

# The Arlington Forester

Vol. 62, Number 1

Arlington, Virginia

September 2020

## Virtual AFCA Meeting: COVID Update and More

With any large in-person gatherings still unsafe, AFCA will hold a meeting by videoconference on Wednesday, September 16, at 7 p.m. Dr. Reuben Varghese, Arlington County's public health director, will discuss COVID issues in Arlington County and the outlook for the future. AFCA Treasurer Jeff Horwitz will report on AFCA finances and present the budget for 2020–21. We will also discuss a county plan to convert dead trees in Arlington Forest Park (next to the shopping center) into wildlife habitat.

In addition, we will get an update on the Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan revision, which is based on the draft Neighborhood Goals reprinted on page 5. We will vote on the goals as the foundation for the entire plan.

To participate in the virtual meeting, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m. on

Wednesday, September 16: <https://tinyurl.com/y28s8dc9>. 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 3320 3601 and password 265727. You might also be prompted to hit the # sign. The call-in number will become active starting at 6:50 p.m.

## Call for Dues



September marks the start of AFCA's annual dues drive. You can pay online through the AFCA website or clip out the coupon on this page and return it with a \$10 check in the pre-addressed envelope included inside this newsletter (this is the only month an envelope will be included in the newsletter).

Your dues help to get this newsletter delivered to your door. Dues also pay for tree grants to residents and modest donations to our neighborhood schools. Dues support the AFCA website ([www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)), which contains a detailed neighborhood map, a 150-page history of Arlington Forest, back issues of this newsletter, and more.

So please send in your tax-deductible dues today. Add an optional donation if you missed paying dues last year. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Want to receive the newsletter by email?  
(In addition to paper copy.)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. **September 16** Through Zoom

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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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The *Forester* is printed by Minuteman Press

## AFCA May Meeting—Deer, Oh Dear!

On May 20, AFCA President Esther Bowring hosted a remote AFCA meeting with more than 40 participants by phone and video. The meeting featured a presentation by Bill Browning of the Arlington Regional Master Naturalist program on white-tailed deer in Arlington County. An excerpt from the draft revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan summarizes the deer management issue on page 8.

## Plant a Tree This Fall

Help keep the “forest” in Arlington Forest! Fall is the perfect time to plant, giving your tree time to settle in before next summer’s heat. 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 2020–21 AFCA dues. For the application form, go to [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) and click on the AFCA tab. Act now—grants are limited.

**Arlington Tree Distribution Program:** The county is giving away 400 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 <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/register-for-your-free-tree/> and pick up your tree in late October.

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

With well 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.

## Young Foresters Corner: Open Forum for Youth

Many if not most Arlington Foresters are under eighteen, and they have unique ideas and stories to tell about our neighborhood. Had an interesting experience? Know of a particular problem or program that you might want to share? Tell your story in 400 words or less and send it with a photo (if you have one) to Hutch Brown at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Questions? Send an email or text/call 703-855-1732.

# Lubber Run Community Center Completed but Opening Delayed

By Leo Horwitz



The coronavirus pandemic did not stop Arlington County from completing the new Lubber Run Community Center on schedule this year, and the grounds will reopen soon. But COVID-related funding shortfalls will delay the new building from opening until next year.

AFCA officers got a tour of the site on August 5. Outdoor basketball and volleyball courts feature push-button-activated lights until 10 p.m., and the new playground has something for kids of all ages. Toddlers can safely enjoy playhouses, along with a rubberized play area and a (now wasp-free!) sandpit. Older kids can play on a modern climbing apparatus, and swings of various kinds are available, along with two long slides and a climbing slope. All facilities, indoors and out, are fully accessible through ADA-approved ramps and other features.

The building itself is shaping up as a state-of-the-art community center while also serving as headquarters for the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation. A bright copper exterior faces the adjoining streets; glass windows along North George Mason Drive light up the interior, and an exterior of glass and wood facing the park lets in more light. You enter from North Park Drive into a corridor that crosses an industrial design with a modern one to create a unique look. Combined with the natural light, wood paneling, and large windows, the hallway feels open and inviting. You can also use an entrance from the underground garage or a park-level entrance at the far end of the hallway. The entry hall has a customer service and call center desk where residents will be able to reserve spots for senior trips, teen activities, camps, and more. The center will also house a separate area of offices for county staff.

As you walk in, an immense gymnasium grabs your eye. Containing basketball, pickleball, and volleyball court markings, it will be freely accessible, with no membership required. Overlooking the gymnasium is a rubberized indoor track with two lanes for walking or other low-speed sports. On the same level is a fully equipped workout room requiring a membership to use. Three multipurpose rooms on the entryway level are available for county-organized or private events. Around the corner is a hallway with three more rooms: one for senior activities; a wood-floor studio for tai chi, yoga, dance, or other classes; and, for the returning preschool program, a colorfully decorated room containing cubbies, bathrooms, play spaces, and a small stage.

