

The Arlington Forester

Vol. 63, Number 3

Arlington, Virginia

November 2021

Hybrid AFCA Meeting—Restorative Justice

AFCA invites you to join our monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 17 at 7 p.m. You have two options. You can join us in person in the Hickory Room at the Lubber Run Community Center (bring your mask); or you can join the meeting through Zoom. We are working out the technology issues to give everyone a better hybrid experience, whether you come in person or join us through Zoom. Most of the issues have been resolved, with additional fixes forthcoming.

We will be joined by Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, the Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. Parisa will speak about restorative justice practices, which are designed to build

connections, equity, and belonging for everyone in the community (see the article on page 7).

To join the meeting through Zoom, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 17: <https://tinyurl.com/m4fpjfcj>. (If you have never used Zoom, you can view a short tutorial at <https://zoom.us/resources> by clicking on Joining & Configuring Audio/Video.) Alternatively, you can dial in to the meeting at 301-715-8592, where you will be prompted to enter meeting number 885 4775 4318 and passcode 393892. You might also be prompted to hit the # sign one or more times. This call-in number will be active starting at 6:50 p.m.

Call for Dues



Your annual AFCA dues help get this newsletter delivered to your door as a service to you and the entire neighborhood. Dues also pay for tree grants to residents and donations to our neighborhood schools. Dues support the AFCA website (www.arlingtonforestva.org), which contains a detailed neighborhood map, a history of Arlington Forest, back issues of this newsletter, and more.

COVID has limited AFCA's ability to raise funds in other ways, so please pay your dues today. You can pay online through the AFCA website or clip out the coupon on this page and deliver it with a \$10 check to your section representative. Add an optional donation if you can—every little bit helps! If you include your email address, you will be added to the AFCA listserv, which sends a few messages per month with news of neighborhood interest.

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

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

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AFCA Hybrid Meeting 7 p.m. **November 17**

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The Arlington Forester is the official publication of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, Arlington, VA. A nonpartisan, nonsectarian publication serving the residents of Arlington Forest, the *Forester* welcomes articles, newsbits, letters, and photos focusing on noncommercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish eight times per year (Sep to Nov and Jan to May). The deadline for submissions is the first of the month. Email your submission of up to 400 words—less, if you include a photo—to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

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AFCA October 2021 Meeting

On October 20, 2021, AFCA President Esther Bowring called a hybrid meeting to order at about 7 p.m. The only neighborhood report was from Southside announcing a Halloween parade on October 30 on South Park Street. Esther thanked John Naland for again organizing a successful scarecrow making event for kids, a wonderful way to kick off the Halloween season. She also thanked Erin Turner for organizing a Halloween parade for kids on October 30 going from Edison Park to the Lubber Run Amphitheater. She thanked the Foresters who are maintaining the Northside traffic circles, including Randy Brooke, Fieke Janson, Char Mahoney, and Kay Tiernan. We need volunteers for a traffic circle cleanup event; you can email Kay Tiernan at tiernantriplets@yahoo.com to get involved.

The guest speaker was Liz Crowther, an Arlington County recycling outreach specialist. Ms. Crowther showed a video about the county's curbside food scraps collection program (online at Food Scraps Collection Arlington). Ms. Crowther answered questions about what to compost and the process for composting the food scraps. She encouraged Arlington Forest residents to refer to the website recycling.arlingtonva.us. You can email ArlRecycles@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-7610 to request a new bin or obtain additional information.

Treasurer Jeff Horwitz has done a lot of work to regain AFCA's IRS status and is now working to ensure that AFCA doesn't need to pay state taxes. He has moved AFCA's invoicing system to an online platform that will save time. If anyone has about 4 hours of free time twice a year, Jeff could use assistance in billing the advertisers and following up. Donna Simpson announced a fundraiser for the American Legion at the Original Pancake House in Falls Church on October 28.

Joel Yudken and Rick Epstein reported on the Arlington Civic Federation meeting in October. The County Department of Public Safety and Communications presented a demonstration project ("safety and innovation zone") with new technologies (such as cameras in street lights); more information is available on the county website. When these technologies are more widely deployed, the data collected will not be shared with anyone.

The Missing Middle Housing Study (MMHS) was also discussed at the Civic Federation meeting (the MMHS phase 1 report is summarized in the October *Arlington Forester*). Less than a thousand people participated in phase 1, not a significant number; more people should consider participating in phase 2. The AFCA MMHS Committee is considering the implications of the phase 1 report for Arlington Forest and will report on its findings (see, for example, the articles on pages 7-8). Phase 2, currently underway, will make concrete proposals for building more middle housing in Arlington neighborhoods.

