



Vol. 64, Number 7

Arlington, Virginia

April 2023

AFCA Meeting: Arlington Neighborhoods Program

AFCA invites you to join our monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 7 p.m., through Zoom. AFCA President Esther Bowring will summarize the final results of Arlington's Missing Middle Housing Study (now called Expanded Housing Options) based on changes to the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance approved by the Arlington County Board in March. We will also be joined by Liz Kauffman, Arlington Forest's representative for the county's Neighborhood Conservation Program, now known as the Arlington Neighborhoods Program. Liz will discuss changes to the program and the potential for future neighborhood improvement projects with county support.

To join the meeting through Zoom, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:45 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19: <https://tinyurl.com/23w8pr2h>. (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 820 8115 4979 and passcode 745549. You might also be prompted to hit the # sign one or more times. This call-in number will be active starting at 6:45 p.m.

AFCA March 2023 Meeting

By Char Mahoney, AFCA Recording Secretary

On March 15, AFCA President Esther Bowring presided over a remote AFCA meeting with about 30 people in attendance. Arlington Forest neighbor and native plant expert Susan Graham shared information about where you can buy native plants as well as where, when, and how they grow and bloom. Susan shared fun facts with us about our native trees. For example, over 500 species of moths and butterflies use oaks to lay their eggs on the leaves. The eggs develop into caterpillars, which provide food for more than 90% of our native birds. It takes as many as 6,000 caterpillars to raise a nest of chickadees, so an oak in your yard can help our native birds. In your yard, you might consider planting a native flower or tree in empty spaces or in spaces with invasive plants that you wish to remove. You can then choose a native plant or tree to fit the space and conditions of soil and light. Native trees you might consider planting include willow and other oaks, red maple, river birch, redbud, serviceberry, and more. Spring-blooming native flowers to consider include Jacob's ladder, columbine, wild bleeding

heart, woodland phlox, beardtongue, golden Alexander, and golden ragwort. For summer blooms, butterfly weed and swamp milkweed attract monarch butterflies, and wild bergamot and scarlet beebalm attract hummingbirds. For fall color, you might plant asters, goldenrods, and sunflowers. Other native plants to consider include mountain mints; swamp rose mallow and scarlet rose mallow (varieties of hibiscus); white turtlehead; New York ironweed; and rudbeckia species, including black-eyed Susan and brown-eyed Susan.

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AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. **April 19** Through Zoom

The Team

Editor: Hutch Brown

703-855-1732, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

Advertising: Hutch Brown

703-855-1732, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

Check your ad and contact Hutch for any corrections.

Layout & Design: Leo Horwitz

newsletter@leohorwitz.com

Distribution: Joan Blake

703-358-9549, joanblake43@gmail.com

Contact Joan if you do not receive a newsletter.

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.

2022–23 AFCA Officers

President:

Esther Bowring

703-243-0433

afcaprez@gmail.com

Vice President, Southside:

Sean Lyons

sean.mculty.lyons@gmail.com

Vice President, Northside:

Joel Yudken

703-980-8122

joel.yudken@verizon.net

Vice President, Greenbrier:

Tom Smialowicz

703-528-3889

tsmialowicz@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Janet Irwin

703-516-4574

jeirwin1@verizon.net

Recording Secretary:

Char Mahoney

571-241-9866

char.mahoney@verizon.net

Arlington Neighborhoods Program:**Treasurer:**

Jeffrey Horwitz

703-243-2395

afca@ironstate.me

Liz Kauffman

571-327-6497

lizkauffman@yahoo.com

Karen Burst

571-242-9942

Arlington Civic Federation Rep:

Salvador D'Itri

703-350-2183

sditri@yahoo.com

burstfamily@yahoo.com

Historian:

John Naland

nalandfamily@yahoo.com

Website: www.arlingtonforestva.org

Join AFCA listserv by emailing address to:

arlingtonforestva@gmail.com

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AFCA Meeting

...from page 1

Susan is generous with both her native plant expertise and her native plant seedlings. She pots excess seedlings from her garden and places them on her front wall for anyone to take and plant. You can see the native plants in Susan's front yard at 233 N. Galveston St. If you would like to observe plants in Susan's backyard, please email her at sujigraham@gmail.com. For more information on native plants for your yard, Susan recommended *Plant Northern Virginia Natives* by the Virginia Native Plant Society and *Native Plant Finder* by the National Wildlife Foundation.

Arlington Forest neighbor Sue Huff gave an update on upgrading the N. 2nd St. traffic circles. Arlington Forest volunteers are establishing native plants recommended by Matt Bright of Earth Sangha, including pus-sytoes, columbine, common dittany, purple lovegrass, Philadelphia fleabane, sundrops, and more. The plants were selected for their beauty, ability to attract insects such as bees and butterflies, and tolerance of poor soil and the harsh conditions of living in a traffic circle. The plants will maintain a low profile to allow visibility across the circle for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. To join the neighborhood volunteers who maintain the plants in the traffic circles, please contact Randy Brooke (rbrooke7000@gmail.com).

