

The Arlington Forester

Vol. 63, Number 1

Arlington, Virginia

September 2021

AFCA Meeting on September 14—Native Plants

AFCA invites you to join our monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 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 will discuss and vote on two things: (1) the AFCA budget for 2021–22, and (2) the draft revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan, which you can find posted on the AFCA website. Susan Graham of Greenbrier will then deliver a presentation on the benefits of cultivating native plants in your garden (see her article on page 3).

To join the Zoom meeting, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14: tinyurl.com/you2hz7hf. (If you have never used Zoom, you can view a short tutorial at 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 842 7982 3106 and passcode 940742. 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.

AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

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

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

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

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

Dues: _____ Donation: _____ Total: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

AFCA Hybrid Meeting 7 p.m. **September 14**

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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 May 2021 Meeting

On May 19, 2021, AFCA President Esther Bowring hosted a remote AFCA meeting by phone and video. Esther announced that a neighborhood yard sale might be possible in the fall. The September 15 (Yom Kippur) AFCA meeting date was rescheduled for September 14. Treasurer Jeff Horwitz announced an AFCA allocation of \$200 each to three PTAs (Barrett, Barcroft, and Kenmore) and \$100 to Culpepper Gardens.

Club officer elections resulted in reelection of all sitting officers: Esther Bowring (president), Tom Smialowicz (vice president, Greenbrier), Joel Yudken (vice president, Northside), Sean Lyons (vice president, Southside), Char Mahoney (recording secretary), Natalie Roisman (corresponding secretary), and Jeff Horwitz (treasurer).

Esther proposed a draft letter from AFCA to the Arlington County Board supporting \$1.5 million in additional funding for the Long Branch and Gulf Branch Nature Centers. Those in attendance noted making use of both centers but wondering about funding tradeoffs, including for the Lubber Run Amphitheater. Most ultimately voted to support sending the letter.

Janice Hull reported that the Arlington County Civic Federation will form a committee on racial equity with a connection to the Missing Middle Housing Study.

The program for the meeting was presented by Aftab “Shaw” Hussain, the Urban Forester for Arlington County. He spoke about regional oak decline, particularly of white oak and chestnut oak. The decline is due to stress from drought and torrential rains in the last 10 to 15 years. Pollution, lack of growing space, and other pressures on urban trees also figure in. Insect pests play a role only when a tree is already fatally weakened. Homeowners can make sure to plant trees with plenty of room to grow, water young trees, and minimize lawn competition and damage from lawn mowers. The county recommends consulting a professional arborist.

Christopher George of the task force for safety issues on North Carlin Springs Road noted that Bluemont held a community survey and was assessing the data. He invited Foresters to review related information on the Bluemont Civic Association website (bluemontcivic.org).

Liz Kauffman spoke about the revised draft Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan. The draft plan is complete. County staff was reviewing the plan for any gaps in information or conflicts with county policies. The next steps are for AFCA to approve the plan by vote at a meeting and submit the plan to the county for final approval.

The Lubber Run Amphitheater resumed its program of performances from July 9 to August 15. The county was considering additional shows in September.

With COVID conditions improving, Esther said that she would look into reserving a room at the new Lubber Run Community Center for in-person AFCA meetings, with an ongoing Zoom option for remote participation.

Homegrown National Park

Conservation biology ... [is] a discipline with a deadline. E.O. Wilson

By Susan Graham



After distributing more than 400 little native plants this summer, I feel like we are on our way to creating our own version of Dr. Douglas Tallamy's Homegrown National Park here in Arlington Forest! I have enjoyed meeting many of you who stopped by to help me out by taking and planting the extra little plants that seed themselves in my garden. It has been fun to see native plants growing in your gardens too. If you would like to receive notices about native plants that I am giving away, google AFgardens@groups.io and join the garden group.

As I walk around the neighborhood, I have been happy to see several new tree plantings. Fall is a great time to plant a tree, so go to www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder and search the list of trees that are native to our zip code.

