIC Card**, please link it to Barcroft Elementary School as part of the **Together in Education Program**. The PTA is raising money to purchase SmartBoards and other technologies for the classrooms, and we need your support! When you purchase Harris Teeter brand products between Aug 2011 and May 2012, a donation will be made to Barcroft. Go to www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx and use Barcroft code # 4238. Or you can provide the correctly-spelled last name of the VIC card holder along with the VIC card number to Heather Sheire at hsheire@verizon.net, and she'll link your VIC card to

Barcroft. Did you know that you can link your card to up to 5 schools? So please consider linking your card to Barcroft – your neighborhood school – as well as your child's school.

Barcroft also participates in the **School My Coke Rewards Program**. Parents and neighbors may help by clicking on: https://secure.mycokerewards.com/register.do?WT.mc_id=EMSCHLREG, entering codes, and picking up points to donate to Barcroft.

There are several **upcoming events** in September that we invite our wonderful neighbors to attend. Please join us at the school on **Saturday, Sept 17, from 9:30 to 11:30 am** for our annual **Chalk4Peace** event. Everyone is invited to create works of chalk art on the school's sidewalks and blacktop.

On **Friday, Sept 23**, Barcroft will celebrate our annual **Hispanic Heritage Night**. The evening will include special entertainment and outstanding food proudly prepared by Barcroft parents and local restaurants.

And please **save the date: Friday, Oct 28, is the PTA Halloween Party and Dance**. There will be plenty of fun for the whole family. We hope you'll join us for the fun!

To learn more about what's happening at Barcroft, go to www.apsva.us/Page/13363.

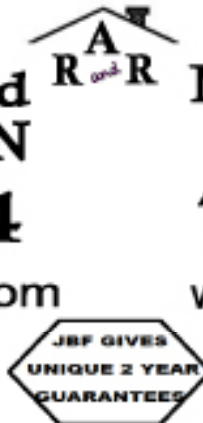
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Turn over a new leaf this fall: Replace an invasive with a native

By Christina Yacobi

Park Naturalist, Long Branch Nature Center



Introduced as an ornamental landscape shrub in the early 1860's, Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) is native to Northeastern Asia, Central China, and Japan. A large deciduous shrub known to be a slow grower, but prolific spreader, it spreads mainly by suckers growing low off the main stem. Seeds dropping directly beneath the main plant in what is known as "the seed shadow", birds also assist in widely dispersing the seeds.

It's branches are multi-stemmed and with prominent, corky-looking wings flaring out from the stem. While it has tiny scattered yellow-green spring blooms, the bush retains its mostly dark green appearance until fall. The highlight of this invasive shrub and its main reason for use as a landscape or horticultural specimen is its brilliant magenta to deep red fall color which lends itself to the common name, "Burning Bush".

There are numerous native shrub alternatives for the Winged Burning Bush, many of which produce greater multi-seasonal visual interest for homeowners and a significantly higher wildlife value. Two particularly attractive

native options are the Mapleleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) and the Southern Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*). While only growing 4-6 feet high, the Mapleleaf Viburnum is known for its fancy maple-leaf shaped foliage. The slightly larger Southern Arrowwood has an average height of 6-8 feet. Both species display clusters of white flowers in the spring, which then ripen into blue berries in the autumn; a time which also brings out their beautiful fall foliage. Berries from both species can persist through the first part of the winter.

Fall Native Plant Sale: Don't miss out on Long Branch Nature Center's Fall Native Plant Sale! Saturday, Sept 24, 1 to 3 pm. Rain date is Sunday, Sept 25, 1 to 3 pm. Find native plants that are just right for your landscape needs and get your questions answered about invasive plants and their attractive native alternatives. The vast majority of our plants are native, propagated right in our own gardens and our prices can't be beat! We will feature sun-loving and butterfly-attracting plants and also have a nice selection of wildflowers, shade lovers, ferns, and even a few shrubs. All proceeds support the Nature Center's projects and programs. For info call 703-228-6535.

Northern Virginia Market Trends

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on July 2011 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

A total of 1,729 homes sold in July 2011, a less than 1% decrease below 7/10 home sales of 1,741.

Active listings are down by about 8% with 4,891 active listings in 7/11, compared with 5,312 homes available in 7/10. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in 7/11 was up by just 2% to 49 days, compared with 48 days in 7/10.

Sales prices are about the same as those realized last year. The average sales price in 7/11 decreased by less than 2% 7/10, to \$500,667, compared with last July's average of \$509,107.

Arlington County Statistics

There are currently 656 resale and new homes in Arlington, as well as 141 homes in the pre-foreclosure, auction, or bank-owned stages of the foreclosure process. The average listing price for a single family home for sale in Arlington VA was \$706,560 in 8/11.

Arlington Forest Market Statistics

Year to date 13 homes in the Forest have sold and settled with an average list price of \$603,900 and average sales price of \$594,462. The average days on market was 34 days and average seller subsidy was \$4,423.

Mortgage Rates are very attractive! As of this writing the following rates are average quotes with no points: 4.25% up to \$417,000, 4.375% up to \$729,750, 4.75% over \$729,750.

On 10/1/11 \$625,500 will be the maximum loan amount for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and FHA loans.



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Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are available for baby-sitting, dog walking, yard work and other services. They are listed by neighborhood, but some may prefer to work within a few blocks of home. Contact them to discuss availability and fees.

Students who wish to be on this list should send their name, services and contact info by Oct 6 to nalandfamily@yahoo.com.

Northside:

- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Sophie Frank, babysitting (Red Cross certified), soccer training, tutoring, sophie.e.frank@gmail.com, 703-859-0722
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046

Southside:

- Jon Tiernan, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), jonny.boy4@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046
- Liz Tiernan, dog walking, pet sitting, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), lizzytiernan@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

Greenbrier Section:

- Kate Felsenheld, pet sitting, dog walking, k.cliffhero@gmail.com, 703-276-9874
- Alex Hendel, dog walking, babysitting (Red Cross certified), tutoring, alexhendel@gmail.com, 703-763-0070
- Alice Naland, babysitting (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, leaf raking, nalandfamily@yahoo.com, 703-888-0125
- Lucy Naland, babysitting (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, LucyMNaland@gmail.com, 703-888-0125



TRAIL LOVE: N. Granada Street neighbors recently applied for a County grant to improve the Four Mile Run trailhead near Arlington Blvd by removing invasive plants, installing an information kiosk, along with other enhancements.



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