Arlington's standard for new public buildings is LEED Silver, but the new community center will be LEED Gold, thanks to its energy-efficient LED lights, stormwater management system, and solar-ready roof. The county is pursuing a cost-effective contract for solar panels to further reduce the site's carbon footprint. The rough lumber paneling in the entry hall was milled from onsite oaks cut down for the renovation; the mass timber used in the building, in addition to being a renewable resource, stores carbon onsite. Stormwater from the roof pours into an open-air rock-filled drain that leads to an underground cistern used for onsite



irrigation, with the overflow emptying into a bioretention pond at the foot of the playground. The pond removes pollutants from the runoff while letting it soak into the ground. Green roofing over the underground parking lot greatly reduces the overall area of impervious surfaces, and hundreds of planted trees and shrubs will add to the beauty and ecological integrity of the site.

The new underground parking garage increases parking capacity for the site to 132 spaces, up from 102 on the old asphalt lot. However, about 60 county employees will be working at the facility and taking parking spaces during regular business hours. Like other community centers, Lubber Run will offer 4 hours of free public parking and charge for any additional time to discourage long-term parking. The parking lot does not offer special accommodations for teachers from Barrett Elementary School.



The outside facilities, including the courts, playground, and walkway to Lubber Run Park, will open in September. Faced with funding shortfalls due to COVID, the county has delayed opening the building itself; the Department of Parks and Recreation

hopes to move in and open the building for public use by July 2021. You can see online photos by googling New Lubber Run Community Center.

# COVID Frontline Heroes

By Esther Bowring

THANK  
YOU

The COVID crisis has put a spotlight on our everyday heroes. We all have a new appreciation for these ordinary people doing their jobs to ensure that our health, safety, and basic needs are met. There are so many people to thank: doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals; workers in grocery stores, gas stations, and pharmacies; our postal workers; volunteers who are helping to collect and distribute food to the hungry, pick up medicine and groceries for others, and support those in need in countless ways; our dedicated teachers ... the list is so long. Let's also remember the many government workers who keep buses running, fix our roads, pick up the trash, and staff utilities and water treatment and supply plants, along with the many others who continue to provide the essential services upon which we all depend.

During difficult times like these, it's hard not to focus on our own tribulations. But it's also inspiring to see the goodness, cooperative spirit, and caring of our neighbors and friends. Thank you to all our Arlington Forest neighbors for your generosity of spirit and goodwill!

## COVID Impact on Community Activities

This time of year, we normally prepare for our usual fall activities, such as the Halloween Parade and our annual holiday party. With the coronavirus still spreading, safety dictates calling off any events that might put people at risk. Can you think of things we might do instead that are themed for the season, with Halloween and the holidays coming up? Send your ideas to Esther Bowring at [afcaprez@gmail.com](mailto:afcaprez@gmail.com). And thanks!

## AFCA Election Results

Results from the online AFCA election this summer are in: President—Esther Bowring; Southside Vice President—Sean Lyons; Northside Vice President—Joel Yudken; Greenbrier Vice President—Tom Smialowicz; Recording Secretary—Char Mahoney; Co-Secretary—Natalie Roisman; and Treasurer—Jeffrey Horwitz.

## November Elections Coming Up!

On the ballot are President, U.S. Senate, U.S House of Representatives (8th District), County Board (one seat), and School Board (two seats). You can still register to vote, and it's easy to vote by mail. Just go to <https://bit.ly/VoteArlington> (or call 703-228-3456) to register, update your registration, or request a ballot. The deadline to register is October 13 and to request an absentee ballot is October 23. Request your ballot now and you will get it closer to the election.

Did you know that Summer was the New Spring for Northern Virginia Home Sales in July? While the summer season is starting to relax, the real estate market continues to remain continually active. Our typical spring market was pushed back to the summer, and the pent-up buyer and seller demand that began in late spring continued full force into July. In July 2020, the average sales prices were up over 20% in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax City, in comparison to 2019. Prices were up in Northern VA over 12.5% as a region.

More homes are coming on the market in recent weeks, although choices for single family homes and townhouses remain low across the region and the median home sale price continues to rise, which means a competitive market for buyers. An interesting development

is happening in the condo market, with inventory up 70% from 2 months ago. Condo buyers have more choices these days, which is always good to have.

In a recent survey, local agents reported that the top motivating factors to move are the need for more space (55%) and low mortgage rates (49%). The desire for space likely is connected to a "quarantine effect." Suburban areas were popular this summer, with 60% of agents reporting an increased interest in the suburbs. 59% of agents say potential buyers with school-age children are more interested in single-family homes versus other home types because of space for multiple home offices and areas that can be used for child homeschooling. *Are you living in your ideal home now?* If you are thinking of a new lifestyle, I'm glad to help with some strategic planning.



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FREE Notary Service for  
Arlington Foresters!

With me as your advisor, I can help you sell your home faster and at a higher price. Compass fronts the cost of the services to enhance your home's value. Visit our web site for details on the Concierge Program.