Why native trees? Caterpillars (mostly moths) supply almost all of the "baby food" for our native birds. Many caterpillars feed only on native trees. At the Native Plant Finder (URL above), you can see how many caterpillars feed on a particular kind of tree. Spoiler alert: oaks top the list! I've seen more monarch butterflies this year than I can remember and decided to collect butterfly eggs from my milkweed plants and raise them. It was a joy to release more than 20 butterflies.

Although this is a lot of fun, I realize that the best way to help monarchs is to plant milkweed in your garden. You probably know that monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed. Three varieties are common here: *Asclepias*

tuberosa (butterfly weed), *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), and *Asclepias syriaca* (common milkweed). I have butterfly weed and swamp milkweed in my garden. Common milkweed is abundant along the W&OD bike path but spreads a little too easily to manage in my small garden. Now is a good time to plant any variety of milkweed. I'd recommend planting at least three plants to attract monarchs more easily.

Here are some suggestions for finding native plants and trees for fall planting: (1) the Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale (Saturday, October 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church of St. Clement, 1701 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA); (2) Arlington County Free Native Trees (register beginning on September 7 at environment.arlingtonva.us: type Free Trees in the search box to register for a tree); and (3) the Arlington Native Plant Society Potomack Chapter Plant Sale (Saturday, September 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA).

Finally, the spring lecture series, sponsored by the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, is now available at <https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/landscaping-with-virginia-natives-spring-webinar-videos>. The first lecture, by Dr. Douglas Tallamy, is very inspiring and makes the case for improving our natural habitat far better than I could ever do. Contact me at sujigraham@gmail.com if you have questions or if you would like to tour my overgrown garden (see the photos), and I'll do my best to help you.

20 Years Ago: 9/11 in Arlington Forest

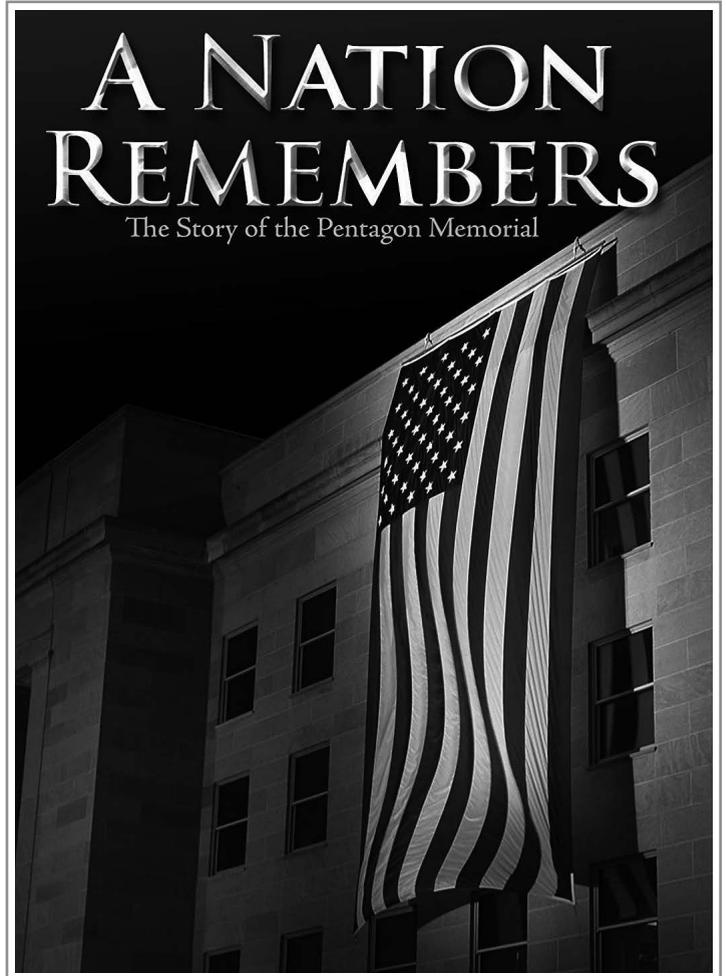
By John K. Naland

Everyone who was in the D.C. metro area on 9/11 remembers the beautiful weather that day. As I left our Arlington Forest home early that Tuesday morning, I routinely placed our U.S. flag in its holder outside our front door. I saw that the U.S. Navy veteran down the block was also flying the U.S. flag, as usual. I went to work and, like everyone else on that fateful day, I remember where I was when the attacks took place (in the Senate Dirksen Office Building, which we evacuated, only to see smoke rising in the distance from the Pentagon).

