

The Arlington Forester

Vol. 66, Number 1

Arlington, Virginia


September 2024

Virtual AFCA Meeting: Vision for the Upcoming Year

AFCA invites you to join our monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, September 18, at 7 p.m. Our new AFCA president, Sal D'Itri, will introduce himself and discuss a vision for our neighborhood, including what we can do to better tie Foresters together all across our community (see his article on page 4). In addition, Treasurer Jeff Horwitz will present our proposed AFCA budget for 2024-25 and offer it up to meeting participants for a vote.

To join the meeting, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18: <https://tinyurl.com/3x67ssef>. (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 892 4266 1965 and passcode 300414. 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.

How Do AFCA Dues Benefit You?



Your annual AFCA dues help get this newsletter delivered to your door as a service to you and the entire neighborhood, with information on trees and parks, trails and bridges, the Lubber Run Amphitheater, traffic and pedestrian safety, and more. Dues pay for our annual picnic and holiday party and for 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. Please pay your dues promptly this year.

AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL DUES \$20 PER HOUSEHOLD

Deliver this form and your check payable to AFCA to your respective AFCA section representative:

Greenbrier: Tom Smialowicz, 26 N. Granada St. 22203
Northside: Liz Grossman, 128 N. Columbus St. 22203
Southside: Julie Kirchhoff, 4828 Arlington Blvd. 22204

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AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. **September 18** 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 and photos focusing on issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish monthly from September to November and January to May. The deadline for submissions is the first of the month. Email your submission of up to 400 words—preferably with a photo—to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Articles on controversial issues are welcome but do not necessarily reflect the views of AFCA and will be marked as opinion.

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AFCA May Potluck Picnic

On a Wednesday evening last May, AFCA held its annual potluck picnic, a neighborhood tradition—a little business mixed with a lot of food, fun, and friends. The picnic started at 6 p.m. in the Lubber Run Park pavilion; despite the rainy day, some 20-30 neighbors came, including children. AFCA cooked hamburgers and hotdogs and provided buns, condiments, soda, plates, cups, utensils, and napkins. Residents brought side dishes of all types to share, along with nonalcoholic drinks. Thanks go to Rob Janson for organizing the picnic again this year!

AFCA President Esther Bowring initiated a brief business meeting. She individually thanked dozens of neighborhood volunteers for their efforts as AFCA officers, newsletter staff, Arlington County Civic Federation representatives, organizers of events like the annual holiday party and the neighborhood yard sale, and participants in events ranging from traffic circle plantings to invasive weed pulling and cleanups on public land in the neighborhood. Esther got a huge hand in appreciation for her outstanding service and leadership as AFCA president for the last 5 years, a role she was relinquishing.

Art Schwartz, who headed up the nominating committee, presided over the annual election of AFCA officers for the next year, held by voice vote. Re-elected by acclaim were Liz Grossman, vice president for Northside; Julie Kirchhoff, vice president for Southside; Tom Smialowicz, vice president for Greenbrier; Char Mahoney, recording secretary; Janet Irwin, corresponding secretary; and Jeffrey Horwitz, treasurer. Elected for the first time was Sal D'Itri to replace Esther Bowring, our outgoing AFCA president. Our heartfelt thanks go to Esther for her decade of service as AFCA secretary and president! Welcome to all our AFCA officers, old and new, and thanks for volunteering your time and service!

Foresters Perform at the Community Center By Esther Bowring



I went to a great show at the Lubber Run Community Center on July 2. It was a 55+ program called “The Great American Songbook” featuring three Arlington Foresters—Ken Schellenberg on piano, Judy Lewis doing vocals, and Chris Bosch on bass. Ken arranged all the music. Judy is a regular with the Arlington Players (she’s the taller of the two vocalists in the picture).