AFCA President Esther Bowring also asked for volunteers to work on erosion and other issues in Lubber Run Park and to maintain the plantings around the Arlington Forest neighborhood signs. If interested, please send her an email at AFCAprez@gmail.com.

Finally, during the AFCA meeting in May, we will vote to fill the AFCA elected officer positions for next year. Art Schwartz volunteered to head AFCA's nominating committee again this year. If you are interested in running for the positions shown on the masthead of this newsletter, please send an email to arthur.edward.schwartz@gmail.com.

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.

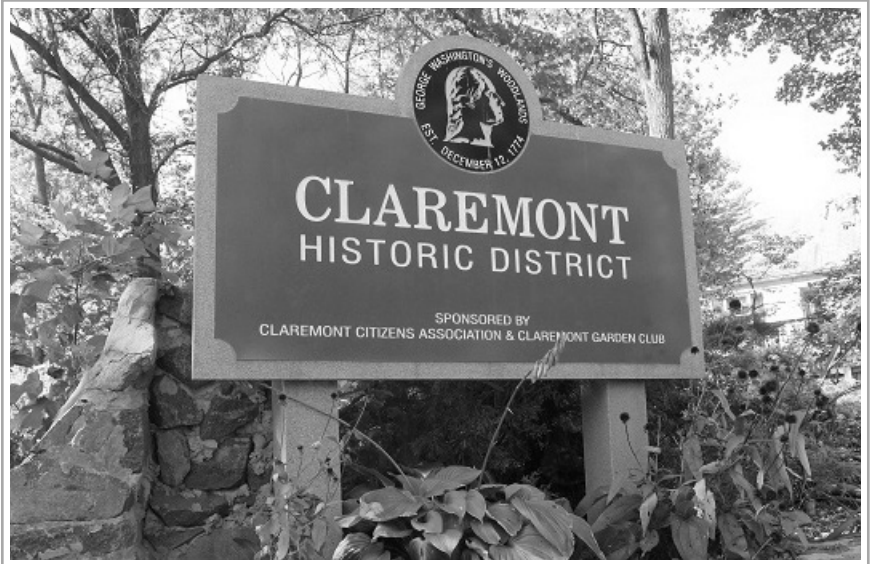
Arlington Neighborhoods Program Replaces Neighborhood Conservation Program

By Liz Kauffman

In 2022, as Arlington Forest finalized its updated neighborhood conservation plan, the Arlington County manager carried out a study of the program. The study concluded that the program has been effective in delivering infrastructure improvements to neighborhoods but that program funding has not kept pace with increased construction costs (a challenge for all county programs). Participation is uneven across Arlington's neighborhoods, and "conservation" does not properly describe the program's function. As a result, the county gave the program a new name: the Arlington Neighborhoods Program.

With a budget cut of nearly 60 percent over 4 years, few of the projects requested by some 40 participating neighborhoods in Arlington are funded each year. For example, Arlington Forest's recently completed project for the Edison Park playground cost \$900,000, including—in addition to new playground equipment—upgrades for stormwater management and to meet requirements under the Americans With Disabilities Act. It took many years to obtain the funding needed to complete the project.

Although such infrastructure projects will continue, the Arlington Neighborhoods Advisory Committee seeks your input on new types of projects to improve a sense of community at costs far lower than infrastructure investments. For instance, other communities have



funded murals, mosaics, street paintings, rain gardens, miniparks, community gardens, disaster preparedness workshops, special events, and history or nature trails with interpretive signs. If you weren't able to submit your ideas before the April 5 survey deadline, please email or text them to me.

Finally, if you want to learn more about county government and promote our community—and if you can spare 11 hours each year for meetings—please consider serving on the Arlington Neighborhoods Advisory Committee. For more information, contact me at liz-kauffman@yahoo.com or 571-327-6497 (cell).



Spring Cleanup on April 22

Our 12th annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup is on Saturday morning, April 22. Teams of volunteers will clean up the Arlington Blvd. Southside buffer strip (meet at the top of S. Park Dr.) and the streambanks below the N. Greenbrier St. trailhead (meet at the low concrete bridge over Four Mile Run). There is no volunteer to coordinate efforts in Lubber Run Park, so nearby residents can look for trash in any part of the park. As always, we welcome the participation of local Boy and Girl Scouts. If you have questions, please email John Naland at naland-family@yahoo.com.

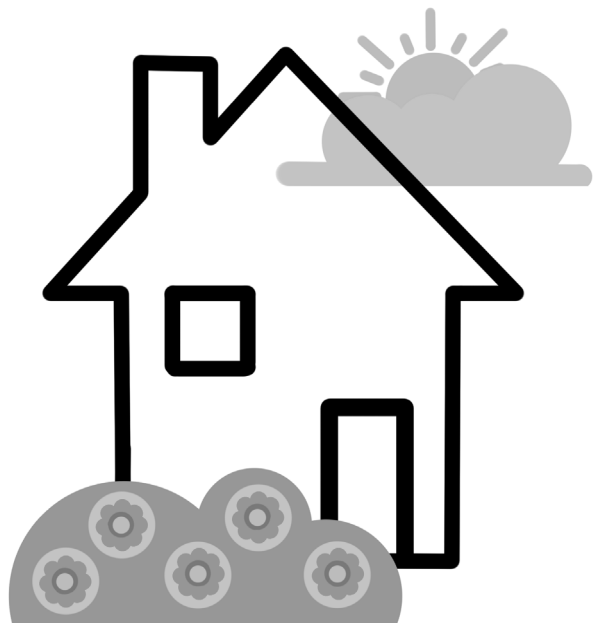
We start at 9 a.m., rain or shine. If you arrive late, look around for those who are already at work. Wear old clothes and sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