By the time I made it home late that afternoon, several of my neighbors had found their U.S. flags and put them out. Within a few days, enough new flags had been purchased and mounting brackets installed so that literally all the houses on our first block of North Granada Street displayed the flag.

Over the next weeks, many Arlington Foresters stayed close to home, concerned that followup attacks might be coming. My family, with daughters then aged 4 and 2, spent a lot of time at the North Edison Street playground. While our daughters played, I remember looking skyward and seeing unusual clouds. With all commercial air traffic grounded for days, the only movement aloft was U.S. fighter jets flying in combat air patrols. Cold air converted their engine exhaust into persistent contrails. With the jets flying in a circle orbiting the nation's capital, the contrails would have formed a single giant ring, except that the prevailing wind blew them as they formed, thus stretching them into elongated loops that floated into the distance.

As time passed, fewer U.S. flags flew on our block. Within about 6 months, it was back to just the Navy veteran and my family. But invisible changes were coming that would have more consequential impacts on many Arlington Foresters. The 9/11 attacks set in motion international events that led to four federal employees on our block being sent to Afghanistan, Iraq, or Pakistan (I spent 2009–10 in Basra, Iraq, for the U.S. Department



of State). Other federal employees living elsewhere in Arlington Forest also got swept up in America's reaction to the attacks (for example, Southside resident Ronald Neumann served as U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2005 to 2007). Many neighbors working in the private sector also found their jobs affected by post-9/11 security concerns.

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 per year, 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.

Arlington Tree Distribution Program: Arlington

County is giving away 500 young native trees this fall. The trees, 2 to 4 feet in size, come in 2-gallon containers. Register for your free tree online at tinyurl.com/ARLFreeTree beginning on September 7 and pick up your tree in late October.

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.

Missing Middle Housing Study

The Missing Middle Housing Study is a multiyear effort launched by Housing Arlington in 2019 on behalf of Arlington County. The materials are online at Missing Middle Housing Study.

What is it?

The study examines “housing affordability challenges” (quotes are from the study), specifically “missing middle housing,” which ranges from duplexes to multiplexes with up to 16 units. The challenges might be met by “easing restrictions of the types of housing permitted” to “increase housing supply and provide choices for housing that are more affordable.” The study plans to generate “recommendations for how missing middle housing types could be added to Arlington’s housing stock.”

The study ties housing affordability to racial equity, noting that “exclusionary zoning decisions” historically limited housing options for Black families to existing Black neighborhoods. A prohibition on rowhouses, for example, limited the availability of housing “for a range of income levels,” thereby excluding median-income Black households from most of Arlington. The



Stacked duplexes in Bluemont

study notes Arlington’s adoption of a “racial equity framework” with the goal of making the county “a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community.”

In short, the study focuses on building more housing affordable to low- and medium-income households, in part to reverse racial inequities grounded in legacy land uses and zoning. For Arlington Forest, one possible outcome is upzoning to permit property owners to convert

homes into duplexes and townhouses.

What’s the status?

Phase 1 of the study—“developing a common understanding”—ended in spring 2021. A report is expected. The county launched phase 2 with a survey asking respondents to rank middle housing types (townhouses, duplexes, and so forth) in view of making “recommendations for new housing types and locations.” In December, phase 3 will begin to consider possible “recommendations to amend the Zoning Ordinance, the Comprehensive Plan, and other policies and work programs” to allow for construction of more middle housing.