AFCA Bids Farewell to President Esther Bowring

By the Arlington Forest Citizens Association

Last May, Esther Bowring stepped down as AFCA president after more than a decade of illustrious service to our community. Esther has been a pillar of Arlington Forest, showing exceptional leadership in facing a variety of neighborhood challenges. In 2011, Esther was instrumental in establishing the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation, which she led as co-president until this past summer. The foundation negotiated with Arlington County to repair the amphitheater, a neighborhood gem, instead of shutting it down. The amphitheater's annual summer program of free weekend performances by musicians and others continues to draw fans from around our neighborhood and beyond.



every part of our neighborhood. We are fortunate to live in an active and caring community that looks to the future while preserving past traditions. Under Esther's leadership, Foresters have continued to support the Lubber Run Amphitheater and the Lubber Run Farmers Market while also enjoying the annual yard sale and holiday party, the annual picnic and triannual home and garden tour, and many other traditions and special events. Fortunately, Esther will continue to be available to offer her insights and advice on future challenges facing our neighborhood. On behalf of a grateful neighborhood, AFCA offers its heartfelt thanks to Esther for her many years of dedication and service to our community.

In 2014, Esther volunteered as AFCA co-secretary, a role she played for the next 6 years. As secretary, she kept AFCA records, published the proceedings of our monthly AFCA meetings in the neighborhood newsletter, and drafted letters and petitions for AFCA on behalf of our community. Esther subsequently served for almost 5 years as AFCA president, from October 2019 until last May. She skillfully coordinated with other AFCA officers to plan the monthly AFCA meetings and line up speakers on matters of importance to our community. As president, Esther worked with people across Arlington on a range of difficult issues, including completing the new Lubber Run Community Center; renovating the Edison Park Playground in Greenbrier; obtaining county approval of our revised neighborhood conservation plan; and improving pedestrian safety on our roads and streets, especially major thoroughfares like N. Carlin Springs Rd. Esther also worked closely with county staff to ensure that bridges and trails were repaired or replaced in Lubber Run Park following catastrophic flooding in July 2019 and that fords over the stream were subsequently kept clear so residents could enjoy the park.

Perhaps the most contentious issue during Esther's tenure as president was Arlington County's initiative for expanded housing options (EHO) in neighborhoods like ours. Esther worked tirelessly with fellow Foresters to understand the EHO initiative and to provide residents with information and a forum for discussing county plans. The Arlington County Civic Federation honored Esther for her exceptional leadership in working with other citizens associations to "powerfully and collectively" represent their views on EHO.

Through it all, Esther worked to involve all three sections of Arlington Forest, ensuring that AFCA represents

Note: In recognition of Esther's service to our neighborhood, some of her neighbors will gather at the Outback Steakhouse (bar area) to raise a toast to her. Please feel free to join in at 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 15!

An advertisement for EnviroHomeDesign. At the top left is a logo consisting of a stylized leaf inside a circle. To the right of the logo is the text "EnviroHomeDesign" in a large, bold font, with "Design. Build. Remodeling" in a smaller font below it. The main part of the ad is a photograph of a modern kitchen with white cabinets, a large island, and a skylight. On the left side of the photo, there is vertical text that reads "ONE OF THE 2013 TOP 100 GREEN LEADERS BY PODER MAGAZINE". At the bottom of the photo, there is a dark banner with white text that says "Over 20 years of experience delivering beautiful, healthy and energy efficient homes". Below the banner, the address "4822 3rd Street North" and "Arlington Forest" are listed, along with the phone number "(703) 812-9370" and the website "www.envirohomedesign.com".

New AFCA President: Self-Introduction

By Sal D'Itri



It's my great pride and pleasure to serve as your next AFCA president. I know many of you and hope to meet many more in person over the coming year. For now, here's a little about me by way of introduction.

For the past 22 years, my wife Natalie and I have lived on N. Galveston St. Our kids were born here, and we've been lucky to have great neighbors and friends in Arlington Forest.

I've been the Arlington County Civic Federation representative for our neighborhood, a PTA president, and a Little League commissioner; I also participated on a few Arlington County commissions. I've always enjoyed volunteering in our community.

My goal as AFCA president is to find additional ways to bring neighbors together. I want to start an Arlington Forest hospitality committee to create more opportunities for neighbors to meet.

If you have ideas for community engagement, want to get involved, or happen to be a Pittsburgh sports fan, I'd love to hear from you at afcaprez@gmail.com.