Homegrown National Park: Getting Started

By Sue Huff



I hope you enjoyed the recent articles in *The Arlington Forester* by Susan Graham and Cheryl Roesel describing the plight of our native insects and birds. And I hope that you, like me, have been inspired by Dr. Douglas Tallamy's vision of creating a Homegrown National Park—right here in Arlington Forest! Nurturing native plants to attract pollinators and, more importantly, to support the life cycles of insects and birds is a rewarding challenge. All of us can create diversity and natural habitats in our yards, from replacing lawngrass with new gardens to replacing nonnative bushes and trees with plants that attract, feed, and host a variety of native birds and insects. A beginner can get started today in a number of ways.

Planting a new garden—removing the sod, tilling the soil, adding amendments—might seem like a lot of work! Happily, you don't have to hire an expensive landscaping company. As I explored creating diversity in my garden this past spring, I found that the Arlington Master Gardeners actually recommend *not* doing a deep turnover to prepare a new garden because it can bring dormant weed seeds to the top to sprout and flourish along with the plants you want. Following the Master Gardeners' suggestion, I roughed up grass in the area where I wanted my new bed, laid down newspaper to prevent weeds, then piled on several inches of topsoil and mulch. I planted my seedlings directly into the new topsoil using a bulb planter to cut through the layers. I

enjoyed my new garden all summer long, with minimal weed breakthroughs. I was so inspired by this success that I expanded into the area under my red-bud tree using the same technique, effectively turning one side of my frontyard into a native garden.

You might want to keep your backyard for family gatherings—children and pets need space too.

Other ways to get started might be more appealing if you prefer a more tamed or traditional look to your yard. An "island"—a round or irregularly shaped pollinator garden, perhaps laid out around a birdbath and planted with flowers that bring in the bees and butterflies—would be a beautiful beginning. Locate your garden where you will see it from a window. I found myself captivated by watching the bees and butterflies, and I thoroughly enjoyed talking about what I was doing to neighbors passing by.

Most of us have the traditional line of evergreen foundation plantings, mostly not very useful to pollinators. Planting in front of them can break up that straight line and add color, dimension, and energy to transform the front of your property. Similarly, the sides of most Arlington Forest frontyards are bounded by driveways, the perfect edges for perimeter gardens—narrow "meadows" where birds, bees, butterflies, and insects can thrive.

As pollinator gardens are added to the Forest's frontyards, our streets will become pollinator avenues! Less lawn means restoring balance to our endangered ecology. Gardening with native plants nurtures wildlife while bringing a sense of calm and well-being to our lives. It's part of the very complicated puzzle we must solve to restore balance and stability in our world. A small step from each of us will be a big leap for our community. Happy gardening!

Foresters at the Grand Opening

The grand opening of the Lubber Run Community Center was a huge success back in July 2021. Many residents of Arlington Forest attended, as did people from other neighborhoods. In the photo (left to right) are Donna Marie and Richard Simpson from Northside and Chris and Karen Scheer from Greenbrier. Their T-shirts advertise our community's 80th anniversary.

The two couples first met at AFCA monthly meetings back in the 1990s. The two men met again during Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. Chris worked for one of the sponsors, the Veterans Administration, and Richard volunteered to be a flag bearer for the American Legion. What a surprise to see a neighbor every November 11! The ladies got together the year they both retired, chatting at the

annual May picnic in Lubber Run Park. Karen retired from the Arlington County School system and Donna retired from United Airlines. Fast forward some 30 years, and the foursome is still enjoying a fun friendship.



Arlington Forest Park



The article is adapted from the revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

Arlington County gives special protection to natural areas with valuable or unusual plants or other characteristics. These natural resource conservation areas include Arlington Forest Park, a 1-acre tract between the Arlington Forest Shopping Center and Arlington Boulevard. The park contains Arlington's largest remnant of a plant community called dry gravel cap-xeric oak/poverty oatgrass glade.

The soils here, derived from ancient river sediments, are thin and sandy. The sparse vegetation leaves the soils bare in many places, where solitary bees burrow into the ground to lay eggs. Ground-nesting bees are especially efficient pollinators, so the habitat in Arlington Forest Park plays a crucial role in pollination.

The site features native plants adapted to xeric (dry) habitats, including a grassland species known as poverty oatgrass, a grass that gets about a foot tall. The park is one of the only places in Arlington where you can find rare plants like pineweed, globe flatsedge, St. Andrew's cross, and forktip three-awn grass. A locally rare shrub called coralberry is found nearby. Dry-site trees like white oak and chestnut oak are scattered across the park.