In July 2021 - Home sales and prices continued to rise, and there were fewer buyers looking at homes, and a lower inventory than July 2020. It’s like the real estate market was taking a pause, and historically it does slowdown in the summer. There was a notable decrease in buyer foot traffic. Many folks took vacations this summer who didn’t last year. As of this writing in late August we have moderate demand, while a few months back demand was high. The slowdown has impacted condos more significantly than single-family, detached homes.

According to the BrightMLS | T3 Home Demand Index, buyer interest in mid-priced single-family homes fell by nearly 20% in July but remained healthy and accounted for about one-third of sales in the Washington Metro area.

Buyer interest in higher-priced single-family homes remained elevated in July. The Index reading, at 180, was in the High range despite a 29% decline over the month. Among all types of homes, demand was highest in this segment. Move up buyers want more space, and in Arlington the popular price range for single family homes is between \$1 million to \$1.3 million.

In Northern Virginia, The average price for all properties in July 2021 was \$724,183 up 3.9% from July 2020. Arlington’s average was \$785,710, down 5.1% from July 2020.

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 Isn't Missing

By Hutch Brown



Arlington County's Missing Middle Housing Study reports certain kinds of housing as missing from Arlington, ranging from duplexes to multiplexes with up to 16 units. According to the study itself, such housing already accounts for about 29 percent of the units in Arlington, considerably more than the 24 percent for single-family detached homes. Together, high-rise and low-rise multifamily buildings comprise 70 percent of the housing in Arlington, a number that rises to 76 percent when duplexes and townhouses are included.

Within the Rosslyn–Ballston corridor, according to the study, 76 percent of the housing is in mid- and high-rise multifamily units, 15 percent is in low-rise multifamily units, 6 percent is in duplexes and townhouses, and 3 percent is in single-family detached homes. Cross North George Mason Drive and most of the housing you see is in multifamily buildings. As the diagram shows, the housing tapers from high-rise apartment buildings in Ballston down to single-family detached units in Arlington Forest, with middle housing in between.

Arlington's residential neighborhoods also have lots of middle housing. The study defines residential neighborhoods as "areas outside the three [Metro] planning corridors." According to the study, about half (49 percent) of the housing in residential areas is single-family detached homes. The rest (51 percent) is multifamily housing, including low-rise buildings (30 percent), mid- and high-rise buildings (13 percent), and townhouses and duplexes (8 percent).

Of course, most single-family detached homes in Arlington occupy lots of at least 6,000 square feet, and many lot sizes are much larger. Accordingly, single-family detached units take up 73 percent of the residential *land area* in Arlington. In terms of total number of units, however, single-family detached units are dwarfed by multifamily buildings of all kinds, and the number of units in middle housing alone is significantly higher. As the numbers reveal and a stroll to Ballston Commons shows, "missing middle housing" is hardly missing.

Residential Land Area and Middle Housing

Single-family detached homes take up 73 percent of the residential land area in Arlington while making up just 24 percent of the housing. That might seem disproportionate, but it is also meaningless. Arlington's General Land Use Plan focuses on the

three Metro corridors, with redevelopment to be within "walking distance" of Metro stations. That would make the upzoning question moot for most Arlington neighborhoods—but not for Arlington Forest.

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

With well over 800 households, Arlington Forest has residents from all walks of life. 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? Email me or text/call 703-855-1732.

Why We Need More Missing Middle Housing

The article summarizes “Lyon’s Legacy: What We Can Do Now,” by D. Taylor Reich, an Arlington-based researcher in urban mobility analytics. You can find the full article online in the June 4, 2021, issue of ArlNow.

In Arlington, most residential land is zoned in a way that excludes missing middle housing. By setting aside three-quarters of our land for single-family homes, our zoning code inflates the supply and deflates the cost of high-end houses while doing the opposite to apartments and condos. The math is clear: wealth inequality is so extreme that legalizing duplexes alone won’t make Arlington inclusive. We have to legalize apartments.

The median income for Black households in the greater Washington area is far too low to afford existing single-family homes in Arlington, which cost \$959,000 on average. So what kind of housing would they be able to afford? Assume it costs \$2 million per lot to replace an old single-family home with new housing. To make it affordable for median-income Black households, you would need six units on the lot instead of just one.