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Sparrow Pond Renovation Nears Completion



Arlington Stormwater Outreach Specialist Lily Whitesell described the final stages of a county project to renovate Sparrow Pond in Glencarlyn Park below Southside. She also sent a photo showing native pickerelweed regrowing in a completed part of the pond.

By the end of August, the base of the sediment collection pool at the head of the pond will be finished. The stream (Arlington Forest Branch) will then be rerouted through the entire pond, and the pools will all fill up with water.

After pool grading is done and the pond is then filled with water, the contractor will work on the last parts of the project. The maintenance access path next to the W&OD Trail will be finished, and (during the week of September 3) the spur trail from S. Park Dr. to the W&OD Trail will be repaved, along with a small section of the Four Mile Run Trail.

When temperatures have cooled in early fall, the entire site will be replanted with native trees, shrubs, and other plants adapted to wetland conditions.

Though not directly related to Sparrow Pond renovation, part of the project will solve the longstanding problem of poor drainage at the foot of S. Park Dr., a safety issue when the pooling water ices over in winter. The problem was highlighted in Arlington Forest's revised neighborhood conservation plan, completed in 2022; the county responded by folding a solution into the Sparrow Pond project. After the rest of the project work is done, the contractor will add new storm drains in problem spots at the foot of S. Park Dr. near the spur trail.



Tracy C. Taylor, Author

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Lubber Run Amphitheater Sparkled Brightly This Summer!

By Arthur Schwartz, President, Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation



Did you know that the summer of 1969 saw not only the first moon landing and the renowned Woodstock Music and Art Festival but also the grand opening of the Lubber Run Amphitheater? We just celebrated the 55th anniversary of the amphitheater. In the original dedication ceremony on July 19, 1969 (according to contemporary news reports), the Navy Band was scheduled to play at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps at 8:00 p.m. and then the Arlington Theatre Associates Balladeers, a “well-known folk group.” (Thanks to Forester Max Lyons for this bit of Arlington history.)

Over the past half-century, the amphitheater has come a long way, with another amazing summer of performances wrapping up this year in early August. The free music under the stars, along with magicians, dancing, drumming, and educational performances for kids on Sunday mornings, were truly memorable. Great jazz, rock, funk, country, classical, Latin, African, blues, and other music styles filled the amphitheater stage from early June to August. In short, this musical gem of Arlington County sparkled brightly once again this year, and planning for the 2025 season has already begun.

Just a dozen years ago, the Lubber Run Amphitheater was at grave risk: Arlington County was contemplating its closure due to concerns about structural defects, county budget cuts, and accessibility requirements under the American Disabilities Act. Concerned Arlingtonians banded together to create the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation to save our priceless venue. The foundation, together with the Arlington Forest Citizens Association and other supporters, convinced the county to make

modest improvements to secure the amphitheater’s future. The foundation remains dedicated to sustaining the amphitheater and working with Arlington County to improve the experience of those attending amphitheater events. Right now, the foundation is discussing ways to support musical performances by the Arlington Players at the amphitheater in 2025.

As a bit of background, the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation is a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Charitable contributions to the foundation are tax deductible under federal law. The foundation is entirely managed and operated by its officers, board members, and other volunteers; it has no full-time paid staff. Foundation volunteers appear at most performances to offer information about each event while handing out schedules, fans, ice water, and other items. Volunteers also donate their time and resources, including carpentry labor and supplies, to restore the foundation’s Wishing Well (vandalized this past year) and to provide illustration and design services for paper fans, programs, logos, signs, banners, and other printed materials; volunteers also furnish administrative and legal services in support of the foundation. Currently, the only individual receiving any compensation from the foundation is an Arlington student intern, who informs the community about amphitheater performances through social media platforms. The foundation hosts a free “ice cream social” to kick off each season, makes cash grants to amphitheater performers and organizations, and has helped to fund Arlington Arts children’s programming at the amphitheater. You can find out more about the foundation at Facebook Lubber Run Amphitheater and Guidestar Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation.

If you would like to volunteer with the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation, please contact me at arthur.edward.schwartz@gmail.com. To support our work, please send your tax-deductible contribution made payable to Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation to Karen Scheer, Treasurer, Lubber Run Foundation, 107 North Columbus Street, Arlington, VA 22203. On behalf of all of our amphitheater volunteers, thank you for your support! Hope to see you at future performances in 2025 and beyond!