In the thin soils, the large oaks are vulnerable to prolonged drought, and multiple trees weakened and died under the unusually hot and dry conditions that followed torrential rains on July 8, 2019. The dead trees were a safety hazard for park visitors, and their prominent location made them a community eyesore. The county has been removing dead trees while leaving stumps and 20-foot trunks ("snags"). The snags will hasten natural processes of deadfall and decay while providing habitat for insects, woodpeckers, and other wildlife. Oak seedlings are coming up in the park in the natural process of tree regeneration.

Plants like poverty oatgrass are adapted to periodic burning, which destroys vegetation that would otherwise shade them out, such as Virginia pine and eastern redcedar (trees that readily colonize open spaces). A tall native grass called broomsedge bluestem is also crowding out the oatgrass and other rare species. Unfortunately, controlled fires are infeasible in this tiny urban park, but park managers are planning alternatives, such as weeding out pines and junipers.

To better "frame" the space, both to make it visually more appealing and to keep vegetation from spilling



over trails and sidewalks, the county mows around the perimeter of the park each summer. Park staff will hand trim areas around desirable plants, and the rest of the park will be mowed once a year to discourage the broomsedge, but only after the oatgrass has flowered and released its seeds.



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Lubber Run Farmers Market

The article was written by Barbara Englehart for the revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

The Lubber Run Farmers Market (LRFM) is held in the parking lot of Barrett Elementary School from April through November on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. The market is a relatively new addition to Arlington Forest, opening in spring 2018 and just ending its fourth season in 2021.

The market offers local produce and other goods from farms and other businesses within 125 miles of our community. Most produce and flower vendors come from two areas—southern Pennsylvania near Gettysburg and Virginia’s Northern Neck. Having vendors from both areas extends the seasonal availability of offerings because Virginia farms tend to get produce earlier in the season and Pennsylvania farms tend to carry the same produce later on.

In addition to produce and flowers, vendors in 2020 offered meats, dairy goods, baked goods, and specialty foods. For example: Hog Haven, a farm in Goochland, VA, offered pasture-fed pork products; Cold Country Salmon, based in Charlottesville, VA, sold salmon caught each year in Bristol Bay, AK, along with seafood from Chesapeake Bay; Cheese Goatee offered fresh goat cheese products from a family farm in Franklin County, PA; Baguette Republic sold baked goods from a local artisan bakery run by an Arlington Forest father/daughter

team; Commonwealth Bee Company sold honey from northern Virginia, including from hives in Arlington Forest; and Ozfeka, based in Arlington, offered home-made Mediterranean and Turkish cuisine.

Although the coronavirus pandemic delayed its 2020 opening, the market ultimately thrived in its third season. It adopted procedures for operating safely by requiring masks, social distancing, and controlled traffic flow. A new “LR To Go” service allowed customers to buy items in advance for easy pickup at the market. Business increased from previous years, and customers expressed their thanks for having this local resource.

The LRFM is run by Field to Table, Inc., an Arlington-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the “locavore” movement, which encourages people to reestablish their relationship with the land and purchase from local farmers and food preparers. Field to Table also operates the Westover, Fairlington, and Marymount Farmers Markets. The four Field to Table markets work cooperatively with each other, and several vendors work across multiple markets.

An independent volunteer market committee directs overall market operations for the LRFM. On market days, the LRFM is staffed by a Field to Table market manager, along with market volunteers. Especially with the additional coronavirus procedures, the market is always looking for more volunteers.

A new report from *CoreLogic* reveals home prices are up 18% since this time last year. The **demand** for homes is significantly greater than the current **supply** that’s available to buy, which is driving the increase. From Q2 2020 to Q2 2021, the average home appreciation was 17.4%. The supply of homes for sale will greatly affect where prices go in the coming months. Experts forecast prices will continue to increase to only 5% in 2022. Buyers hoping to purchase in the future may see this as great news. Now a slight moderation of home prices does not mean values will depreciate or fall. Price increases may occur at a slower pace, but experts still expect them to rise.

This lack of homes for sale is creating a challenge for many

buyers who are growing frustrated in their search. On the other hand, this is a huge opportunity for sellers the other hand, this is a huge opportunity for sellers as low supply is driving up home values.

According to *CoreLogic*, the average home has appreciated by more than \$50,000 over the past year. And for many homeowners, that’s opening new doors as they re-think their needs and use their equity to move up or downsize.

Are you living in your ideal home now? If you are thinking of a new lifestyle, I’m glad to help you research and discuss options. Put my 36 years of local Arlington market expertise to work for you and your largest financial investment!



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Missing Middle Housing Study: Unanswered Questions

By Hutch Brown and Joel Yudken



The Missing Middle Housing Study (MMHS), initiated by Arlington County in 2019, completed the first of three phases in summer 2021 with a report on phase 1, which was intended “to build a shared understanding of the problem.” Before the report came out, a group of neighbors in an AFCA MMHS Committee, including the authors, sent a letter to the Arlington County Board. Our letter raised eight questions about the prospect of rezoning neighborhoods like ours to allow property owners to replace single-family detached homes with multifamily units (duplexes, townhomes, and so on). The county’s response referred to the phase 1 report, but the report answers none of the eight questions. Instead, it either pushes them to phase 2 or ignores them altogether.