To make six units feasible, we have to eliminate setbacks, height restrictions, and the requirement for parking spaces. That means rezoning to legalize apartments anywhere in Arlington, whether through subdivided houses, garages and sheds turned into studios, or new homes built in backyards. Neighbors might consolidate

their lots to build together, or someone with a large lot might subdivide it, selling their backyard and keeping their home. People won’t be forced to choose between shoebox apartments in the sky or big homes on big yards: they’ll be able to live comfortably in the middle.

Parking won’t be an issue if walkability is the solution. Everyone should be able to meet all their daily needs on foot. We’ll use ebikes in protected lanes to commute, along with bus transit. We’ll use market-rate onstreet pricing for car parking. Densification will fill our schools, but it will also increase land values, creating wealth that pays for schools and other services. Zoning reform will also improve stormwater management. Grassy yards aren’t good at absorbing floods, and driveways are terrible. By redeveloping, we can replace them with a biophilic stormwater infrastructure for the 21st century.

Even with rezoning, wealth inequality in our country might be so extreme that the market economy can’t provide attainable housing for an average family in Arlington without public housing or government subsidy. But zoning reform could still be a good thing. A condo building replacing a \$2 million house might prevent another acre of farmland in Loudoun from being bulldozed into a subdivision. Let’s not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.



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United States Army Veteran
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Christian Books, Dental Fiction,
Poetry, and Young Adult Fiction.
Longtime resident of Arlington

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Vote on Neighborhood Conservation Plan Coming Up

Neighborhoods like ours, under Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Program, can write neighborhood conservation plans on everything from zoning issues and stormwater runoff to traffic management and pedestrian safety. The last plan for Arlington Forest was from 1991. A group of neighbors has spent several years updating the plan with community inputs, including a neighborhood survey in spring 2019. The plan contains recommendations, some of which might become projects funded by Arlington County to help improve our neighborhood.

So far, Arlington County likes what it sees. The Neighborhood Conservation Program has conducted a

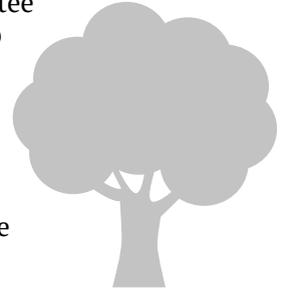
preliminary review of our draft plan and invited us to vote on it. We will hold a vote at the September 2021 AFCA meeting. After we formally approve the plan, the county will conduct a full review, leading to acceptance by the Arlington County Board, we expect.

You can find the draft plan on the AFCA website under "Neighborhood" and "Neighborhood Conservation Plan." If you like, you can simply review the draft neighborhood recommendations in appendix C; they are at the plan's core and what we will vote on. We invite your comments (to Liz at lizkauffman@yahoo.com or Hutch at hutchbrown41@gmail.com), and we ask you to vote on the plan at the September meeting

Saving Neighborhood Trees

Trees attract many residents to neighborhoods like ours, but research by the U.S. Forest Service shows rising impervious surfaces and declining tree cover in urban areas. In neighboring Glencarlyn, worried about tree loss, residents formed a neighborhood tree committee and held a "tree tour" in 2019 to teach tree care, such as cutting back English ivy, which can choke a tree. Residents also appealed to developers, telling them that "we don't want to live in a neighborhood without mature trees."

If want to join a tree committee for Arlington Forest and help to organize a neighborhood "tree tour," contact Jan Hull at jkh999@verizon.net. You can find a story about the Glencarlyn committee online at Washington Post Glencarlyn Tree Tour.



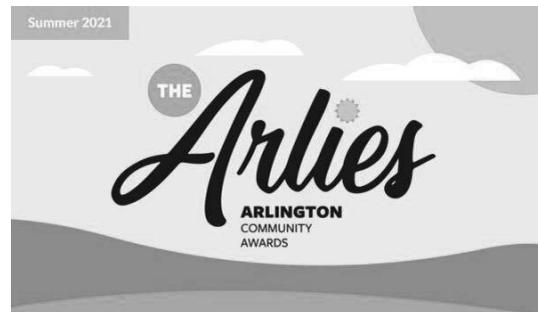
Paul Cachion, MBA

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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 Park

Rainstorms and flooding have deepened erosion in the gulley below 2nd Road North. The pathway beside the gulley skirts the snag of a large oak that recently died, part of oak decline. The county removed the rest of the tree and planted a young oak beside it, which also died. Signs of oak decline persist in some large trees in the park.