# Neighborhood Goals



*The following excerpt from the draft revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan lays the foundation for the entire plan. We will discuss it and vote on the Neighborhood Goals at the September AFCA meeting.*

The overarching goal of this neighborhood conservation plan is to help our community preserve the things that residents like most about living in Arlington Forest. Respondents to our neighborhood survey expressed their appreciation for the parklike residential atmosphere of this rare wooded island in an urban environment. Residents cherish the trees in our neighborhood and the ability to get out and enjoy them on walks, both along our streets and in our neighborhood parks. Glencarlyn and Lubber Run Parks contain some of the largest remnants of natural forest in Arlington County, and Arlington Forest residents have a deep affection for these rare natural ecosystems. We have a special stake in preserving the health, beauty, and enjoyment of our entire urban forest, including the trees maintained by homeowners in their own yards.

Another element of high value to residents is the sense of community in Arlington Forest. Respondents to our neighborhood survey frequently mentioned the same community qualities they liked, such as quiet, safety, walkability, and the charm of our homes and gardens. In particular, residents appreciate having good neighbors—people they trust and rely on for support. Our strong sense of community derives from neighborhood qualities such as common schools, a common history, and the common residential experience. Arlington Forest has a neighborhood integrity and cohesion that residents want to sustain and reinforce.

Location is another highly valued attribute of our neighborhood. Residents prize living in our community for its convenient commutes to work and for the shops, restaurants, and other opportunities that lie within walking or easy driving distance. They also value the proximity to good

schools, libraries, and public services of all kinds, along with opportunities for community volunteering and for enjoying culture and the arts, not least at the Lubber Run Amphitheater. Residents want to work with the county to keep the summer amphitheater program running smoothly, in part by getting needed maintenance done.

Maintenance of our neighborhood parks is a concern for our community in terms of both infrastructure (trails, bridges, recreational facilities, and the like) and ecological integrity. Many respondents to our neighborhood survey listed the effects of stormwater runoff (such as flooding, erosion, and stream degradation) as a major threat to Arlington Forest. Another neighborhood concern is sustaining the canopy trees that put the “forest” in Arlington Forest. Loss of tree cover and the decline of large trees throughout our neighborhood threaten the beauty and integrity of our community.

Loss of tree cover and open space is tied to the potential for redevelopment in our neighborhood, a paramount concern for the residents of Arlington Forest. The single biggest threat to our neighborhood listed by survey respondents was upzoning and overdevelopment, with homes torn down and replaced by multifamily units, leading to more traffic, noise, and safety issues; less parking and green space; and a decline in community integrity and cohesion. Loss of so many of the amenities that residents like about living in Arlington Forest would fundamentally—and permanently—change the character of our neighborhood for the worse.

Arlington Forest celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2019. Despite the rapid growth of high-density commercial development in the Ballston Metro corridor in recent decades, our neighborhood reached this milestone with its pleasant wooded residential character essentially intact. The goal of this neighborhood conservation plan is to help preserve the qualities that have made Arlington Forest a desirable place to live for the past 80-plus years.

# Faces of the Forest: Melody Mobley

By Hutch Brown



Melody Mobley of Greenbrier spent her career breaking barriers of race and gender at the U.S. Forest Service, which manages 193 million acres of public lands, including national forests in Virginia and West Virginia.

Melody's mother loved the outdoors, so she would often pile the family into the car for a weekend trip into the Kentucky countryside. Some of Melody's earliest memories are of playing in creeks, catching fish, watching birds, and sleeping under the stars. Imbued with a love of nature, Melody studied environmental and forest sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle. She graduated in 1979 with a degree in forest management, the first black woman to graduate in forestry from her school.

After summer jobs with the Forest Service, Melody took a permanent job with the agency upon graduation. She set another milestone as the first black female professional forester in the nation. "Throughout my 28-year career with the Forest Service," she noted, "I was typically the first black woman to do this or that because there were so few of us." She was also an early environmentalist in an agency focused on timber production at the time. Instead of timber outputs, she insisted on an approach to forest management with the long-term health of the ecosystem in mind.

Melody served in Forest Service positions in Washington, California, Nevada, Florida, Chile, and Tanzania before finishing out her career in the agency's national office in Washington, DC. Her assignments ranged from administering

timber sales to overseeing large-scale watershed restoration as a senior manager responsible for national programs.

Throughout, Melody blazed trails for women and minorities in an agency that was historically dominated by white male foresters, and it was never easy. She witnessed—and personally experienced—discrimination against women and minorities in every form. Her love of nature and her faith in the conservation mission of the Forest Service gave her strength to persevere and to push for change, with help from friends in the agency.

Melody helped lead change in an agency that its founders in 1905 would scarcely recognize today, not least because two women—one white, one black—now serve as Chief and acting Associate Chief. Yet women and minorities continue to lag in professional positions. After she retired from the Forest Service in 2005, Melody discovered that the number of black women foresters in the Forest Service had increased to all of six.

Melody still loves the Forest Service for its unrealized potential. She supports its ongoing struggle to fully embrace diversity, and she wishes it the best in finally living up to its promise.