The cleanup usually ends by 10:30 a.m. Please pick up only manmade trash, not logs or branches. Do not put things like asphalt, bricks, rocks, or dirt in any trashcan in county parks.

Please join in beautifying our public spaces if you enjoy walking, jogging, or biking in our local parks; if you want to help protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed; if you have children who want to learn to care for the environment; or if you just want to get out in the fresh spring air to benefit from some light exercise. Many hands make for light work, so the more volunteers we get, the more we can do to improve community spaces for our spring and summer enjoyment.

Get Ready for the Home & Garden Tour

By Tricia Freeman



Saturday, May 6, will be a very busy day! Get up early to eat any taco chips left over from Cinco de Mayo and then break out the tea and scones while watching coverage of King Charles's coronation. You'll still have plenty of time to duck into the Lubber Run Farmers' Market to buy fresh mint for the evening's Kentucky Derby juleps—and to buy last-minute tickets for the 2023 Home & Garden Tour. This popular tradition is Saturday's real main event for the Arlington Forest community, providing a wonderful opportunity for neighbors who share a common interest to get to know each other. The self-guided tour will run from noon to 4 p.m. (rain or shine).

The tour is usually held every 3 years; but, due to the pandemic, it has been 6 years since we had an opportunity to see the many home improvement projects that our neighbors have been working on. The 2023 tour committee has lined up 12 beautifully renovated homes to spark your imagination about what can be done to enhance our 1940s brick houses. Additionally, there are several special gardens with ideas for outdoor living spaces.

All three sections of Arlington Forest are represented. The tour features huge new kitchens, remodeled older kitchens, and attached breakfast areas. Bathrooms—both full and half—have been worked into new floor plans or created in existing space. Basements have been transformed into guest suites. Walls have been removed and walls added. Home offices have popped up. Two homes were just completed in late March. The styles are as varied as the owners themselves. Look for dramatic contemporaries filled with light as well as cozy traditional homes with a modern aesthetic. Several homes back onto park woodland. An accessory dwelling is also being

shown. Decks and porches have been added to maximize access to the outdoors. Front gardens, side gardens, a garden with native plants, and a garden with herbs and whimsical creatures have all been lovingly tended. There is even a "garden" of giant painted sunflowers.

The committee will be selling tickets at locations throughout the neighborhood during the week prior to May 6 as well as on the morning of the tour. Tickets cost \$10; cash or checks are accepted. The tour is open only to Arlington Forest residents, 12 years and older, so when purchasing tickets, please bring your driver's license or other identification. A preprinted name tag (to be worn on tour day) will be your ticket. Tickets will be sold at the following locations and times: Saturday, April 29, at the Lubber Run Farmers' Market from 8 a.m. to noon; Monday, May 1, at the home of Jennifer Claffey, 4842 1st St. S., from 9 to 11 a.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.; and Wednesday, May 3, at the home of Marsha Lederman, 107 N. Columbus St., from 6 to 8 p.m. Purchasing your tickets in advance gives you the opportunity to get the tour brochure early and read about each home so you can plan your route ahead of time. However, *tickets will also be available on the day of tour*, May 6, at the Lubber Run Farmers' Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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Community Yard Sale on May 20

The annual yard sale, an Arlington Forest tradition, takes place this year on Saturday morning, May 20 (rain date May 21). Over 40 Arlington Forest households have participated in the past, and the event attracts many bargain hunters who cruise through the area visiting multiple sales. Allison Kennett and Char Mahoney have volunteered to organize the event, and next month's newsletter will include a map of sale sites. To get on the map, email your address to Allison Kennett at allison.kennett@gmail.com by April 24. Residents can use the map to locate nearby sales. Sellers are encouraged to make photocopies so shoppers can pick up a map leading them to other sites.

Some tips for success: (1) Prepare in advance. Sort clothes by size. Group similar items together. Use shopper-friendly ways to display merchandise (like tables and clothes racks). Have grocery bags on hand. Obtain dollar bills and coins to make change. If selling electronics, set up an extension cord to show that the items work. (2) Price items reasonably. Savvy shoppers will buy elsewhere if prices are too high. Be prepared to negotiate down from the listed price. (3) To snag buyers who make yard sales

their business, start setting up at 7 a.m.

By late morning, people come looking for closeout prices and even freebies.

If left with furniture or other large items that you simply want to get rid of, leave them at the curb with a "free"

sign and they will probably be gone by Sunday afternoon.