Hazard Tree Removal

Scattered tree mortality is normal in nature, including in our local nature parks. At the northern end of Lubber Run Park, a neighbor noticed a deep crack extending far up the trunk of a northern red oak along the asphalt trail. The tree was rotting at its core, and a recent windstorm cracked the outer trunk. Hanging over the trail as it was, the tree posed a hazard to park users, so the county marked it for removal, along with a neighboring hazard tree.

High Marks

Arlington County parks again ranked fourth in the nation in the Trust for Public Lands ParkScore index, just behind Washington, DC; St. Paul, MN; and Minneapolis, MN. The rankings were based equally on five factors: (1) *access* (99 percent of Arlington residents can walk to a park in 10 minutes or less); (2) *acreage* (11 percent of Arlington is reserved for parks); (3) *investment* (Arlington spends \$347.72 per resident on parks per year); (4) *amenities* (such as basketball hoops, water features, dog parks, and playgrounds); and (5) *equity* (access and amenities for people of color and low-income households).

Lubber Run Community Center

The building is now open to the public. It includes a gym, a fitness center, a preschool, meeting rooms, and more. Part of the center is reserved for county offices. Feel free to use the rest!

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County News

Long Branch Aquatics and Fitness Center

The new center opened on August 23 with weights and other fitness equipment; a 50-meter pool with lap lanes and diving towers; and a leisure pool with water slide, indoor sprayground, and lazy river.

Wild Bird Mortality

On August 22, all prohibitions on feeding wild birds were lifted. Reports of sick birds have dropped substantially and no birds with symptoms have recently been found.

New Arlington Logo Coming

Arlington County has conducted a pair of surveys to decide on a new logo to replace the logo for Arlington House, home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, who operated a slave labor farm. The new logo is intended to reflect “Arlington’s commitment to equity for all.”

2020 Census Data

The population of Arlington has reached 238,643—an increase of about 15 percent over 2010. The proportion identifying as “white only” declined from about 72 percent in 2010 to about 61 percent in 2020. About 16 percent identified as Hispanic.

County Government Survey

The Arlington County Civic Federation is conducting a survey to help determine how governing bodies (the county government and public schools) receive input from the community and use the input to make decisions. The survey will be open until September 15 at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CivFedTiGER.

Missing Middle Housing Study

Arlington County has launched a multiyear initiative to gain public support for building “missing middle housing”—duplexes and townhouses—in neighborhoods currently zoned for single-family detached homes.

- Phase 1 (fall 2020–spring 2021): “Developing a common understanding”—closed.
- Phase 2 (summer 2021–fall 2021): “Focused study of housing types that address the County’s housing shortage and limited range of housing options.”
- Phase 3 (winter 2021–spring 2022): “Consideration of how to implement the conclusions of the previous phases, possibly leading to recommendations to amend the Zoning Ordinance, the Comprehensive Plan, and other policies and work programs.”

Around the Forest

Presidential Visit

President Joe Biden and Virginia gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe held a campaign rally outdoors at the Lubber Run Community Center on July 23. Hundreds of people waited for hours to see the President, including many Foresters.

LRCC Parking Garage

Beginning on August 23, the Lubber Run Community Center parking garage arm was no longer raised all the time. To enter the garage, a driver now takes a ticket and uses the ticket to exit. Four hours of parking in the garage are free.

Shopping Center Break-ins

After break-ins on January 7 at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center, more break-ins happened on July 12. Burglars damaged the door to Bricks Pizza without gaining entry, but they managed to break into DA Studio Salon and steal a cash register.

