



The Arlington Forester

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Arlington, Virginia

April 2026

Virtual AFCA Meeting—Managing Pests: Rats, Wasps, Mosquitoes, Oh My!

AFCA invites you to join our monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. We had to cancel our March meeting, so we moved our March topic to April. We've all had backyard or household pests, whether mammals like mice and rats or insects like wasps and mosquitoes. We will try to line up someone who knows something about pest management to take your questions and give advice.

We will also discuss a project to memorialize enslaved people in Arlington before the Civil War by emplacing plaques with their names in neighborhood sidewalks near where they lived. Tim Aiken from Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington (MEA) will talk about the Stumbling Stones project and MEA plans to

emplace two “stumbling stone” plaques in a sidewalk adjacent to Barrett Elementary School or the Lubber Run Community Center (LRCC). An MEA emplacement ceremony on about April 18 will coincide with the performance of “Julia Sues for Freedom” at the LRCC.

To join the meeting through Zoom, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:45 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776565835>. Alternatively, you can dial in to the meeting at 301-715-8592, where you will be prompted to enter meeting number 867 7656 5835 and passcode 469609. 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.

Who Will Volunteer to Serve as Next AFCA President?

By Art Schwartz, AFCA Nominating Committee Chair

AFCA President Sal D'Itri's term of office concludes with the May AFCA meeting, and he will not seek reelection. I know I speak for all Arlington Forest neighbors in thanking Sal for his excellent service to our Arlington Forest community. According to our AFCA bylaw on officer elections, all officers are elected (or reelected) at the May membership meeting by majority vote of members present and voting. Prior to the vote, candidates have an opportunity to speak. Only members willing to serve can be elected to office, and those newly elected (or reelected) immediately take office for 1 year or until properly relieved.

AFCA offices up for election (or reelection) this year include President, Vice President for Southside, Vice President for Greenbrier, Vice President for Northside, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. Duties and responsibilities for each office are outlined in the bylaws on the Arlington Forest Citizens

Association website. If you are interested in becoming a candidate for any office, please contact AFCA Nominating Committee Chair Art Schwartz at 107 North Columbus Street (arthur.edward.schwartz@gmail.com) before or during the May AFCA meeting.

Contents

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keystone plant choice. 2 | Native plant sales..... 8 |
| Home tour 3 | Plant labels 9 |
| Foresters honored 4 | Park erosion 10 |
| Farmers market..... 5 | School news 11 |
| Market history 6 | Newsbits 12 |
| Graduating seniors 7 | Kids for Hire..... 14 |

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

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AFCA March 2026 Meeting

Our AFCA meeting on March 4 by Zoom had to be canceled for technical reasons (inability to open the meeting in Zoom). AFCA President Sal D'Itri and your other AFCA officers apologize for any inconvenience you might have encountered in trying to access the meeting.

Restoring Nature: Add a Keystone Plant to Your Yard



Adapted from an article by the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia.

Nature is in trouble, but we can all play a role in helping to restore essential ecosystem services in our urban and suburban landscapes, including those of us with modest garden space. Native plants play a critical role in supporting the survival of other species in the ecosystem, but not all native plants are equal. Keystone plants, which support the most wildlife species, should be an important part of any layered landscape.

A crucial plant-animal relationship is the role native plants play as hosts for the caterpillars of butterflies and moths, which need specific plants to reproduce. Caterpillars, in turn, are eaten by many other insects as well as birds and mammals. For example, monarch butterfly caterpillars feed only on plants in the milkweed genus, so milkweed is a good keystone plant to make the centerpiece of your garden. Start by identifying the keystone plants you already have.

Woody plants support the most species, so it is especially important to include them in our home landscapes. The top three keystone woody plant types in our area are oaks (*Quercus*), which support 534 butterfly/moth species; black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), which supports 456; and willows (*Salix*), which support 455. The top three perennial genera are goldenrods (*Solidago*), which support 115 butterfly/moth species; asters (*Aster*), which support 112; and sunflowers (*Helianthus*), which support 73. The National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder app identifies keystone plants by zip code. Add native grasses and sedges as "thriller" or "spiller" elements or grow a native vine on a trellis.