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Turnaround Day 2024—Recap!

By Liz Vance



Even the youngest Foresters find something fabulous on Turnaround Day!

Last year, it rained; this year, we wished it had—it was SO HOT! But that did not deter our neighbors one bit! Turnaround Day 2024 was a complete success!

It's hard to believe this is only the third one we've ever done one. Everyone has their routine down pat—posting addresses, listing items, sharing pictures. Many people put items out very early, before the heat set in.

There were a lot of morning walkers, but people wisely did a lot of treasure hunting from the comfort of their air-conditioned cars. (I was one of those people!)

Our little neighborhood tradition was inspired by Turnaround Weekend in Boston, when college students all move at the same time. The streets would be loaded with household goods and treasures that couldn't stay in the dorm or apartment but also weren't going home with the student. And that got me thinking—we all have things in our homes that we don't need but don't want to throw out because they still have so much life left in them. Why not give them a second chance?

The rules are simple: it must all be free. That's it! Put it out in the morning and leave it out. Since it's free, there's no need to monitor and no need to stick around. You're free to wander the neighborhood on your own treasure hunt.

This year, I came home with so many CDs and books—many of which will eventually end up in a Little Free Library. But some I will treasure!

There has been some discussion about possibly making this a twice-yearly event. I think a January date would nicely coordinate with many New Year's Resolutions to Get Organized! What are your thoughts on this?

The 2025 date is tentatively planned for Sunday, June 15—after the yard sale but before the dog days of summer set in. I can't wait!

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Backyard Foxes

By Hutch Brown



Last June, a mother fox with two half-grown kits moved into our backyard in Northside across from the Lubber Run Community Center. The foxes sheltered in holes dug out under our shed, presumably after evicting the previous occupants (rabbits). They occasionally came out during the day, unworried by humans in the house and a cat on the screen porch; the kits played on the lawn, with the mother perched on outdoor furniture to keep watch. (We think the foxes are now gone.)

Free Apps for Identifying Plants and Animals



Ever heard a bird sing and wondered what it was? The Merlin app will tell you for free. You can download Merlin from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology onto your device, and it will help you identify birds you hear—or see. A photo app matches the picture you take to a regional database of birds; and a sound app matches every song within your auditory range to a whole list of birds. Cornell uses the Merlin app for citizen science to track birds through the eBird program, which you can join if you wish.

Another app, iNaturalist, does something similar for plants (but also recognizes animals as well as fungi, mosses, and algae). It works entirely through photos. iNaturalist compares plants in the photos you take to a plant database and matches them to particular species, which makes it another great tool for citizen science. You can use iNaturalist to join a project like the annual City Nature Challenge, which records your observations by location in our area. Or you can use it just to satisfy your own curiosity. Merlin and iNaturalist are a great combination for your device, and both are free.



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Canopy Trees and Rooftop Solar

The piece is based on an article by Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria. Thanks to David Howell for submitting it!

The state of Virginia requires Dominion Energy to deliver electricity from 100% renewable sources by 2045, which is partly why you might consider installing solar rooftop panels on your home. But you can have canopy trees too for all the benefits they confer. A canopy tree sequesters carbon; intercepts rainfall and reduces stormwater runoff; removes air pollutants like ozone and carbon monoxide; saves energy by shading in summer and by breaking winter winds; and gives food and shelter to birds and other wildlife. You can quantify the value of your trees by using the U.S. Forest Service's iTree tool (at mytree.itreetools.org/#/dashboard).

Rooftop solar panels and canopy trees can coexist because newer, more efficient rooftop panels can work without direct sunlight. One Tree Steward had to interview three solar panel installation companies before finding one that didn't want to remove the northern red oak in his front yard. The tree would reduce electricity generation, but the system would still pay for itself. Since installation, the homeowner had an arborist trim a few small limbs that were threatening to grow directly



over some panels, but the trimming was less than 1% of the tree. After the oak drops its leaves in fall, the panels generate more power than the house uses, and the homeowner gets a credit toward future electric bills. This is a win-win: lower utility bills and birds still nesting outside the homeowner's window!