Melody has lived in Arlington Forest since 1991 and loves it here.

*Tell us about a Forester you know! Send your writeup, ideally with a photo, to Hutch Brown at [hutchbrown41@gmail.com](mailto:hutchbrown41@gmail.com).*

# Arlington County Civic Federation Update

As you know, AFCA is our neighborhood's civic voice. But with scores of advocacy groups in Arlington, our voice can get drowned out unless we all sing from the same sheet of music. That's what the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) is for. Uniting more than 90 civic and other groups, ACCF is a powerful voice in interactions with Arlington County. Joining together with other groups amplifies our ability to shape county policies that directly affect Arlington Foresters.

One example is a resolution passed by ACCF last May. Since 2012, voters have approved \$126 million in bonds for parks and recreation, but barely 5 percent has gone towards land acquisition. The ACCF resolution called on the county to better balance the need for additional open space in our parks against other public needs. The May meeting was also an opportunity for learning: newly elected Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti spoke about building relationships with leaders in the police, fire, and homeland security communities and about eliminating cash bail payments for misdemeanors.

The June meeting featured a candidate forum for the July 7 special election to county board. The candidates—Takis Karantonis, Democrat; Susan Cunningham, Independent; and Bob Cambridge, Republican—took positions on policing, budget priorities, zoning priorities, affordable housing, and other issues. (Mr. Karantonis went on to win.) In addition, Dr.

Francisco Duran, the new superintendent of schools, talked about reopening Arlington's schools in the fall. Under the reopening guidelines, Arlington has the flexibility to decide who can safely return to class. Keeping a 6-foot distance will change how in-person classes are conducted. The focus will be on good Internet services, including for staff and students at higher risk, who will continue to teach and learn remotely.

*Thanks to Sal D'Itri, Rick Epstein, and Joel Yudken for the updates.*

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## Alternate Delegate Needed!

Arlington Forest is entitled to four delegates and four alternates to the ACCF, and we have an opening for an alternate. Alternates attend meetings and vote in place of an absent delegate. To make our views count, we need all four votes at every ACCF meeting. General membership meetings are normally at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, September through June. During the pandemic, the meetings are held remotely through Zoom. Learn more about ACCF at <http://www.civfed.org/>. To become an alternate, contact [afcaprez@gmail.com](mailto:afcaprez@gmail.com).



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## 3 Easy Steps to Sell and Buy

Experience tells me there are three easy steps that are vitally important to selling your home fast and for top-dollar, or for buying that perfect house at the right price:

**Step 1:** Call me to sell your home or to buy.

**Step 2:** Let the CachionHomes team of real estate professionals leverage our sales specialists, buying specialists, title attorneys, stagers, contractors, notaries, and mortgage specialists to make the buying/selling process seamless and efficient.

**Step 3:** Sit back, have a glass of wine, and relax, knowing you have the best residential sales team in Arlington working for you.



Member Long & Foster Executive Club.

# Deer Overpopulation?

*The following excerpt from the draft revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan outlines an issue in our neighborhood parks. Send edits or comments to plan coordinator Liz Kauffman at [lizkauffman@yahoo.com](mailto:lizkauffman@yahoo.com) or editor Hutch Brown at [hutchbrown41@gmail.com](mailto:hutchbrown41@gmail.com).*

The residents of Arlington Forest enjoy seeing native wildlife, whether bats, frogs, squirrels, raccoons, or native birds of all kinds. Foxes, rabbits, and deer, now often seen, were rarely if ever spotted in Arlington Forest 20 years ago.

Predator-prey relationships among foxes, rabbits, mice, owls, and other native species keep most forest animals in balance with our forest plants. However, the main predators of white-tailed deer—wolves and cougars—were extirpated from Virginia long ago. Coyotes and bobcats, both sighted in Arlington County, are too small and solitary to be effective deer predators. Local deer populations have grown in the absence of natural controls.

A single deer can eat 5 to 7 pounds of plants per day, preferring native woodland plants (and thereby making way for invasive plants). Favorite woody foods include oak seedlings and saplings; heavy cropping by deer can suppress oak regeneration in the forest canopy. Oaks host hundreds of leaf-eating insect species that migrating birds rely on for food, so the effects of deer overpopulation can ripple through the system, altering forest composition, changing habitats, and reducing biodiversity.

Moreover, too many deer can pose safety hazards, particularly from collisions with vehicles. Deer are also a primary host for the black-legged tick, which transmits Lyme disease to people. Hundreds of thousands of Americans are thought to get Lyme disease each year.

Arlington Forest welcomes the return of white-tailed deer to our neighborhood, but we share the county's concern about overpopulation. Woody vegetation in our parks shows growing signs of being cropped by deer, especially in winter. Problems with overbrowsing begin when deer populations exceed 20 deer per square mile, and some park managers in northern Virginia report that many deer or more. Too many



deer pose a threat to the ecological integrity of our nature parks—and ultimately to the deer herds themselves.