(4) Keep your cash in a pocket, shoulder purse, or fanny pack. If you do use a cash box, don't leave it unattended while you are with a shopper. Decline personal checks. If you go indoors, have someone watch your merchandise. Sellers near Arlington Blvd., Carlin Springs Rd., George Mason Dr., and Henderson Dr. might consider posting homemade signs along those thoroughfares pointing into the neighborhood to their sale (please remove signs at day's end).

For many people, yard sale success is not measured by profit but by how much unwanted stuff is moved out. The sale is also a great community event. Families can say hello to neighbors down the block and find their own bargains. Kids can set up a lemonade stand. So, whether you are a seller, a buyer, or both, please join us on May 20.



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Graduating Seniors Group Portrait

By Liz Vance

Greetings and salutations, Foresters! It's that time of year again! The daffodils are blooming, the pollen is flying, and high school seniors are seeing the light at the end of a very long tunnel. They don't realize it yet, but their childhood is coming to an end. (The parents realize it—oh, yes, they do.) The seniors are turning 18 (most of them), graduating (most of them), and moving out. They might be moving out temporarily, and they might come back. But ... they will come back as different people. They will be more adultish.

And—as many of you know—every year, I want to capture that last moment of who they are before they head off in different directions toward who they will be. So, once again, we will be doing a High School Senior Group Portrait at the Barrett Elementary School playground. Here are the deets, as they say:

Date: Sunday, April 30

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Barrett Elementary School,
the “big kids playground”

Who: Ah, who. That is the big question every year.

If you (a) lived in Arlington Forest at any point during your childhood, and (b) you are a high school senior, then you're invited. Seriously. It's all about the cohort at the playground. Did you live here in 4th grade and go to a private school? But you're a high school senior in Fairfax now? You're still in. Once a Forester, always a Forester.



If you know someone who used to live here who is still in the area somewhere, please pass along the information and invite them to join us. Also, this is rain or shine. If it's raining, bring an umbrella. We make it work every year.

(For those with younger kids, the Back To School Portrait for the Rising K-6-9 kids will be on the Sunday, August 27, at 6 p.m. That is the last day of APS summer vacation. There will be a reminder in the last Forester newsletter before the summer break.)

And, in the meanwhile, here's to the 2022 Cohort! If they are not home already, they will be soon! WITH SO MUCH LAUNDRY! Squee!! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at LizVance@gmail.com.

Erosion in Lubber Run Park

On February 26, AFCA President Esther Bowring met with Arlington County Parks Area Manager Lyndell Core to discuss erosion issues in Lubber Run Park. They were joined in the park by two neighbors, including a homeowner along the gully below N. 2nd Rd. Erosion in the gully threatens private property and poses a safety hazard by taking out parts of the wood rail fence along the trail into the park. Esther and Lyndell also inspected the severe stormwater damage along Lubber Run on



the unpaved trail across from the amphitheater. Following the meeting, Lyndell requested bids to install a new rail fence along the trail below N. 2nd Rd., and he plans to meet with county stormwater managers to discuss options for reducing stormwater flows into the adjacent gully. Lyndell noted that repairing the stormwater damage along Lubber Run will require new engineering and funding through Arlington's Capital Improvement Plan.

Arlington's Tree Cover Smaller Than Thought

The Green Infrastructure Center (GIC), a nongovernmental organization, used data from 2021 to assess the extent of the tree canopy cover in Arlington. Released in late 2022, the GIC estimate of tree canopy cover (excluding the airport and federal lands) was 33%—much less than the previous county estimate of 41%, which was based a 2016 study. Unlike the previous study, the GIC distinguished trees from scrub/shrubs (5%), and the

combined total of 38% was within the margin of error for the earlier estimate of 41%. Nevertheless, Arlington's overall tree cover is evidently smaller than previously thought. The good news is that Arlington Forest, thanks to our local parks, has one of the highest tree canopy covers in Arlington (46%). You can find out more online at [New Tree Canopy Data Arlington](https://www.newtreecanopydata.com/).

Does English Ivy Control Erosion?

By Hutch Brown

Soil erosion is a serious problem in our local parks. In Lubber Run Park, the gullies below 2nd Rd. N. in Northside and the Edison Park playground in Greenbrier—not to mention streambank scars along Lubber Run itself—at test to worsening erosion. Some homeowners along our parks have planted English ivy, which spreads downhill into the parks. Have community programs to control English ivy exposed the soil and contributed to erosion?

Ground cover of any kind, including English ivy, is better than exposed mineral soil (the red clay subsoil in our area) for controlling erosion. But English ivy has one of the shallowest root systems of any plant in our area. I have spent hours pulling ivy by gloved hand without the need for a trowel—that's how weak the root systems are, barely gripping the soils. Worse, English ivy will carpet the forest floor, overgrowing and destroying all other vegetation, even climbing trees and killing them too. Trees, shrubs, and other native vegetation have much more extensive root systems than English ivy, far better at holding the soil in place. English ivy kills plants that are vastly superior at erosion control.