One question is in two parts: (a) *What caused the current housing shortage? Why are markets unable to meet demand when they could before?* (b) *What impact will the coronavirus pandemic, which has changed patterns of telework, have on new housing demand?* Arlington is part of a metropolitan region that produced about 30,000 new housing units per year before the Great Recession (2007–09), meeting regional demand; yet now the region produces only about 22,000 new units per year, less than 75 percent of prior production. What changed? Legacy land uses and zoning didn’t change, so something else must have triggered the housing shortfall in regional housing markets. The phase 1 report offers no explanation

because it doesn’t take up the question. So how can it “build a shared understanding of the problem”? Nor are the potential impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on housing supply and demand in Arlington and elsewhere in the region mentioned anywhere in the report.

Another question: *What role does Arlington play in meeting regional housing needs? Does Arlington fill a regional niche?* At 26 square miles in a metropolitan area of more than 1,400 square miles, Arlington comprises only 2 percent of the region’s land area. Arlington’s housing needs and supplies are interwoven with those of neighboring jurisdictions such as Fairfax and Alexandria. An economic study (online at Arlington Analytics) found that any serious housing study would not treat Arlington in isolation. Indeed, the phase 1 report notes a comment that housing affordability “is a regional problem that requires regional solutions and is not something that Arlington can solve for on its own,” yet it never takes up the issue. Ignoring Arlington’s role in regional housing does nothing to resolve the issue or “build a shared understanding of the problem.”

The committee of neighbors is now evaluating how next to approach the Arlington County Board for answers to the unanswered questions that many Foresters have about the MMHS. One more question: Why is it so hard to get a straight response?

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The Missing Middle Housing Study: Having It Both Ways

By Hutch Brown and Joel Yudken

The Missing Middle Housing Study (MMHS), initiated by Arlington County in 2019, completed the first of three phases in summer 2021 with a report on phase 1. The focus of the MMHS, according to the phase 1 report, is on “increasing housing supply and housing choice” by building more middle housing types such as “duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, and others.”

As reported by ArlNow (September 2021), the MMHS is dissociating middle housing from housing affordable to low-income residents. Building middle housing, the phase 1 report concedes, does not “necessarily lead to the creation of ‘affordable housing.’” The focus instead is on “housing choice,” a term repeated 40 times in the report, including in the title (“Expanding Housing Choice”). Lifting zoning restrictions, the phase 1 report suggests, would allow property owners to replace aging single-family homes with middle housing, creating more housing options and lower housing prices.

Yet “housing choice” does not then become an end in itself. Instead, the phase 1 report embraces the fundamental “Arlington County vision” of “a diverse, inclusive, and economically sustainable community,” and it describes a national trend of restrictive land use policies causing a shortage of housing, especially for “minority buyers,” “essential workers,” “long-time Arlingtonians,” “seniors, young families, moderate-income residents,” and “a diverse cross-section of households.” Such groups, says the report, might find middle housing more affordable because it would comprise smaller units on less land per unit. That would create “more options for people to live in Arlington, including those who already

live or work here and need a new housing solution for themselves or loved ones.”

So after dismissing the priority of affordable housing, the phase 1 report brings it in again through the backdoor. The MMHS, according to the report, is about using “housing choice as a land use tool to meet Arlington’s housing needs.” Those needs specifically include lower cost housing, mentioned dozens of times in the report, which notes that middle housing “can be less expensive than other housing options.” *Can* but not *will*—and there’s the rub: if demand for housing in Arlington is inelastic—if the location is so desirable that developers can command high prices for housing of any kind—then developers will simply build high-end units of all kinds, whether townhomes, duplexes, or large single-family houses. Developers can and will use “expanding housing choice” to their own advantage, maximizing returns from any particular property or community.

The phase 1 report simply assumes that middle housing will be affordable to “moderate-income residents” and other groups at risk. An economic study (online at Arlington Analytics) found the opposite to be true for duplexes in all but six Arlington neighborhoods, not including ours. For phase 2 of the MMHS to be credible, it must include sound economic analysis—because the study can’t have it both ways: it can’t be *only* about “housing choice” if it is *also* about meeting housing needs for seniors, young families, essential workers, and other groups of limited financial means. And if it’s about the latter, then the MMHS still needs to prove the economic viability of “housing choice as a land use tool.”

The Arlington Forester welcomes opinion pieces that contain no personal or partisan attacks. If you want to raise an issue affecting our neighborhood, please send your piece to the editor.