The county has an opportunity to inventory the number of deer in Arlington, to assess the scope of the problem, and to consider options for population control. Fairfax County, Montgomery County, and the national parks in our area have successful deer management programs that Arlingtonians might learn from.

## **Recommendation**

- Arlington Forest urges the county to inventory the deer population in Arlington and to assess the scope of the damage by deer to plants in our local parks.

## Farmers Market Thrives Despite COVID

By Barbara Englehart

The Lubber Run Farmers Market opened its third season this spring with COVID safety procedures. Masks are required and crowds are controlled, but all is running smoothly. A new “LR To Go” website offers online pre-ordering for quick Saturday pickup.

The market now has four anchor produce vendors: from Pennsylvania, Twin Springs and Kuhn Orchards; and from Virginia's Northern Neck, Barajas and Pleitez Produce. We also welcomed several new vendors: Dimitri Olives; Cheese Goatee; Lauren's Southern Sweets; Old Blues BBQ; and Commonwealth Bees (with hyper local hives in northern Virginia, including Arlington Forest on South Park Drive).

We are so happy to have local students working in the market. The Arlington Forest father/daughter team of Rich and Ariel Dooley are operating the Baguette Republic stand. Washington-Liberty senior Andrew Sears is now running the LaCoop's Coffee stand while owner Juan Luis focuses on the recently opened LaCoop café in Northwest DC. A big thanks to Washington-Liberty senior Emma Weaver, an awesome volunteer this season!

The market committee thanks all the volunteers who stepped up to make the market happen during this pandemic. You can find volunteer sign-up and more market details online at the Lubber Run Farmers Market website.

# Parks Update

## July Flood

On the night of July 6, thunderstorms dumped up to 3 inches of rain, flooding our local parks. Lubber Run backed up behind the Arlington Boulevard culvert, leaving inches of mud and silt on the paved trail. The flood tore out small trees and bent the newly planted trees in lower Lubber Run Park, which soon recovered. In addition, stormwater overflow from Third Street North reopened parts of a gully on the park edge.

## Stream Safety

Bacteria levels can be high in our neighborhood streams. Wading is okay, but keep the water out of eyes, ears, mouth, and any open sores; and always wash your hands afterwards. Keep children too young to understand out of the water. You can find out more online at Arlington Stream Safety.



## Guardian of the Ford

The summer floodwaters blew out rock dams protecting a concrete ford and left it clogged, but it was soon clear again. This well-used ford near the Lubber Run Amphitheater often floods following even moderate storms. John Harpold of Northside has volunteered to monitor the ford and notify the county whenever it fails. Thank you, John!

## Forest Giant Falls

In June, a huge tree (a northern red oak) along the banks of Lubber Run fell across the unpaved trail below Greenbrier. Stormwater runoff had undercut the stream-bank, toppling a forest giant almost 3 feet thick. Forester Kay Behrensmeyer counted 160 rings in a cross-section of the trunk (see her illustration), dating the tree to before the Civil War. Another large tree, a white oak growing on the hillside below Third Street North, fell across Lubber Run in July; its heartwood had rotted, fatally weakening the tree.

# County News

## Washed-Out Bridges

Thanks in part to outreach by the AFCA Parks Committee, Arlington County approved a 1-year Capital Improvement Plan containing \$2.5 million in funding for trails and bridges in Glencarlyn and Lubber Run Parks. Some of the funds are to replace bridges washed out by floods in 2019, one in each park. The funding is part of a bond issue on the November 3 ballot—so be sure to vote!

## Dead Oaks

Some oaks in Arlington Forest Park (next to the shopping center) are dead or dying due to last summer's drought. The park has a unique ecosystem protected by the county, which proposes conserving the dead oaks as wildlife habitat. Trunks would still stand for woodpeckers and other wildlife, with the upper portions left on the ground to rot around each trunk.

## Yard Waste Collection



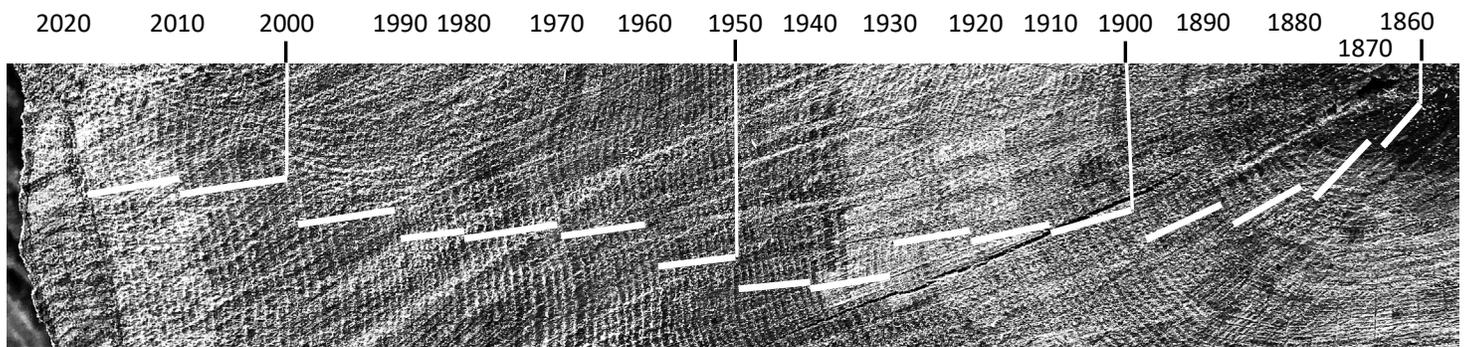
The county resumed service, suspended due to the pandemic, on Monday, August 31. Your curbside collection bill will be adjusted to reflect the period of service stoppage. During the first week of service restoration, please limit yard waste to your green cart and up to five paper organics bags.