Support for Shopping Center

Our shopping center is a neighborhood landmark that deserves our support. Especially after break-ins and more than a year of COVID, our small businesses face serious hardships. Please patronize them whenever you can!

Scarecrow Making

Bring your preteen child to the Arlington Forest Shopping Center on Saturday, October 16, between 1 and 3 p.m. to make a frontyard Halloween strawman! Children of any age may participate, but parents/guardians will need to assist younger children. Bring a pair of bluejeans, a long-sleeve button-up shirt, and a pair of panty hose or tights. AFCA will provide the straw stuffing and safety pins to connect the pants and shirt. Advance registration is required by emailing John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com. Cost \$5 per scarecrow.

AFCA Bylaws Change

Virginia state law allows citizens associations to meet through the internet only if authorized in the bylaws. Proposed addition to section 4 of the AFCA bylaws: "The association may conduct its meetings and other association business through the use of internet meeting services."

Volunteer Need!

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!

Northside Traffic Circles

Do you take care of a traffic circle? Arlington Forest has several traffic circles on 2nd Street North in Northside, plus a triangle near the end of North Columbus Street. Generous neighbors have volunteered their time to care for the vegetation. ***If you are one of the volunteers, thank you!*** Could you please let AFCA President Esther Bowring know who you are at afcaprez@gmail.com?

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.



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AFCFA Meetings

- September 14, 2021:** Gardening with native plants
- October 20, 2021:** Neighborhood crime update and restorative justice
- November 17, 2021:** Food composting update
- 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)

VA Election on November 2, 2021 Are you registered yet?

Register, check your registration, request an absentee ballot, and more at <http://bit.ly/VoteArlington>

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.

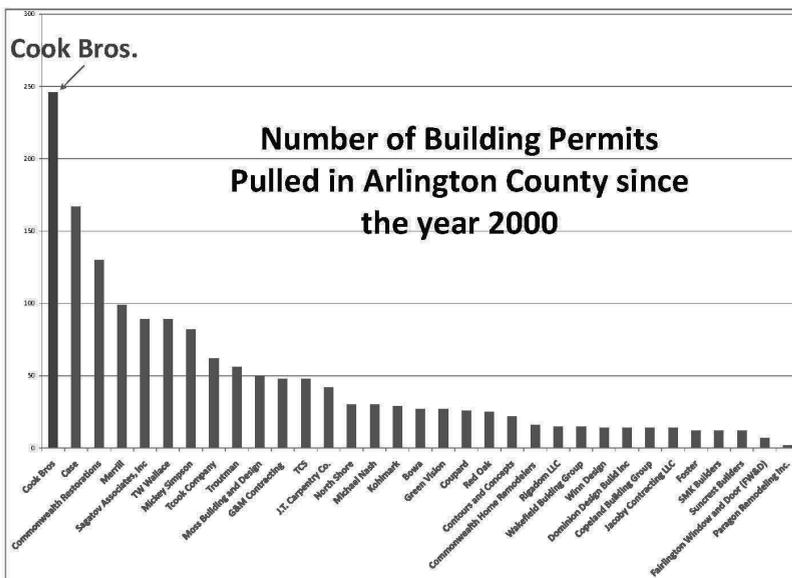
- Next AFCA meeting:** Wednesday, September 14, 7 p.m.
- Lubber Run Farmers' Market:** Saturday mornings at the Barrett Elementary School parking lot; social distancing and masking encouraged.
- Scarecrow Making:** October 16 (register with John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com)
- Home and Garden Tour:** May 2022 (tentative)
- Annual AFCA Picnic:** May 18, 2022 (tentative)
- Annual Yard Sale:** May 2022 (tentative)

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Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

The Barcroft staff and PTA have been busy preparing for the return of students to the building for full-time (5 days a week) in-person learning on August 30. Over the summer, the PTA purchased four more picnic tables for use in our outdoor café. Thanks to help from our community with delivering and building the tables, the outdoor café was ready before school started. The PTA sponsored a welcome-back breakfast for the staff on August 24. Also, a well-attended open house at the school was held on August 26 for families to visit classrooms and teachers.