The Restorative Arlington Initiative

Restorative Arlington is a countywide initiative to bring the benefits of restorative justice practices to Arlington. With origins in indigenous knowledge, restorative justice deepens connections among people by cultivating empathy, trust, and mutual respect. It also responds to injustices by engaging all affected parties in creative, collaborative processes for acknowledging and repairing the harm. The initiative supports people in handling conflict through a framework rooted in understanding that we are all interconnected and we all have value.

In April 2020, a group of 45 Arlingtonians began exploring how to adopt restorative justice practices in Arlington’s schools, legal system, and community. In November 2020, the working group finalized a Restorative Arlington Strategic Plan based on a vision of Arlington as an equitable, empathetic community that honors the dignity and humanity of all people and creates pathways for belonging, healing, accountability, and growth. You can find the strategic plan online at Restorative Arlington Strategic Plan.

Plant a Tree in Your Yard

Help keep the “forest” in Arlington Forest! Fall is the perfect time to plant. If you have lost a tree or want to add a new one, you can get financial assistance.

AFCA Tree Grant Program:

AFCA provides up to \$125 to help cover the cost of buying and planting a canopy tree (including delivery). You can qualify for grants on up to two trees, with various native trees to choose from. To qualify, all you need is to be paid up on your 2021–22 AFCA dues. For the application form, go to www.arlingtonforestva.org and click on the AFCA tab. Act now—grants are limited.

Tree Canopy Fund: Through a county program administered by EcoAction Arlington, you can get a native tree planted on your property at no cost to you. You can choose from various trees, both large and small. The application deadline for spring planting is in January, with the form posted this fall. For more information, check out EcoAction Arlington Tree Canopy Fund.

Faces of the Forest: Tell Us About Someone You Know!

With over 800 households, Arlington Forest has residents known for their accomplishments, whether in our neighborhood or in their careers. Tell us about a Forester you know! Do it in an interview or write a story (with your subject’s permission, of course)—or tell us about someone from the past. Send your writeup of 400 words or less with a photo (if possible) to Hutch Brown at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Questions? Send an email or text/call 703-855-1732.



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And the Winner Is...

I hope everyone in the Forest had a great summer. Ours was filled with friends, a few short trips, and lots of time at the AFC pool. Another noteworthy moment, I was pleased to be honored with The Arlie for Best Realtor. Other past Arlie winners include Sandra Bullock, Katie Couric, and John Glenn (though they won for Favorite Notable Resident). I look forward to seeing them all on the red carpet!



Huge thanks to all my gracious clients who made this possible!



Member Long & Foster Executive Club.

Parks Update

Lubber Run Bridge Replacement

Flooding in July 2019 washed out two of three bridges over Lubber Run. The county has proposed rebuilding one of the bridges at a site downstream from the amphitheater, near the trail leading up to Edison Park playground. Construction would include removing a northern red oak badly undercut by streambank erosion. You can find out more here: <https://tinyurl.com/caj2rw3p>.

Lubber Run Concrete Ford

The concrete fords over creeks in our area mostly work well. However, the ford over Lubber Run near the amphitheater is often blocked up by debris following storms and then impassable for days. The revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan contains a recommendation to replace the ford with a structure that always works.

Find Out More About Arlington Parks

Take a virtual tour of Arlington's "natural resources conservation areas" with Alonso Abugattas, the natural resources manager for Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation. Alonso discusses one area right in our own neighborhood, Arlington Forest Park, a rare upland ecosystem with unusual plants. Then there's a large stand of old-growth forest (never been logged) in Glencarlyn Park, just across Four Mile Run from Southside. Here's the Youtube link: <https://youtube.com/JQr78yrSSOo>.

Coyote Sighting Confirmed

In his virtual tour of Arlington Parks, Alonso Abugattas shows a photo of a coyote taken by remote camera in Barcroft Park above lower Four Mile Run. The coyote was apparently checking out the den of a fox, another relatively recent arrival in Arlington. If Barcroft Park has coyotes, then our neighborhood parks probably do too, so best to keep cats indoors.

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County News

COVID Booster Shots

Arlington County Public Health is now offering COVID-19 vaccine boosters to certain people by appointment. You can find out about eligibility and locations online at Arlington COVID Booster.

Missing Middle Housing Study (MMHS)

Arlington County has launched a multiyear initiative to plan for building "middle housing" (such as duplexes and townhouses) in neighborhoods currently zoned for single-family detached homes.

- Phase 1 (fall 2020–summer 2021): "Developing a common understanding"—closed. Results are online (Expanding Housing Choice: The Missing Middle Housing Study Phase 1 Report).
- Phase 2 (October 2021–June 2022): Recommendations for new housing types and locations.
- Phase 3 (July 2022–December 2022): "Consideration of how to implement the conclusions of the previous phases, possibly leading to recommendations to amend the Zoning Ordinance."