2026 Arlington Forest Home and Garden Tour

By Katherine Roberts

Come join the May 9 Arlington Forest Home and Garden Tour from noon to 4 p.m., RAIN OR SHINE! This popular event, an Arlington Forest tradition, is held every 3 years. Homeowners have graciously agreed to open their houses and gardens for neighbors to visit and possibly get inspired to renovate their own homes or beautify their yards. All three sections of the neighborhood will be represented. Highlights include two homes that have been almost fully electrified, a home with an in-ground pool with fabulous outdoor space, two amazing backyard gardens next to Lubber Run Park, and a landscaped yard with a rain garden. We'll also have a number of homes with kitchen/bath renovations and new decks/screened porches.

The home tour committee will be selling tickets at locations throughout the neighborhood during the week prior to the tour as well as on the morning of the tour. Tickets cost \$10; cash or checks are accepted. The tour is open to Arlington Forest residents only (12 years and older), so when purchasing tickets, please bring your driver's license or other identification for verification. A preprinted nametag (worn on tour day) will be your

ticket. Tickets will be sold at the following times and locations:

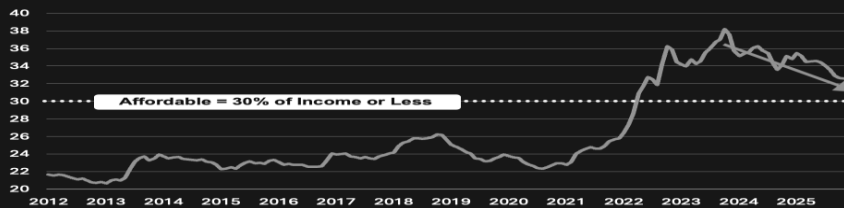
- Saturday, May 2, 8 a.m.-noon, at the Lubber Run Farmers Market
- Monday, May 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Katherine Roberts's home, 5160 3rd St. N (Greenbrier)
- Tuesday, May 5, 4-7 p.m., at Marsha Lederman's home, 107 N. Columbus St. (Northside)
- Wednesday, May 6, 2-5 p.m., at Julie Kirchhoff's home, 4828 Arlington Blvd. (Southside)
- Saturday, May 9, 8 a.m.-noon, at the Lubber Run Farmers Market



Purchasing your tickets in advance gives you the opportunity to get the tour brochure early and read about each home/garden so you can plan your route ahead of time. However, tickets will also be available on the day of the tour (May 9) at the Lubber Run Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to noon.

Affordability Is Improving After Years of Strain

Share of the Typical Income a Household Would Spend on a Home Purchase



Includes mortgage payment, homeowner's insurance, property taxes, and maintenance costs. Typically, spending more than 30% of income on housing is considered unaffordable.

Source: Zillow

The share of household income needed to buy a home is still above the typical 30% affordability benchmark, but it's improving. Lower mortgage rates, slower home-price growth, and rising incomes are all helping ease the strain. As a result, buyers are seeing the best affordability levels in years. This shift isn't enough to make homeownership possible for everyone, but it is already helping some households. Experts expect even more markets to feel relief by year-end. If your next real estate vision is taking shape, let's connect to discuss what that could look like.



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Special Honors for Arlington Foresters

By Janet Irwin



Two Arlington Foresters—Christine Baker and Tom Shannon—were included in this year’s Northern Virginia 40 Under 40 class of young leaders, sponsored by the Leadership Center of Arlington and Leadership Fairfax. “In a quickly evolving world, this year’s honorees shine a light on the values of curiosity, innovation, empathy, and service. Through both their professional and personal lives, they are meeting the moment and making a positive impact in our region,” said Lisa Fikes, President and CEO of the Leadership Center of Arlington. “We are pleased to recognize this year’s group of exceptional honorees. Their leadership and civic engagement stand out as stellar examples of inspirational leaders working

to build thriving communities,” added Kia Cole-Hines, President and CEO of Leadership Fairfax.

Many of us know Christine as a neighbor and others from her leadership with the Arlington Department of Transportation’s Vision Zero program. In addition to being our Greenbrier neighbor, Tom heads Phoenix Bikes, a nonprofit bicycle shop in South Arlington that empowers youth and thriving communities and supports a second life for every bike in the hands of a young person willing to learn how to fix it up. Phoenix Bikes combines youth education programs with a full-service professional bike shop and retail store.