## Missing Middle Housing Study

In March 2019, Arlington County launched a study on how “missing middle” housing types—duplexes, multiplexes, and townhouses—could increase and diversify the county's housing supply. The study's five parts include (1) study purpose and scope; (2) housing market and costs; (3) housing inventory; (4) land use and zoning history; and (5) related policy areas, such as stormwater and trees. All five parts are now available online at Arlington Missing Middle.

Lubber Run Oak Tree – ~1860 - 2020

Undercut by stream flow and fell on June 15, 2020. ~160 years old



This tree started life in northern Virginia near the beginning of the Civil War.

# Around the Forest

## Dweebs and Dogs

When the coronavirus hit last spring, three Arlington Foresters scrapped their summer plans to travel abroad. Instead, Janani Mohan, Isvari Maranwe, and Nathaniel Maranwe put their savings toward giving back to communities hit hard by the virus. They founded Dweebs and Dogs, which offers mentoring on everything from careers to mental health, all free of charge. Gaining 200 volunteers in their first month alone, they have helped hundreds of mentees from around the world, including a librarian from South Africa, an American single father, and an engineer from Denmark. Find out more at [www.dweebsanddogs.com](http://www.dweebsanddogs.com).

## Arlington Forest Wedding

Elizabeth Johnson and Jonathan Kosobucki didn't let the pandemic spoil their special day. They celebrated their long-planned wedding on April 25 in front of their Arlington Forest home with 130 virtual guests and another 20 guests in person (socially distanced, of course). "While canceling our original, well-planned wedding initially felt like a nightmare," said the bride, "it has turned into a blessing that we never could have anticipated," leaving the couple "free to focus entirely on what was important: staying healthy and officially joining our lives together."



## Scarecrow Making

Bring your preteen child to the Arlington Forest Shopping Center on Saturday, October 17, 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 to stuff inside and safety pins to connect the pants and shirt. Advance registration is required by emailing John Naland at [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com). Cost \$5 per scarecrow. Social distancing applies—you will be spread out in the courtyard, but bring masks!

## Thanks to Postal Carriers

The current stress on the U.S. Postal Service is not the fault of mail carriers, and our carriers have been loyally delivering our mail despite the threat from the coronavirus pandemic. If you see postal carriers around the Forest, please express our thanks!

## Lubber Run Amphitheater

Since 1969, generations of Arlingtonians have enjoyed free summer cultural events at the Lubber Run Amphitheater in Northside. The events were canceled this year due to the pandemic, but Arlington Arts forged ahead with weekly radio performances on WERA 96.7 FM. Broadcast on Saturday evenings in July and August, the performances let Foresters bring the amphitheater into their own homes and yards.



## Neighborhood Note of Appreciation

Dan Lopez has mowed, trimmed weeds, and removed a very dead pine tree along the Southside buffer strip between the service road and Arlington Boulevard. Neighbors there would like to thank Dan for making the area look so beautiful. It is nice to see such an act of kindness!

## New Forest Valet

Our neighborhood dry cleaner received the top rating for quality in the spring/summer 2020 issue of the Washington Consumer's Checkbook (a nonprofit organization that evaluates businesses). The rating was based on input from 103 customers, 99 percent of whom rated New Forest Valet as "superior" for overall quality.

## Neighborhood Conservation Plan

You can review the draft plan on the AFCA website. Just click on Neighborhood, then go to the link for the draft plan. You will find email addresses for members of the writing team, who are happy to take comments and make revisions.

## Sycamore Leaf Wilt

Last May, American sycamores in our area lost their leaves. The culprit was a fungus called sycamore anthracnose, which can infest sycamore leaves when spring is cool and wet, like this year. The affliction was temporary—by summer, the trees had leafed out again.



## Volunteer Auditor Needed

A yearly audit of our AFCA books is required by our by-laws, and we are looking for someone to take it on. If you can provide this valuable service, please send an email to [afcaprez@gmail.com](mailto:afcaprez@gmail.com). Thank you!

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# AFCA Meetings

- September 16:** Update on COVID
- October 21:** Arlington County's Missing Middle Housing Study
- November 18:** Racial equity issues
- January 20:** Carlin Springs traffic issues
- February 17:** School boundaries and other schools-related issues
- March 17:** Lubber Run Park issues
- April 21:** to be determined
- May 19:** Picnic and annual meeting (tentative—if conditions allow)

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# 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.