Thanks in part to ivy pulling by volunteers, we now have mostly native plants in Lubber Run Park. Yet the seasonal floods in our local creeks and gullies are undermining and toppling even the largest trees. The problem is stormwater runoff caused by impervious surfaces like



streets and roofs, which comprise 46 percent of the Lubber Run watershed. Flash flooding during storms is taking out streambanks and anything on them. If even our biggest oaks and tuliptrees can't withstand the floodwaters, then English ivy stands no chance.

The solution lies in stormwater capture measures like installing bioswales, rain gardens, and bioretention ponds countywide on both public and private land. Tree planting and forest conservation also help because tree roots and fallen leaves create porous topsoils for rainwater infiltration and because trees take up huge quantities of rainwater,

keeping it from running off. Lawn grass and other non-native plants in our yards and parks won't make much difference—least of all English ivy, which can only make things worse.



Tracy C. Taylor, Author

W-L High School Graduate

George Mason University Graduate

DeVry University Graduate

United States Army Veteran

Writer of Adventure Books, Children's Books,

Christian Books, Dental Fiction,

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Ahhhs

Financial: Good Habits to Have (Financial Help Book)

Missing Middle: Zoning Ordinance Amendments Passed

In 2019, Arlington County launched a Missing Middle Housing Study on the prospect of replacing single-family homes in neighborhoods like ours with multifamily housing. On March 21, even though the issue remained highly contentious, the Arlington County Board voted to amend the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance to accommodate “enhanced housing options” in neighborhoods like ours. The changes will take effect on July 1.

Multifamily Housing

A property owner can build housing with up to six units anywhere in Arlington Forest, regardless of proximity to (or distance from) public transit, so long as a property has the minimum setbacks, lot width, and lot area (which have not changed). Up to a sixplex will be allowed on a lot as small as 6,000 ft²—which is entirely feasible, even with current setbacks and height limits. Property owners on any lot can also subdivide their property for building side-by-side duplexes or a three-unit townhouse. Up to 58 permits per year across Arlington (including 30 per year in neighborhoods like ours, zoned R-6) are allowed for multifamily housing construction, with a 5-year cap on the annual limit.

Nonconforming Lots

Owners of properties with less than the minimum lot width of 60 ft for Arlington Forest can still build multifamily housing with up to four units. If your nonconforming lot is 7,000 ft² or more in size, you can build housing with up to six units.

Parking Spaces

Developers of multifamily housing are required to build no more than half of an onsite parking space per unit on properties within $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of Metro, which include only the northernmost properties in Arlington Forest; elsewhere (in most of our neighborhood), no more than one parking space per unit is required, even on culdesacs (where two onsite spaces are required for single-family homes). Up to two onsite parking spaces (four on corner lots) are allowed between the main multifamily building and the street.

Floor Area

The gross floor area for multifamily housing with two to four units has caps ranging from 4,800 to 7,500 ft², depending on housing type; housing with five or six units is limited to 8,000 ft². Of course, the maximum building height of 35 ft and the maximum main building footprint of 2,520 ft² limit housing of any kind in Arlington Forest to about 7,500 ft² of floor area over three floors (not counting the basement). Most Arlington Forest homes currently have two floors and a basement.

Accessory Dwellings

Unless preexisting on a lot, accessory dwelling units are permitted as part of multifamily housing only for a townhouse or a side-by-side duplex and only as an interior unit (like a basement).

Lot Coverage

The maximum main building footprint on any lot in our neighborhood remains 30% of a 6,000-ft² lot (2,520 ft²). The maximum lot coverage (for buildings, walkways, and other impervious surfaces) also remains the same (40%), plus 3% for an optional porch. In addition, the coverage allowed for an optional single-family garage (5%) will apply to any impervious surfaces on a multifamily lot. With add-ons, a multifamily lot—like a single-family lot—can have a lot coverage of up to 48%.

Tree Planting

The Arlington Code (§61.10) sets minimum tree-planting standards for developers based on the Chesapeake Bay Protection Ordinance. For low-density neighborhoods like ours (with up to 10 housing units per acre), the requirement is 20 percent canopy tree coverage in 20 years (about three large trees on a 6,000-ft² lot). The amended zoning ordinance requires developers to plant at least four shade trees for multifamily housing with two to four units and at least eight for housing with five to six units. That meets or exceeds Arlington Code requirements for most properties in Arlington Forest, but perhaps not for the roughly 20 percent larger than 8,000 ft².