Tree Stewards recommend the following steps: (1) Perform an energy audit of your house (see Dominion Home

Energy Assessment online) to find out whether you need better insulation and updated appliances. (2) Interview several solar panel installation companies to find one willing to discuss the pros and cons of keeping trees that shade your roof. (3) Have a qualified arborist (see tree-saregood.org/treeowner) assess trees that might affect rooftop panels and prune as necessary. If the arborist finds that a tree is damaged and should be removed, plant another in a better location. You can get a tree planted in your yard at no cost to you through EcoAction Arlington (at ecoactionarlington.org). (4) If your home is not a candidate for rooftop solar or you don't want to prune or remove a tree, consider joining a community solar program (see Virginia Community Solar Program online) to purchase electricity from sustainable sources.



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PTA Update—Barcroft Elementary School

By Samantha Bell

The PTA welcomed teachers and staff back to Barcroft with a catered breakfast from Ruthie's All-Day restaurant on August 22. Barcroft held an open house on August 23 for students and families to visit classrooms and meet teachers. The first day of school for students was August 26; the first PTA meeting will be on September 17. Upcoming events include Back to School Night on September 12, Chalk for Peace/Garden Workday in late September, and Outdoor Movie Night in late October.

You can support the Barcroft PTA by linking your Harris Teeter card (www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education); the Harris Teeter Barcroft code is 4238, and you need to relink every year. Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram at @BarcroftEagles and on Facebook at Barcroft Elementary School PTA. You can contact barcroftptapresident2024@gmail.com if you would like to support the PTA or have any questions.

PTSA Update—Kenmore Middle School

By Samantha Bell

Kenmore held an open house on August 22 for students and families to visit the school and meet teachers. Teachers and staff welcomed over 1,000 enrolled students to the first day of school on August 26. The first PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) meeting will be a virtual meeting on September 10; guest speakers will include representatives from Arlington County, who will discuss the Kenmore Field Conversion Project and the launch of the new Kenmore Pickleball Club. Upcoming events include Family Festival and Bingo Night in late September and Family Movie Night in late October.

You can support the Kenmore PTSA by linking your Harris Teeter card (www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education); the Harris Teeter Kenmore code is 3954, and you need to relink every year. Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) at @KenmorePTA or on the PTSA page of the Kenmore Middle School website at <https://kenmore.apsva.us/pta/>. You can contact kenmoreptapresident@gmail.com if you would like to support the PTSA or have any questions. Volunteers are always needed. Donations to the PTSA are always appreciated at <https://kenmorepta.memberhub.com/store>.

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Election Primary

On June 18, the Democratic Party held a primary open to all registered Arlington voters for the general election on November 5. Turnout was about 11%. In Arlington's second-ever election with ranked-choice voting, J.D. Spain was elected from a field of five as the Democratic candidate in November for an open seat on the county board. Spain will face Republican Juan Carlos Fierro, independent Audrey Clement, and Forward Party candidate Madison Granger in the general election, which will again be decided by ranked-choice voting. Early voting begins on September 20.

Prowling Bear Spotted



Last May, residents in North Arlington spotted a young black bear walking the streets and climbing into backyards near Yorktown High School; bear sightings were also reported in Washington, DC. The same young black bear was spotted in North Arlington again in June. Bears seeking food in spring sometimes migrate from forested areas down the Potomac River corridor, occasionally reaching the Washington metropolitan area. Sightings are rare and the bears are usually captured and moved to more suitable rural locations.

Markers in Memory of Enslaved People



In June, the Arlington County Board approved a project by the Arlington Historical Society to install markers in county rights-of-way commemorating enslaved people who once lived nearby. The markers are modeled after Germany's *Stolpersteine* (stumbling stones) in memory of Holocaust victims. More than 1,400 slaves are known to have lived in Arlington from 1669 to 1865, including several on the Charles Mix property in Greenbrier. The first three markers were installed at the Ball-Sellers House in Glencarlyn.