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Lubber Run Farmers Market's Ninth Season Brings International Flavor

By Cheryl Roesel

The Lubber Run Farmers Market is back for a ninth season! Many of the new ready-to-eat options at this year's market bring international flair: momo (Nepali dumplings) from Khaja Ghar, chocolates from Sand by Dubai, stuffed dates from Tamriya, Colombian specialties from Tolima Colombian Kitchen, and varenyky (Ukrainian dumplings) from West Ukraine Foods. Atlixco's Mexican Grill expands its menu this year with a loaded baked potato option. Also new this year are cake pops from JessyPop, raw and dry roasted nuts from Family of Nuts (rejoining the market after a hiatus), and tree fruit, berries, and other produce from Douglas W. Woerner Orchards.

The market will continue to occupy the circular drive and part of the parking area at K.W. Barrett Elementary School, 4401 N. Henderson Rd. Onsite parking is available at the northwest end of the school parking lot, accessible from George Mason Dr. You can also park on the street or for free underground at the nearby Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Dr. The market remains a great place to shop for seasonal fruits and vegetables, potted herbs and garden plants, fish and pork products, goat cheeses, sweet and savory baked goods, and a wide variety of prepared



food and drink. What better way to unwind after a long week than to just sit, sip, and chat on Saturday morning while listening to live music? For the latest, follow us on Instagram (LubberRunFM) and Facebook (LubberRunFM). The market will be open Saturdays, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. through November 21. See you there!

Lubber Run Farmers Market: A Kid's Perspective

By Lexi Jackson, 7th grader at Kenmore

Arlington Forest has so many great places to go to and hang out at. My personal favorite is the Lubber Run Farmers Market. The market sets up shop in the Barrett Elementary School parking lot every Saturday morning from April through October from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The first market of 2026 was on April 4.

There are so many cool things to do. In addition to fruits and vegetables, you can get donuts, chocolates, pastries, lemonade, flowers, and honey. My favorites are the strawberry sorbet and the chocolate muffins. On many Saturdays you can even pet a baby goat or see an actual bee hive. You don't even have to buy anything—you can just walk around and see all the things to buy and catch up with friends and neighbors. There are even live music and games for kids to play with family and friends.

For me, the farmers market is a great hangout space. I also like that it supports local and sustainable businesses, including many run by immigrants from all over the world. That's why the Lubber Run Farmers Market is the best. I hope to see you there this spring!



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Forester Chronicles: From Roadside Stands to Community Tradition—History of Arlington’s Farmers Markets

By Todd Burns, AFCA Historian

As spring arrives, farmers markets are reopening across Arlington, bringing fresh produce, baked goods, and a lively Saturday-morning energy to local neighborhoods. Although they feel like a modern trend, farmers markets in Arlington actually reflect a long tradition going back to the county’s rural past. Before Arlington became the bustling urban community we know today, much of it was farmland, and farmers regularly sold their goods locally.