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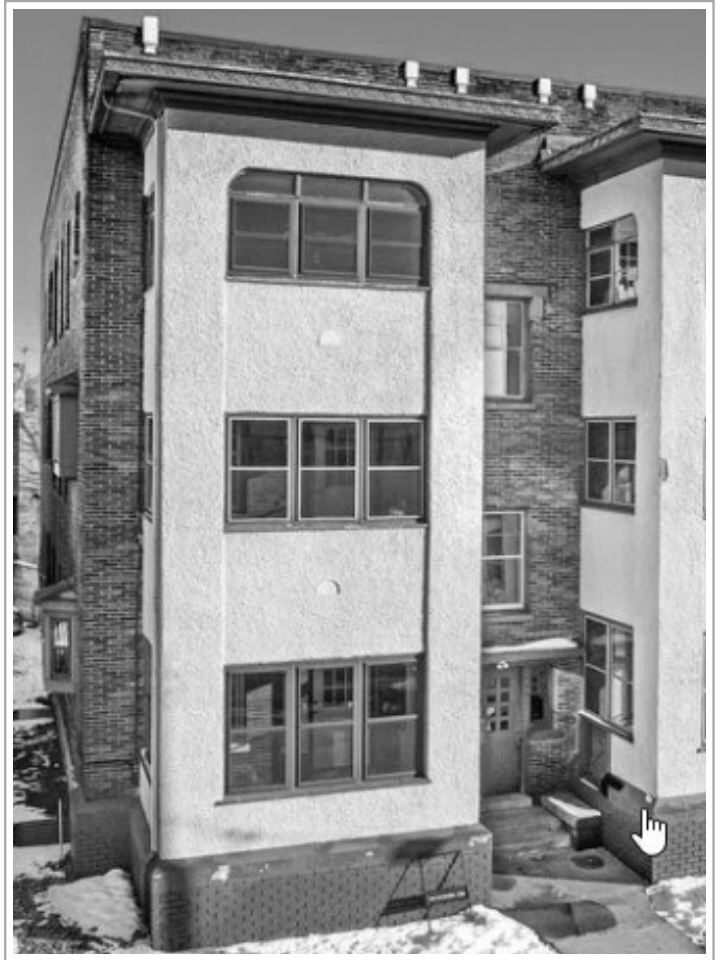
Missing Middle: Changes to the General Land Use Plan


By Hutch Brown

Arlington's General Land Use Plan (GLUP) contains guiding principles for county growth and development. Because the GLUP underpins county policy, it must be clear, compelling, and in alignment with the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance. Recent amendments to the zoning ordinance to incorporate multifamily housing into single-family neighborhoods have counterparts in a revised GLUP.


The Washington metropolitan area arguably has reason to concentrate high-density housing in its urban core to reduce urban sprawl. Because Arlington has become part of the urban core, a case can be made for replacing low-density housing with higher density housing county-wide. Making the case would mean reversing the GLUP's decades-long commitment to sustaining single-family neighborhoods like ours. But the revised GLUP tries to have it both ways: it reaffirms the need to "preserve and enhance single-family and apartment neighborhoods" while undermining the very thing that defines neighborhoods like ours: low-density housing. Redefined by the GLUP to include housing with up to six units, neighborhoods with 1 to 10 units per acre would vanish if multifamily housing were to replace single-family homes in large numbers. Such doubletalk undermines the clarity and credibility of the GLUP.

The revised GLUP also adds new goals for neighborhoods like ours, including "equitable housing options for more Arlingtonians at wider income levels and stages of life throughout the Arlington community." In its Arlington County Board report of March 10, county staff tried to justify that goal by citing the economic analysis in phase 2 of the Missing Middle Housing Study. However, the analysis showed that duplexes would be the most profitable housing type on the 6,000-ft² lots that make up most of Arlington Forest. The duplex units would cost about \$1.17 million each, far more than a median-income household could afford. The analysis also predicted that new multifamily housing would be limited to 19-21 lots per year across all of Arlington because most home buyers would continue to prefer single-family homes; moreover, the zoning ordinance amendments place an annual cap of 58 on the number of lots redeveloped for middle housing. Whether it's 19-21 or 58, such small numbers wouldn't make much difference. So if Arlington's goal for neighborhoods like ours, as stated in the GLUP, is to make housing broadly attainable and equitable through duplexes and other types of multifamily housing, then its own numbers suggest that it won't work. Basing the GLUP on an unrealistic goal undermines its long-term credibility.



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County News

Neighborhood Conservation Program Updated

The Arlington Neighborhoods Program, formerly known as the Neighborhood Conservation Program, recently conducted a countywide survey to collect ideas from residents on low-cost projects for improving Arlington's neighborhoods. The backstory is that program funding has been slashed while costs for improving infrastructure have soared, extending wait times for major infrastructure projects in Arlington to about 20 years.

Glencarlyn Self-Guided Tree Walk

The Glencarlyn Tree Committee has posted a webpage with a map showing three self-guided tours of trees you can see from the street on lots in neighboring Glencarlyn. The map has accompanying descriptions for each tree. So if you're thinking of planting a young tree and wondering what it might look like when mature, the map could help. Each self-guided tour features 13 to 15 different tree species on an easily walkable route; most trees are native to our area, though some are not. You can find out more online at Glencarlyn Tree Walk.

Glencarlyn Library Plant Sale

On Saturday, April 30, the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden will hold a native plant sale at 300 S. Kensington St. in neighboring Glencarlyn from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hosted by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, the sale will offer native plants from Hill House Native Nursery, locally grown vegetable and fruit starts, local honey, hand-made pottery, T-shirts, recycled bags, and more. Activities for kids are in the morning. Proceeds from this free annual event support the garden year-round. Find out more online at Glencarlyn Library Plant Sale.