High Community Health Ranking

The U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings of the nation's healthiest communities placed Arlington at 19, with a score of 86 out of 100 (Falls Church came in first, with a score of 100). Arlington received high marks for population health, food and nutrition, economy, and public safety and low marks for equity, housing, and environment. Arlington's lowest rating was for community vitality (with such categories as homeownership and neighborhood diversity), with a score of 32 out of 100.

Best Place for College Grads

In 2024, Arlington was ranked at the top of a list of best midsize cities for new college grads to start their careers, according to a study by CoworkingCafe. Arlington came in just ahead of Alexandria, VA, and Bellevue, WA. Arlington's top ranking was due to such factors as a high percentage of jobs available to those with bachelor's degrees, relatively high median income, and good health insurance coverage. Find out more online at CoworkingCafe Best Place for Grads.



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Deer Management Project

A census of white-tailed deer in April 2021 found 290 deer in Arlington—an unsustainable number. Deer overpopulation can adversely affect gardens, public health, and biodiversity in public parks, including survival of deer herds. Last June, Arlington released a study of deer impacts on county parks, with recommendations for deer management. County officials concluded that the most efficient and cost-effective method is sharpshooting to bring deer populations down to sustainable levels, and they asked for public feedback. You can find out more online at Deer Management Project, including a short explainer video about deer in Arlington.

County Treats Invasives in Lubber Run Park

For many years, Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation staff and neighborhood volunteers have been managing invasive plants in Lubber Run Park. In August/September, county contractors followed up on that work, treating invasives such as stiltgrass, porcelainberry, and English ivy. The contractors sprayed the invasives with an EPA-approved herbicide formulated for use near water in natural areas. A harmless blue dye marked the plants treated. Signage warned park users to avoid the treated areas until after the material has dried and the signs are removed.

High Marks

In 2024, for the seventh year in a row, Arlington County was among the top five of the nation's 100 largest urban areas in the Trust for Public Lands ParkScore index. Washington, DC, and the Twin Cities in Minnesota again ranked highest. The rankings were based equally on five factors; the county lost points for acreage and equity (distribution of parks by race and income) but got top marks for access, investment, and amenities (such as playgrounds). For example, 99 percent of Arlingtonians live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

Fall Bird Migration: Why Go Lights Out?

Millions of birds will be flying south over our area in September and October—many at night, employing their sensory system to navigate in darkness. Light pollution attracts and disorients migrating birds, increasing their vulnerability to collisions with structures. An estimated 365-988 million birds die in collisions with buildings each year, including many of high conservation concern. Residential lighting alone accounts for 10-20% of light pollution; people can help by turning off all nonessential lighting.

Park Stewards



You might have noticed volunteers at work in Lubber Run Park. They are led by park steward Stephanie Martin, who lives in Greenbrier. Stephanie is part of a program established in 2018 by the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) to appoint stewards for each of Arlington's 100-plus public parks. Park stewards are active members of ARMN or Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria who submit an application to the program. They lead teams in pulling invasive weeds, monitoring stream health, and more. You can find out more online at ARMN Park Stewards.

Southside Footbridge Replaced

In 2022, trees toppled by a storm destroyed the footbridge across Arlington Forest Branch on the connector trail between S. Aberdeen St. in Arlington Forest and S. Abingdon St. in Barcroft. Arlington County negotiated a deal with Dominion Power granting a public right of passage so the county could replace the bridge. In late August, the county installed a new bridge in time for kids to use this fall to get to Barcroft Elementary School and to catch the bus to Wakefield High School. Neighbors can also use the trail again for walks and jogs. Thanks to Southside activists for helping to make it happen, including Carrie Lombardi and Colleen O'Hara!

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Around the Forest

Thanks to Outgoing AFCA President Esther Bowring!

At the May 2024 AFCA business meeting (part of the annual club picnic), Sal D'Itri was elected to replace retiring President Esther Bowring; the other AFCA officers were all reelected. In recognition of Esther's service to our community, some of her neighbors will gather at the Outback Steakhouse (bar area) to raise a toast to her. Please feel free to join in at 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 15!