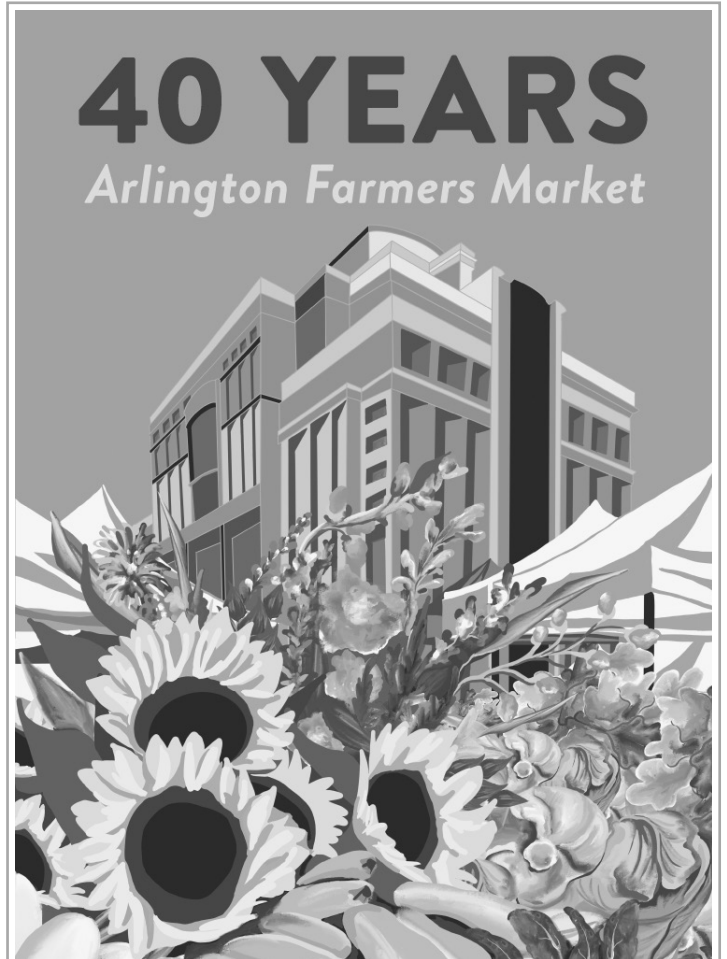
In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Arlington’s farms produced milk, vegetables, fruit, and grains that supplied both local families and markets across the Potomac River. Farmers often transported their goods by wagon into Washington, DC, where large public markets operated daily. Within Arlington itself, roadside stands and small community sales were common, especially along well-traveled routes where residents could buy fresh eggs, corn, or berries directly from the people who grew them.

After World War II, many farms disappeared, replaced by suburban neighborhoods like Arlington Forest. By the 1960s-70s, most of the county’s agricultural land had been developed. But interest in fresh local food regrew in the late 20th century, and Arlington helped lead a regional revival of farmers markets. In 1979, Arlington County launched one of the area’s first modern producer-only markets, where farmers themselves—not resellers—sold directly to customers. The model helped inspire similar markets throughout northern Virginia.

The Lubber Run Farmers Market grew out of a grassroots effort by residents who wanted a walkable place to buy fresh, locally produced food while strengthening neighborhood connections. AFCA partnered with Field to Table, a nonprofit that operates several Arlington markets, to bring the idea to life. After community planning and approval in early 2018, the market opened on May 26, 2018, in Lubber Run Park, with roughly ten vendors offering locally grown produce, baked goods, and prepared foods. Designed as a small, producer-only market, it quickly became a Saturday morning gathering spot for Arlington Forest families and nearby residents.

Although the Lubber Run market is relatively new, it is part of Arlington’s much longer farmers market tradition. The county’s longest running market, the Arlington Courthouse Farmers Market, began in 1979 and helped establish Arlington as a leader in producer-only markets that connect urban consumers directly with regional farmers. Today, neighborhood markets like Lubber Run carry on that tradition on a more local scale, bringing fresh food, small farms, and community life together in places like Arlington Forest.

So this April, if you find yourself wandering through a farmers market with basket in hand, you’re participating



in a tradition that connects Arlington’s present with its agricultural past. Long before the county was filled with busy roads and neighborhoods, Arlington’s identity was rooted in the land—and farmers markets remain one of the most tangible ways that history still shows up in everyday life. The Lubber Run Farmers Market is open on Saturdays from 8 to noon, April through November, in the Barrett Elementary School parking lot.

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Graduating Seniors Group Portrait

Kids. They have ONE JOB: to grow up and be awesome. And these Forester kids are rocking it! We will be doing the 2026 High School Senior Group Portrait at the Barrett Elementary School playground. Here are the deets, as they say:

Date/time: Sunday, May 3, 6 p.m.

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

Who: All HS senior Foresters, past and present. If you (a) lived in Arlington Forest at any point during your childhood, and (b) are a high school senior, then you’re invited. It’s all about the cohort at the playground. Did you live here in 4th grade and go to a private school? And 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 Sunday, August 30, at 6 p.m. That is the last day of APS summer



Arlington Forest seniors graduating in 2025

vacation. There will be a reminder in the last Forester newsletter before the summer break.)

And, in the meanwhile, here’s to the 2025 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.