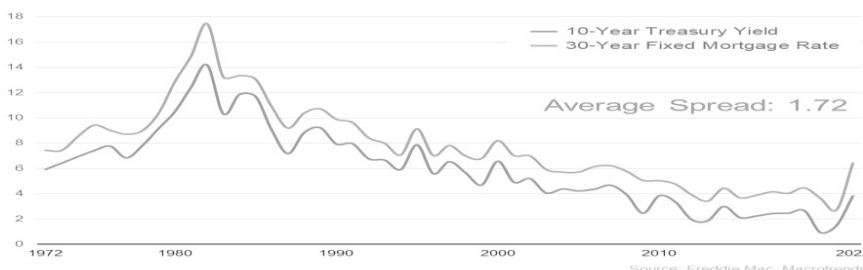


Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale

The spring 2023 Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale will be on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Church of St. Clement at 1701 N. Quaker Lane in Alexandria. Vendors from across our area will be there. Find out more at www.northernalexandrianativeplantsale.org

This chart shows that mortgage rates have followed in unison with 10-Year Treasury with a spread of about 1.7% for 50+ years. Typically you add 1.7% to the 10 year yield and you get the 30-year fixed rate. Lately the spread has widened. At the start of 2023 the spread was 2.7%, almost 1% higher, in the measure of fear and volatility. While there has been uncertainty in the markets, it is predicted that mortgage rates will decrease later this year. So far this year, home sales have been robust in the DMV area and in many parts of the country.

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Parks Update

Pulling Ivy in Lubber Run Park

Volunteers organized by Stephanie Martin of Greenbrier through the Arlington Regional Master Naturalist program spent a couple of hours on February 25 pulling invasive English ivy in Lubber Run Park. Ten to 12 volunteers, including several from Arlington Forest, worked on the slope below Northside and in the woods below the Lubber Run Community Center, where they cut ivy vines growing up trees in preparation for later pulling them down.

Bridge Construction This Year

Replacement of one of the washed-out pedestrian bridges over Lubber Run is scheduled for this year. The work, from demolition to bridge installation and final landscaping, is out for bid; the county expects construction to begin in June/July.

Reporting Stream Pollution

With spring here, cleanup activities can lead to dangerous chemical spills into our local streams. If you notice illegal discharges discoloring streams in our neighborhood parks, you can report it at www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Report-Problem. They will not be able to respond outside of business hours, but they will investigate and get back to you. You can find out more online at Report Stream Pollution Arlington.

Dog Leash Law

By law, Arlington requires dog owners to keep their pets on leashes while out in public. Even a “good dog” let off leash in a park can be injured by cars, wild animals, or other dogs, and unleashed dogs can frighten passersby. Arlington’s 10 dog parks are for letting dogs run free, including the Glencarlyn Dog Park in Glencarlyn Park (with access through the road to the Long Branch Nature Center); anywhere else, the owners of dogs off leash can be fined. Find out more online at Dog Leash Laws Arlington VA.

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Around the Forest

May Potluck Picnic

The annual AFCA potluck picnic will be on Wednesday, May 17. Rob Janson has volunteered to make the arrangements, including reserving the pavilion in Lubber Run Park; AFCA will pay for cookout supplies, including hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, chips, and so on. Rob will be asking for volunteers to bring desserts and sides to share, plus help him carry in supplies—stay tuned!

AFCA Elections Coming Up!

At the AFCA picnic/meeting on May 17, AFCA will hold elections for officers in the coming year. Elected offices include President; Vice Presidents for Greenbrier, Northside, and Southside; Recording Secretary; Corresponding Secretary; and Treasurer. Although most current officers have indicated their willingness to serve again, we need nominees for President and Southside Vice President. We encourage anyone willing to run for any office to contact Nominating Committee Chair Art Schwartz at arthur.edward.schwartz@gmail.com.

Newsletter Delivery Coordinator Needed for Fall!

Joan Blake, our long-time newsletter volunteer who picks up *The Arlington Forester* from the printer and coordinates delivery by neighborhood teens, is retiring soon. We need someone to take over primary responsibility for newsletter delivery this fall (beginning with the September issue). Your time commitment would be 8 to 9 hours per issue and almost 1 full day on the Friday that the newsletters become ready for delivery. Also, you would need a computer and minimal computer proficiency, plus ready access to cash or checks for paying the teens (AFCA reimburses you). To volunteer, please contact Joan at joanblake43@gmail.com.

Replanting Northside Traffic Circles

The first spring workday on the four traffic circles on N. 2nd St. took place on March 25, with a good turnout. Among other things, the volunteers are removing nonnative plants like daylilies and replacing them with native plants like columbine, wood phlox, and Carolina rose, which support native pollinators. To help out on future workdays, contact Randy Brooke at rbrooke7000@gmail.com.