MMHS: Economic Feasibility Study

Phase 2 of the MMHS, according to the phase 1 report, will include an "economic feasibility analysis" to "indicate the likely sales/rent prices" for new middle housing types. The analysis does not specifically include studying the affordability of new middle housing for those of limited financial means.

MMHS: Consultant Team

During phase 2 of the MMHS, according to the phase 1 report, the county will engage a "consultant team" to help develop a "detailed methodology for housing type evaluation and community engagement strategy." The "housing type evaluation" will include a planned "economic feasibility analysis" giving prices for new middle housing.

New County Website

Arlington County recently launched a new website, complete with its new logo. The county has tips for navigating the new and improved website, including using the quick links on the homepage, the new and improved search bar, and the main navigation bar at the top right of each page. Check out the new website at arlingtonva.us.

Kids Make Halloween Scarecrows



On October 16, Forester families brought children to the Arlington Forest Shopping Center to make frontyard Halloween strawmen. The kids brought jeans and shirts to make the strawmen, and AFCA supplied the straw stuffing and safety pins. Eleven families joined in the fun. Thanks to Greenbrier resident John Naland, who led the event for a sixth year!

Holiday Party?

Holiday parties are a longstanding Arlington Forest tradition, with food and fun, including a visit from Santa. But with COVID still with us, are we willing to have one again this year? Let AFCA know by taking the online survey at <https://tinyurl.com/yrbrsxu5>.

Traffic Circle

Cleanup—Volunteers Needed!

A big thank you to the Foresters who maintain the traffic circles, including Kay Tiernan (North 2nd Street and North Henderson Drive); Char Mahoney (North 2nd and Abingdon); Fieke Janson (North 2nd and Park); and Randy Brooke (North 2nd and Wakefield). We still need volunteers to help do a cleanup of the circles. This would be a great project for teens needing community service hours. Please contact Kay Tiernan at tiernantriplets@yahoo.com.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan

The Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan is under review by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee. The Neighborhood Conservation Staff Director expects to put the plan on the agenda for the committee at a meeting on December 9 at the latest. Then the plan will undergo review by the Arlington County Planning Commission before going to the County Board for approval.

American Legion Fundraiser Held

Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary living in Arlington Forest solicited support from Foresters for Dine Out Day on October 28 at the Original Pancake House in Falls Church. The restaurant donated a portion of the proceeds to help the American Legion Auxiliary provide needed services to veterans and their families.

Roadwork on North George Mason Dr.

On November 2, the county plans to begin a 1-month maintenance project on the culvert for Lubber Run under George Mason Drive east of the Carlin Springs Road interchange. The work will be weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with some on Saturdays. A lane approaching the work zone will be closed, with a detour via North Park Drive. The project will increase the lifespan of the structure and improve waterflow.

Culpepper Garden Donation

Every year, AFCA sends Culpepper Garden a donation to support the work they do in providing affordable housing for low-income seniors right in our neighborhood. This year, the donation went to help sponsor a Daffodil Bulb Donation Drive to raise funds for the facility. Culpepper Garden is looking for volunteers to help plant over 3,000 daffodil bulbs from October to December in preparation for their Daffodil Walk next spring. You can sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/mtcd9xc>.

Fall Leaf Collection

If you rake leaves, county leaf collection in our neighborhood will happen in two stages: November 17–20 and December 8–11. The leaves are mulched, along with other yardwaste, for Arlingtonians to pick up or have delivered at relatively low cost next spring.

Kids for Hire

This newsletter feature helps neighbors find local help and support local kids. But kids do move on. If your child no longer belongs on the list, please let the editor know at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org to avoid confusion and make space for others.

Pie Contest



The Galveston culdesac in Greenbrier hosted its first annual Pie Contest as part of its Fall Block Party. Andy Browne took home the trophy for Best Pie for his delectable cranberry-lime entry. The photo shows (left to right) Beckie Lewis, Andy Browne, Kristen George (with Jack and Cora), Hannah Maslar, Marianne Szegedy-Maszak, Caden Kaufman, and Melanie Lambert (with Harriet). All submitted entries.

AFCFA Meetings

- November 17, 2021:** Restorative justice
- January 19, 2022:** Solar panel installation
- February 16, 2022:** Missing Middle Housing Study update
- March 16, 2022:** Q&A with School Board representative (tentative)
- April 20, 2022:** Q&A with County Board representative (tentative)
- May 18, 2022:** Neighborhood picnic (tentative)

Community Calendar



The coronavirus pandemic has forced AFCA to limit the number of community events, with some down as tentative—to be held if conditions allow.