New Arlington Forest Historian

Last May, John Naland retired from his longstanding role as AFCA historian. John's many accomplishments include, in 2015, his signature publication, the fourth edition of *History of the Arlington Forest Community* (posted on the AFCA website). As historian, John made an annual trip to the Arlington Public Library to donate a set of the previous year's *Arlington Foresters* to the Center for Local History. The collection goes back for decades, a valuable source of neighborhood history. Todd Burns volunteered to replace John as AFCA historian.

Reminder on Parking at Ballston Mall

The Ballston Parking Garage has a payment system that can be confusing. You don't take a ticket—you just drive in and park. After parking, you pay right away; if you don't, you will be ticketed. You pay by entering your license plate number into the electronic tracking system. Some pillars display QR codes for paying with your phone, or you can pay at a kiosk by the elevators on each floor. You pick a time (a minimum of 3 hours for \$1), and if you take longer you can reenter your plate number and buy more time. The kiosk gives you a receipt but you don't need to put it on your dashboard. When you're ready to leave, you just drive out.

Fall Cleanup on September 21

Neighbors on Granada Street in Greenbrier will hold their annual fall cleanup in Glencarlyn Park on Saturday morning, September 21. They will meet below the N. Greenbrier St. trailhead at the low concrete bridge over Four Mile Run at 9 a.m., rain or shine. If you arrive late, look around for those already at work. Wear old clothes and sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. The cleanup usually ends by 10:30 a.m. If you have questions, please email John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com.

Community Calendar

Next AFCA meeting: Wednesday, September 18, 7 p.m.

Lubber Run Farmers' Market: Saturday mornings at the Barrett Elementary School parking lot.

Election: November 5 (you can register to vote, check your status, or apply to vote by mail at <https://bit.ly/VoteArlington>). On the ballot will be candidates for President, Senate, House of Representatives, Arlington County Board (1 seat), and Arlington School Board (2 seats).

Holiday Party: A Friday in December at the Lubber Run Community Center (tentative)

Neighborhood Fall Cleanup: Saturday, September 21

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: A Saturday in April 2025

Annual AFCA Picnic: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Annual Yard Sale: A Saturday in May 2025

Turnaround Day: June 15, 2025 (tentative)

AFCA Meetings

Topics are tentative.

September 18, 2024: Vision for upcoming year/annual AFCA budget vote

October 16, 2024: Arlington's Deer Management Program/Native plants and insects

November 20, 2024: Arlington's Stormwater Management program

January 15, 2025: Traffic and pedestrian safety

February 19, 2025: Arlington Public Schools

March 19, 2025: Arlington Neighborhoods Program

April 16, 2025: Spring gardening

May 21, 2025: Neighborhood picnic

Repair
Posts

Remount
Rails



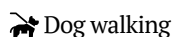
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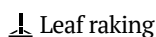
Rails Installed New

Kids for Hire

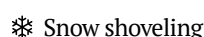
These Arlington Forest youths are ready to help. To be added or deleted, email newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.