Community Calendar

Next AFCA meeting:

Wednesday, April 19, 7 p.m.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:

Saturday, April 22

Senior Group Portrait:

Sunday, April 30

Home and Garden Tour:

Saturday, May 6

Annual AFCA Picnic:

Wednesday, May 17

Annual Yard Sale:

Saturday, May 20

Rising K-6-9 Group Portrait:

Sunday, August 27

AFCA Meetings

April 19, 2023: Neighborhood conservation projects

May 17, 2023: Neighborhood picnic

Noise Alert

By county ordinance, work with lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and other outdoor power tools is not allowed before 7 a.m. on weekdays and before 10 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays—and after 9 p.m. on any day. Please respect this quiet time for your neighbors.

Lubber Run Farmers Market Opening

The Lubber Run Farmers Market is beginning its sixth season on April 15. The market, on the Barrett Elementary School parking lot at 4401 N. Henderson Rd., will be open every Saturday, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon through November 18. The market features fresh vegetables along with meats, cheeses, breads, and other foods from our area.

Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

On the first day of spring, the PTA had a pop-up Principal's and Assistant Principal's Appreciation Day. The PTA surprised the principals by decorating their office door with notes and flowers from the students to say how much the principals have helped them grow.

Students enjoyed the READ book fair in March, especially the pre-K students who were able to visit the READ bus and choose a free book. We also welcomed the return of the Girls on the Run program to Barcroft in March. At the end of March, students participated in a pajama day, with a read-in to kick off a Reading Challenge over Spring Break.

The PTA is planning a welcome-back breakfast for the teachers and staff after spring break. The PTA will also be sponsoring an upcoming



workshop by Step Afrika! for our 4th and 5th graders and Jakes Ice Cream for Field Day in June. Upcoming events include a Garden Workday on April 15 (rescheduled from March due to inclement weather), Teacher/Staff Appreciation during the first week of May, and the End of School Picnic on June 9. Over the summer, the PTA will host play dates for rising kindergarten students and their families at the school playground on July 26 at 6 p.m. and August 19 at 10 a.m.

Are you interested in serving as a PTA officer? Several PTA board positions will be open at the end of this school year, including president. Email president@barcroftpta.org if you are interested. Follow us on Twitter at @BarcroftEagles.

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Dylan Heinrich		831-620-9742	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	Odd jobs
Ethan Heinrich		831-238-8475		✓		✓★	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Emilie Kluge	emiliekluge@yahoo.com	571-457-1983	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	Tutoring
Amy Mashkuri		571-643-5883	✓	✓							
Sabrina Saunders	sabrina_saunders@icloud.com	202-531-2247	✓	✓		✓★			✓	✓	Tutoring
Luna Candon-Campos	lundacandoncampos@gmail.com		✓	✓		✓★		✓	✓	✓	Weekends only
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	✓	✓				✓		✓	
Gavin Kraft	kenneth.d.kraft@gmail.com	314-775-7008	✓	✓						✓	
Abigail Lund	aclund25@icloud.com	703-712-0833	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Madeline Lund	madelinelund11@gmail.com	571-447-6968	✓	✓		✓			✓		
Avery McGrann	snooz_ette@yahoo.com	571-225-2484	✓	✓					✓	✓	Weekends only
Anna McLaughlin	annamc1012@yahoo.com	571-550-1680	✓	✓		✓★		✓		✓	
Ciara McLaughlin	ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com	703-712-9215				✓★			✓	✓	
Reid Messman		703-469-1988	✓	✓							
Shea Messman		703-469-1988				✓★					
Jacob Nadherny	jacob@nadherny.com		✓	✓						✓	
Matthew Petrucci	tony.petrucelli@gmail.com	703-629-0425					✓				
Nicky Petrucci	tony.petrucelli@gmail.com	703-629-0425		✓			✓				Cats only
Caulder Pickard	katiepickard@gmail.com	571-244-6870	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
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Emma Weaver		703-875-8185				✓★					
Anelia Werner	aneliaw09@gmail.com	703-975-4573	✓			✓★		✓	✓	✓	Odd jobs
Natalie Bryant	sarakatherine75@hotmail.com		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Niittisha Choudhary	Niittisha@gmail.com	703-981-1229	✓			✓		✓			Tutoring
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Annie Madden	Lacrosse.donuts@gmail.com	703-220-3357		✓		✓★					
Cory Pearl	cory.pearl99@gmail.com	571-447-0852	✓	✓	✓	✓★	✓	✓		✓	
Evie Price		703-402-5138	✓	✓		✓★		✓	✓	✓	
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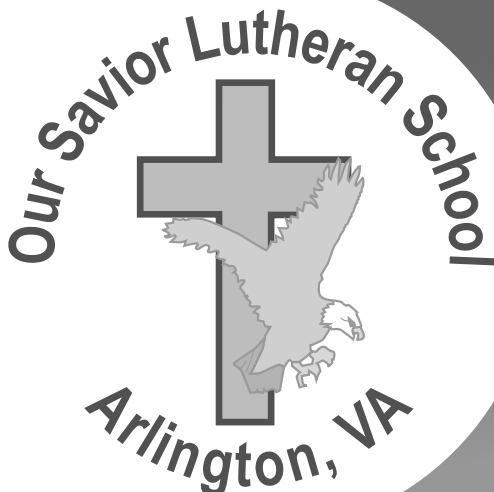
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