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Spring Native Plant Sources



In January, AFCA President Sal D'Itrio chased down the following information for folks interested in gardening this spring with native plants.

- Virginia Native Plant Society, Potowmack Chapter, first Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Propagation beds behind the Horticulture Center at Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria. <https://vnps.org/potowmack/plant-sale/>
- Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale, Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Many farther-afield native plant growers come to this sale. <http://www.northernalexandrianativeplantsale.org>
- Green Spring Garden Day, Saturday, May 16, typically 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria. Native plant vendors and others. Be sure to visit the VNPS propagation beds for additional native plant offerings behind the Horticulture Center. <https://www.friendsofgreenspring.org/programs-a-events/spring-garden-day>

Native plant nurseries:

- Carniola Farms, Arlington Nursery, 925 N. Madison St., Arlington. <https://carniolafarms.com/arlington-native-plants-edibles/>

- Earth Sangha. See website for opening date and location. <https://www.earthsangha.org/wpn>
- Nature by Design. Preorder to reserve plants at plantfolks@nature-by-design.com or 703-683-4769. Free delivery to Arlington with \$25 minimum order. Onsite sales: Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Four Mile Run Farmers Market, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. <https://www.nature-by-design.com/>

Mail order:

- Direct Native Plants. <https://www.directnativeplants.com/>
- EcoPlantia. Sends you a kit for a complete garden with a roll-out paper planting plan. <https://www.ecoplantia.com/about-3-2>
- Izel. <https://www.izelplants.com/>
- MidAtlantic Nurseries. www.midatlanticnatives.com
- My Home Park. Sells plant packages. www.myhome-park.com/collections/east-virginia-native-plants
- National Wildlife Federation. <https://gardenfor-wildlife.com/collections/native-plants-for-virginia>
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Judging a Plant by Its Label

The article is adapted from a piece by Eileen Ellsworth of *Plant NOVA Natives*.

Are you hunting for a particular native plant, shrub, or tree? Browsing a commercial garden center is an option, so long as you understand how to read plant labels. The labels rarely offer much information and use terms that can be confusing. Here are some tips.

If the label indicates the scientific name of a locally native plant, including the genus and species, such as *Monarda didyma*, then this is the best choice for your local ecosystem. You can check whether a species is locally native by referring to the online Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora, which will tell you whether the plant is native to Virginia and specifically to northern Virginia. The plant could be the natural species, which is the most beneficial, or it could be a cultivar. If it is a cultivar, then the grower has cultivated it in bulk by cloning for commercial sale. Cultivars are chosen for traits such as size, color, resistance to mildew, and so on. If the difference between the cultivar and the natural plant is only size, then it will probably support wildlife well.

But if the cultivar has altered the structure or color of flowers, then native bees can't access their nectar or perhaps recognize them as a source of food and shelter.



Sometimes a cultivar changes the leaf color to red or purple, which alters the plant's chemistry. This can make the plant unsuitable as a larval host for the butterflies, moths, and other insects that evolved to depend upon the native species. It's best to use cultivars in locations distant from natural areas and to choose only those that have not altered the native plant's flower structure or color, fruit size,

or leaf color.

If the label indicates a hybrid name (with an x), then it is a cross between species, and the human-made version is not native, meaning that you're risking the introduction of a nonnative invasive species. Commercial garden centers sell human-made hybrids because commercial growers want controlled uniformity and protection for their intellectual property. These plants must be cloned because they do not produce seeds, and only plants grown from seeds create genetic diversity and improve species resistance to climate change and other environmental stressors. Human-made hybrids will not improve the biodiversity of your property.

If the label indicates only a brand name, then you will need to do online research to figure out what it really is. It could be a cultivar or a hybrid.

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Erosion Chronicles: Stormwaters Ravage Lubber Run Park

By Hutch Brown



Remains of a footbridge over Lubber Run during an epic storm in July 2019.

After urbanization in the 1930s-60s, Arlington County recognized the limitations of a stormwater management system designed for a 12- to 15-year storm. By then, 66% of Arlington's stream miles had been emplaced in underground pipes too small and shallow to avoid pressure buildups, and remaining floodplains weren't extensive enough to carry floodwaters overland during storms. Today, impervious surfaces like roofs and roads cover more than 46% of the Lubber Run watershed, and their area is still growing, mainly due to the redevelopment of single-family homes. Every major storm now brings flash floods from stormwater runoff to Lubber Run Park.