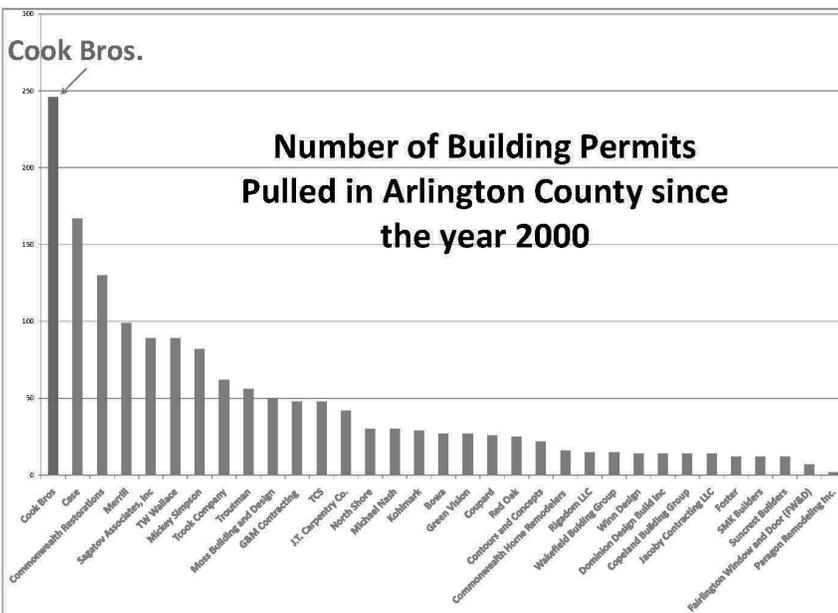
- Next AFCA meeting:** Wednesday, September 16, 7 p.m.
- Lubber Run Farmers' Market:** Saturday mornings through mid-November at the Barrett Elementary School parking lot; social distancing applies—bring your mask!
- Scarecrow Making:** October 17 (register with John Naland at [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com))
- General Election:** November 3 (you can request a ballot to vote by mail at <https://bit.ly/VoteArlington>); President, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives (8th District), County Board (1 seat), School Board (2 seats)
- Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:** Saturday, April 24
- Home and Garden Tour:** Saturday, May 1 (tentative)
- Annual AFCA Picnic:** Wednesday, May 19 (tentative)
- Annual Yard Sale:** Saturday, May 22 (tentative)

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# Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

The Barcroft PTA and Barcroft staff have been busy over the summer. During the break, the PTA continued to provide groceries (including fresh produce), supplies, and household/personal items to families in need. School staff volunteered their time to help out and to answer questions that families had, in addition to offering students high-quality distance instruction and other essential support. Together, we held 11 distribution events over the summer, serving an average of 100 families per event—all made possible by the wonderful generosity of our community.

We thank Arlington Forest families for their generous donations, and we continue to accept both financial and food donations as well as school supplies. If you can help, please contact the Barcroft PTA at [president@barcroftpta.org](mailto:president@barcroftpta.org).

Also, Harris Teeter's VIC reward card program has an option to link your card to a school, and a percentage of your purchase amount will then be donated to the school. You have to link your card

each year; Barcroft's code is 4238.

We would like to promote the Little Free Library in front of the school. Please stop by and take a look; you can take a book and leave a book.

Barcroft staff were gearing up this summer for the start of the school year on September 8. In alignment with all of Arlington County, Barcroft will start school virtually this year due to all the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic.



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# Barrett School News

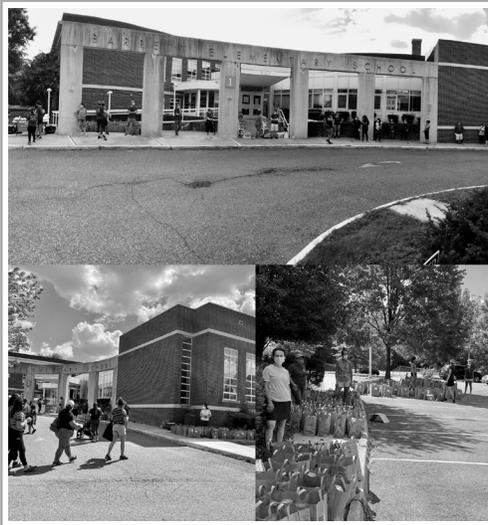
By Will Le

The start of this new school year—typically filled with excitement for new teachers, new learning, and new friendships—is instead marked by uncertainty and fear due to a pandemic that continues to devastate our country and disrupt our school communities. Our PTA would typically be planning many social activities for the year ahead, such as the Ice Cream Social, Bingo Night, Barrett Skates, and Barrett Family Dance Party. But because of distance learning for the foreseeable future, we must cancel many events.

However, we can still think of creative ways to sponsor social events that are fun for our students and families while supporting and building on the spirit of our diverse school community. We will also seek new ways of raising money for our PTA because we probably won't be able to hold an in-person auction this year. In addition, we will explore opportunities to support our families and teachers as we navigate this new virtual learning environment.