- Next AFCA meeting:** Wednesday, November 17, 7 p.m.
- Lubber Run Farmers' Market:** Saturday mornings at the Barrett Elementary School parking lot; social distancing and masking encouraged.
- Home and Garden Tour:** May 2022 (tentative)
- Annual AFCA Picnic:** May 18, 2022 (tentative)
- Annual Yard Sale:** May 2022 (tentative)

This Newsletter Needs You!

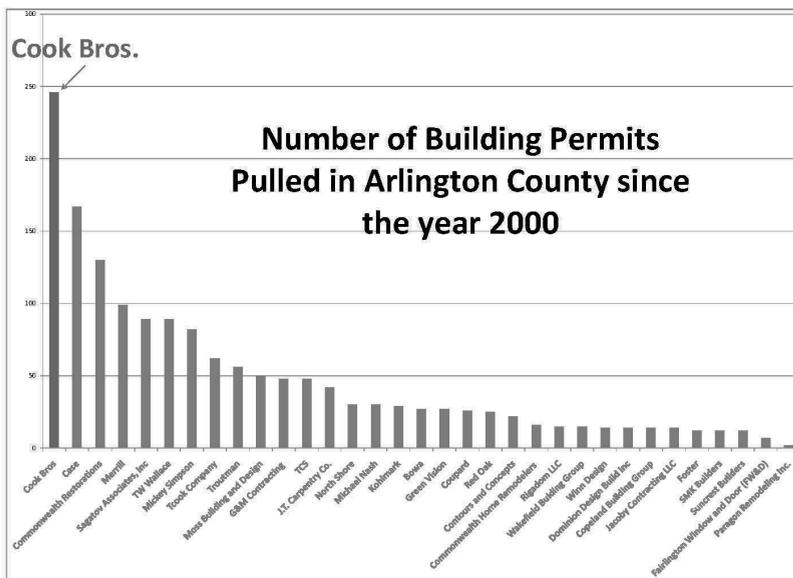
This newsletter offsets most of its production costs through advertising. We need a volunteer to manage the billing for about 15 to 20 advertisers. You would work with the newsletter editor and the AFCA treasurer, spending about 4 hours on billing twice a year. If you are interested, please contact Treasurer Jeff Horwitz at afca@ironstate.me, and thanks!

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Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

Students and staff were able to enjoy the return of several annual events this October. October 6 was Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day. Thanks to Trader Joe's donation of pumpkins, classes were able to show off their creativity in decorating the pumpkins for the school's pumpkin parade. We still managed to celebrate the Halloween Parade on October 29, but we paraded inside the school because of the rainy weather.

Barcroft provides after-school activities for some of our students. Food services used to provide snacks; unfortunately, however, that program is not available this year. If you can donate a box of snacks, the school would be grateful! They feed about 50 students per week. You can drop the snacks off at the school office and just label them "after-school snacks." If you would like to donate funds to help, you can email barcroftptapresident2022@gmail.com.

Communities in Schools is now overseeing the week-end food distribution to Barcroft Students. Each week,

they pack and deliver 100 meals to students to take home on Friday. Each bag includes two snacks, two lunch meals, two fruits, and two juices. If you would like to donate items for this program, here's the Amazon Wish List: <https://tinyurl.com/6dbyxj8>.

Barcroft is also taking donations for winter coats for our students. They will be distributed during our Thanksgiving Food Distribution. If you would like to donate, here's the Amazon Wish List for winter coats: <https://tinyurl.com/52stf8vm>.

Upcoming events at Barcroft include a restaurant night fundraiser at the Ballston Quarter Chick-fil-A on November 16 and Thanksgiving Break from November 24 to November 26. If you want to stay up to date on Barcroft happenings, you can follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @BarcroftEagles and on Facebook at Barcroft Elementary School PTA.



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Barrett School News

By Colleen Nguyen

On behalf of the K.W. Barrett Elementary School PTA, I want to say thank you to the Arlington Forest Civic Association for its generous donation to our PTA last month. At a time when we're having to limit our fund-raising events—and possibly pay to move other events outside, as we're considering—this generosity will give us more flexibility to fulfill our mission of supporting children in our community. Thank you to all AFCA members for making the donation possible!

October felt almost normal for Barrett, especially with the weather being so warm. We kicked off the month by getting families excited for Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day, with stickers and orange slices that morning. We helped with student picture day and accepted submissions for the National PTA Reflections Art Contest, with this year's theme of "I will change the world by" More to come on our school winners soon!

We also partnered with the school on two great events, Unity Day and Hispanic Heritage Night. Unity Day is a national effort to spread kindness and inclusion and prevent bullying. Families and students chalked the front and back of our school with welcome messages in multiple languages and words of support. On

Hispanic Heritage Night, we took a tour of countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico, with students doing research and making posters in class and student tour guides answering all of our questions at the event.