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	Name	Email	Phone									Other
Southside	Sophia Cordon	kitkat67@msn.com	301-509-7915	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
	William Cordon		301-509-7915	✓	✓				✓		✓	Yard help
	Amy Mashkuri		571-643-5883	✓	✓							
	Sabrina Saunders	sabrina_saunders@icloud.com	202-531-2247	✓	✓		✓*			✓	✓	Tutoring
	Brooks Everitt	Ang.everitt12@Gmail.com	571-244-7691	✓	✓				✓		✓	
	Alexis Kent	alexisvkent@gmail.com	703-899-5395				✓					
	Gavin Kraft	kenneth.d.kraft@gmail.com	314-775-7008	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Nora Kraft	kenneth.d.kraft@gmail.com	314-775-7008	✓	✓					✓	✓	
	Madeline Lund	madelinelund11@gmail.com	571-447-6968	✓	✓		✓			✓		
	Avery McGrann	snooz_ette@yahoo.com	571-225-2484	✓	✓		✓*			✓	✓	
Greenbrier	Cece McGrann	snooz_ette@yahoo.com	703-489-7170	✓	✓		✓*			✓	✓	
	Anna McLaughlin	annamc1012@yahoo.com	571-550-1680	✓	✓		✓*		✓		✓	
	Ciara McLaughlin	ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com	703-712-9215				✓*			✓	✓	
	Jacob Nadherny	jacob@nadherny.com		✓	✓						✓	
	Matthew Petruccelli	tony.petruccelli@gmail.com	703-629-0425			✓		✓				
	Nicky Petruccelli	tony.petruccelli@gmail.com	703-629-0425			✓		✓	✓		✓	
	Caulder Pickard	katiepickard@gmail.com	571-244-6870	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Elle Pickard	katiepickard@gmail.com	571-244-6870	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	
	James Smialowicz	james.smialowicz@gmail.com	703-244-6564	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
	Ben Tahu	Ben.apple.sub@gmail.com	571-289-6272		✓						✓	
Northside	Koh Tamaki	michaelnakamoto@gmail.com	703-568-8566			✓		✓				Mowing
	Thomas Walsh	tvswalsh22@gmail.com	202-236-4953	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Lila Bryant	lila.k.bryant@icloud.com			✓		✓		✓			
	Natalie Bryant	natalie.a.bryant@icloud.com	703-447-8555		✓		✓		✓			
	Niittisha Choudhary	Niittisha@gmail.com	703-981-1229	✓			✓		✓			Tutoring
	Ella Engelhardt		571-236-8123		✓		✓*			✓		Dog training
	Rafaella Lenco	rafaellalenco@gmail.com	571-279-9875	✓	✓				✓		✓	
	Mariah Nissenson	manissenson@gmail.com	703-517-1037	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	
	Matthew Pearl	matthewpearl07@gmail.com	571-531-2348			✓		✓	✓		✓	
	Evie Price		703-402-5138	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	
Adam Sherzai	adam.sherzai@icloud.com	202-615-9411	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Leilani Wright		207-650-5741	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Tutoring	
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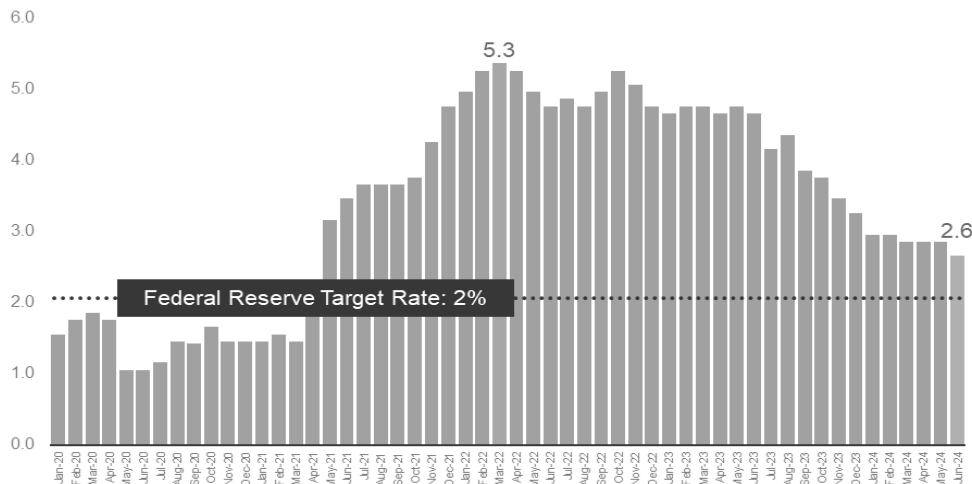
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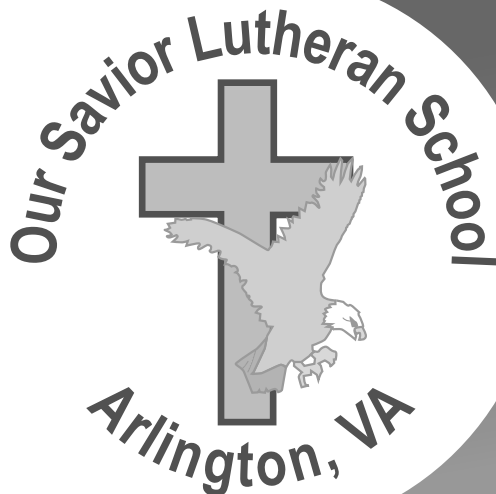
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