If you are looking for ways to support Barcroft and the PTA, the Harris Teeter's VIC reward card program has an option to link your card to the school (Barcroft's code is 4238); a percentage of your purchase amount will be donated to the school.



Don't forget to relink your card every year. You can also connect your Amazon account to the Barcroft PTA by linking Amazon Smiles to your Amazon app or through smile.amazon.com. Please contact president@barcroftpta.org or visit give.barcroftpta.org if you are interested in donating.

Upcoming events at Barcroft include Back to School Night on September 9 and the Back to School Picnic for students and their families on September 10, which will include several local food trucks. The PTA and staff are looking forward to planning more fun events for the students this year. If you want to stay posted on Barcroft happenings, you can follow us on Twitter and

Instagram @BarcroftEagles and on Facebook at Barcroft Elementary School PTA.



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Barrett School News

By Colleen Nguyen

For the first day in a year and a half, the K.W. Barrett Elementary School building opened for full-time, full-capacity schooling on Monday, August 30. Both kindergartners and first graders had class at the school for the first time ever, and the first week was spent welcoming kids back and transitioning them to new routines, including outdoor lunch.

The Barrett community welcomed Catherine Han as our new principal. She has served as an educator at Barrett before and is ready to bring back what she learned as an assistant principal at Hoffman-Boston Elementary School and help make this year a success for all Barrett Tigers. Back-to-school events started in mid-August with Ms. Han and returning Assistant Principal Amin Littman hosting virtual meet-and-greets and partnering with the PTA to host playground meetups for each grade. The welcoming continued with the school's Open House the week before school began, with students and families eager to meet their new teachers and learn who their classmates were going to be.

The PTA is excited to focus on the school's theme this year: Building Together. We are planning in-person events outdoors for as long as the weather allows and hope to move favorite indoor events outdoors and create new outdoor event traditions that bring families together to have fun and stay curious. As the weather cools, we hope to plan fun virtual ways to continue to build community and connect our students with each other and the world around them.

The Barrett PTA is grateful for Arlington Forest's support over the years, particularly early on during the pandemic, when many of our Barrett families were severely struggling. We hope Arlington Foresters continue to generously share your time, talents, and funds to help fulfill our shared mission of supporting children.

An easy way to help is by relinking your Harris Teeter card to support Barrett, which you have to do each year, or by ordering dinner from a particular local restaurant sharing a portion of their revenue during our monthly

restaurant nights. Our website, kwbarrettpta.org, has more information about volunteering and joining as a member, and we hope you consider helping as you are able! Also, you can follow us on social media: @BPTAE on Twitter and [Facebook.com/barrettpta](https://www.facebook.com/barrettpta). If you have questions, ideas, or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at president@kwbarrettpta.org anytime. We're excited about beginning a great school year!



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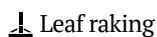
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	Name	Email	Phone									Other
Southside	Dylan Heinrich	dylanheinrich@icloud.com		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	Odd jobs
	Ethan Heinrich	ethan.heinrich27@gmail.com	703-475-8430		✓		✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Emilie Kluge	emieliekluge@yahoo.com	571-457-1983	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	Tutoring
	Amy Mashkuri		571-643-5883	✓	✓							
	Andrew Rogers	andrewmcyt@gmail.com	703-892-0226	✓	✓							Yard work
	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
	Greenbrier	Charlotte Lawson	CharlotteLawsonnn@gmail.com	703-933-8880	✓	✓		✓				
Madeline Lund		madelinelund11@gmail.com	571-447-6968	✓	✓		✓			✓		
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
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		✓		✓*					
Ben Sparks		benchispas@gmail.com		✓	✓							
Emma Weaver			703-875-8185				✓*					
Northside		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	✓	✓				✓			
	Annie Madden	Lacrosse.donuts@gmail.com	703-220-3357		✓		✓*					
	Evie Price		703-402-5138	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	
	Sophie Stewart	sophiestewart4@gmail.com	703-713-5902	✓	✓		✓		✓			
	Name	Email	Phone									Other



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