Looking forward, we're excited about our Book Fair in November in partnership with R.E.A.D., a fantastic nonprofit owned by Forester (and former Barrett PTA President) Jennifer Sauter-Price that helps provide "new, quality, culturally relevant books" to babies and young children. We're also planning our first in-person meeting of our parent engagement group and hopefully one more outdoor event in November or early December before it gets too cold. Finally, we're partnering with the school and kicking off our Barrett Gives campaign to ensure every child in our community has a happy and fun holiday.

Again, we're grateful for the continued support of Arlington Forest residents for our students. Please continue to follow our efforts on Twitter @BPTAE and at Facebook.com/barrettpta and contact me any time at president@kwbarrettpta.org. We hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday!



Tracy C. Taylor, Author

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Dental: Something Wicked in the Land of

Ahhhs

Financial: Good Habits to Have (Financial Help Book)

Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are ready to help. To be added or deleted, email newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

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Greenbrier

Northside

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| Ethan Heinrich | ethan.heinrich27@gmail.com | 703-475-8430 | | ✓ | | ✓* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Emilie Kluge | emiliekluge@yahoo.com | 571-457-1983 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Tutoring |
| Amy Mashkuri | | 571-643-5883 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Andrew Rogers | andrewmcyt@gmail.com | 703-892-0226 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | Yardwork |
| Caroline Rogers | carolinearogers@verizon.net | 703-892-0226 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Atalie Dempsey | atalie.dempsey@gmail.com | 571-317-9216 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Evan Dempsey | Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com | 703-559-9690 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Anna D'Itri | | 703-346-3467 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Gabriel D'Itri | | 703-346-3467 | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | Lawn mowing |
| Julia Green | joangreen32@gmail.com | 703-785-4293 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Trevor Green | joangreen32@gmail.com | 703-785-4293 | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | Lawn mowing |
| Charlotte Lawson | CharlotteLawsonnn@gmail.com | 703-933-8880 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Madeline Lund | madelinelund11@gmail.com | 571-447-6968 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Avery McGrann | snooz_ette@yahoo.com | 571-225-2484 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | Weekends only |
| Anna McLaughlin | annamc1012@yahoo.com | 571-550-1680 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓* | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Ciara McLaughlin | ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com | 703-712-9215 | | | | ✓* | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Reid Messman | | 703-469-1988 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Shea Messman | | 703-469-1988 | | | | ✓* | | | | | |
| Lucas Miller | g.mark.miller1@gmail.com | 786-493-3112 | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | Lawn mowing |
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| Matthew Petruccelli | tony.petruccelli@gmail.com | 703-629-0425 | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| Caulder Pickard | katiepickard@gmail.com | 571-244-6870 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Ava Smialowicz | ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com | 703-424-0895 | | ✓ | | ✓* | | | | | |
| Emma Weaver | | 703-875-8185 | | | | ✓* | | | | | |
| Natalie Bryant | sarakatherine75@hotmail.com | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Niittisha Choudhary | Niittisha@gmail.com | 703-981-1229 | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | Tutoring |
| Riittisha Choudhary | riittishachoudhary@gmail.com | | | | | ✓ | | | | | Tutoring, yardwork |
| Tyler Dinan | chrisbettdinan@aol.com | 703-525-5763 | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | Lawn mowing |
| Evan Eng | dcharveydc@yahoo.com | 703-861-1890 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| Jeremy Fagen | jeremy.fagen@gmail.com | 571-645-3475 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Rafaella Lenco | Rafaellalenco@gmail.com | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Annie Madden | Lacrosse.donuts@gmail.com | 703-220-3357 | | ✓ | | ✓* | | | | | |
| Evie Price | | 240-665-8139 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Sophie Stewart | sophiestewart4@gmail.com | 703-713-5902 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓* | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
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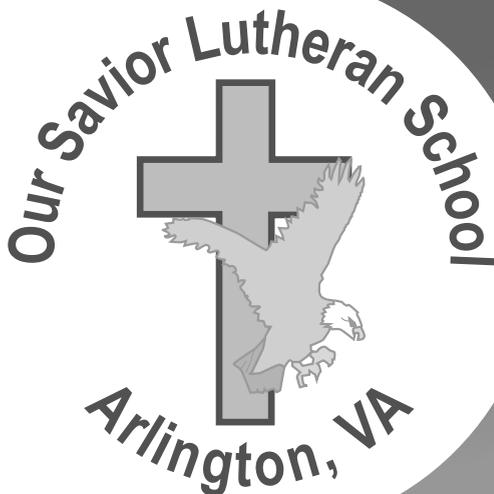
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