We will continue to help our Barrett families through our distribution efforts, ongoing since April. Over the past 6

months, we have provided about \$60,000 worth of grocery gift cards, food items, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, diapers/wipes, dental kits, school supplies, and books to many Barrett families. At each distribution event, we helped about 200 families on average. We are excited to be a recipient of National PTA Phase 2 COVID Relief Funding, which will contribute \$5,000 toward our efforts to build food security for our community.



We thank the many families who have donated supplies and made financial contributions, and we also thank the many local organizations and businesses for their support. We would not have succeeded without the countless hours put in by our volunteers, including many of our teachers. Our distribution events would not have been possible without an outpouring of support from our entire community.

In spite of the challenges we face at this difficult time, we continue to be proud of our Barrett community and optimistic about the school year ahead, confident that everyone will be safe and successful!



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# Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are ready to help. To be added or deleted, email [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org).

-  Dog walking
-  Leaf raking
-  Snow shoveling
-  Pet sitting
-  Plant watering
-  Mother's helper
-  Babysitting
-  Yard work
-  Mail collection

	Name	Email	Phone										Other
Southside	Colin Mashkuri	<a href="mailto:cjmashkuri@gmail.com">cjmashkuri@gmail.com</a>	571-480-2855	✓					✓				Math tutoring
	Andrew Rogers	<a href="mailto:andrewmcyt@gmail.com">andrewmcyt@gmail.com</a>	703-892-0226	✓	✓					✓			
	Caroline Rogers	<a href="mailto:carolinearogers@verizon.net">carolinearogers@verizon.net</a>	703-892-0226	✓	✓		✓						
	Donna Corina		703-248-8885	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓					*RC certified
	Atalie Dempsey	<a href="mailto:atalie.dempsey@gmail.com">atalie.dempsey@gmail.com</a>	571-317-9216	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓
	Evan Dempsey	<a href="mailto:Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com">Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com</a>	703-559-9690	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
	Anna D'Itri		703-346-3467	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	
	Gabriel D'Itri		703-346-3467			✓		✓					
Greenbrier	Charlotte Lawson	<a href="mailto:CharlotteLawsonnn@gmail.com">CharlotteLawsonnn@gmail.com</a>	703-933-8880	✓	✓								
	Ciara McLaughlin	<a href="mailto:ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com">ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com</a>	703-712-9215				✓*				✓	✓	*Safe Sitter certified, references
	Reid Messman		703-469-1988	✓*	✓								*References
	Shea Messman		703-469-1988				✓*						*Safe Sitter certified, references
	Alexandra Orli		703-528-5618		✓		✓*		✓		✓*		*References
	Carsten Schoer	<a href="mailto:carstenschoer@gmail.com">carstenschoer@gmail.com</a>	703-209-0905			✓		✓					
	Ava Smialowicz	<a href="mailto:ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com">ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com</a>	703-424-0895		✓		✓*						*RC certified
	Ben Sparks	<a href="mailto:benchispas@gmail.com">benchispas@gmail.com</a>		✓	✓								
	Emma Weaver		703-875-8185				✓*						*Safe Sitter certified, references
	Niittisha Choudhary	<a href="mailto:Niittisha@gmail.com">Niittisha@gmail.com</a>	703-981-1229	✓			✓		✓				Tutoring
Riittisha Choudhary	<a href="mailto:riittishachoudhary@gmail.com">riittishachoudhary@gmail.com</a>					✓*			✓			Tutoring; *ages 4-12	
Northside	Ely Constantine	<a href="mailto:cpconstantine@comcast.net">cpconstantine@comcast.net</a>	703-841-9229		✓	✓		✓					Lawn mowing
	Casey Dinan	<a href="mailto:chrisbettdinan@aol.com">chrisbettdinan@aol.com</a>	703-525-5763	✓		✓	✓	✓					Lawn mowing
	Tyler Dinan	<a href="mailto:chrisbettdinan@aol.com">chrisbettdinan@aol.com</a>	703-525-5763	✓		✓	✓	✓					Lawn mowing
	Evan Eng	<a href="mailto:dcharveydc@yahoo.com">dcharveydc@yahoo.com</a>	703-861-1890	✓	✓	✓		✓					
	Jeremy Fagen	<a href="mailto:jeremy.fagen@gmail.com">jeremy.fagen@gmail.com</a>	571-645-3475	✓	✓				✓				
	Sophie Stewart	<a href="mailto:sophiestewart4@gmail.com">sophiestewart4@gmail.com</a>	703-713-5902	✓	✓		✓		✓				
		<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>									



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Choose up to five different schools to link to, then hand this page to the customer service desk during your next visit to Harris Teeter.

Barrett ES: 3906	Barcroft ES: 4238	ATS ES: 4378	Key ES: 5109	Kenmore MS: 3954
Thomas Jefferson MS: 3905	Washington-Liberty HS: 3917	Wakefield HS: 4566	St. Thomas More: 2069	

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