In 1957, Arlington adopted its first stormwater management plan. The county's Comprehensive Plan of 1960 aimed for "an adequate stormwater drainage system," and the 1970s saw passage of local, state, and federal laws for erosion/sediment control, stormwater detention, and floodplain management. In 1992, under the Clean Water Act, a state ordinance for the protection of Chesapeake Bay led to Arlington's first stormwater discharge permit in 1997. To renew its state-issued 5-year stormwater permit, Arlington must reduce pollutant runoff into Chesapeake Bay—hard to do with an erosion-prone urban infrastructure already in place. Arlington adopted its most recent stormwater management plan in 2014. But when an epic storm brought unprecedented rainfall intensity in July 2019, stormwaters roaring through Lubber Run Park toppled trees, damaged trails, and destroyed all three footbridges.

What more can Arlington do? The county has slowed erosion in Lubber Run Park by lining many streambanks with walls and riprap (boulders). Following the 2019 storm, Arlington installed larger pipes and more storm drains in the upper Lubber Run watershed. The

county seeks to reestablish forest cover on the floodplain in lower Lubber Run Park by planting trees there. But floods have washed out vegetation there in the past, and riprap only pushes flood damage downstream to unprotected areas. Stormwaters now threaten to tear out the so-called Goat Trail below Greenbrier and to finish collapsing the wall below 3rd St. N.

The answer is to retain enough stormwater runoff uphill and upstream to keep floodwaters from roaring through Lubber Run Park. Arlington now requires redevelopment projects to restore permeable soils after construction and to retain more rainwater onsite through such measures as permeable driveways. A classic example is the rebuilt 5-acre Lubber Run Community Center, which keeps most rainwater onsite through an underground storage tank and a large bioretention pond. Recent construction projects at the Virginia Hospital Center and at Ballston Commons have taken similar steps. A renovated Ballston Pond, 4 acres in size, captures and filters much of the stormwater runoff in the upper Lubber Run watershed. Arlington is starting to buy properties on floodplains and turn them into green space, and it held meetings with citizens associations across the Lubber Run watershed following the 2019 storm to discuss plans for reducing stormwater runoff. The county proposed a stormwater detention vault under the large grassy part of Woodlawn Park, where Lubber Run emerges from underground. The vault would detain and slowly release stormwater runoff from upper Lubber Run. But the proposal met with opposition from the local citizens association because it would affect large trees around the grassy field, so the project remains on hold.

PTSA Update—Kenmore Middle School

By Samantha Bell

On Thursday, March 19, Arlington Public Schools (APS) announced the 2026 division-wide APS Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year, Assistant Principal of the Year, Leader of the Year, and Support Employee of the Year, as well as school-based Teacher and Support Employee honorees representing every school across the division. Each school selected a Teacher of the Year and a Support Employee of the Year, with the division-wide winners chosen from this group of honorees. Mr. Robin Stewart, a 7th-grade pre-Algebra teacher at Kenmore, was named APS Teacher of the Year for “his multifaceted contributions as an educator, mentor, innovator, and advocate for students,” according to an excerpt from his nomination. Mr. Stewart “collaborates with support staff, families, and administrators to remove obstacles, promote fairness, and create opportunities for all students to thrive. Through his leadership, innovation, mentorship, and student-centered advocacy, he elevates the learning environment and serve as a model of excellence for educators across the community.”

The PTSA hosted Bingo Night on March 12. Kenmore students and their families enjoyed pizza, snacks, and prizes. Upcoming events include a restaurant fundraiser

at Pupatella (South), 1621 S. Walter Reed Dr., on April 22, 11:30 am -9 pm; a 6th-grade theater performance of Cinderella Jr. (no tickets needed but donations welcome) on April 23-24 at 7 p.m.; and a Kenmore Dance PE performance on June 3-4 at 7 p.m. Follow Kenmore on BlueSky at <https://bsky.app/profile/kenmore.apsva.us> or on the PTSA page of the Kenmore Middle School website at <https://kenmore.apsva.us/pta/>.



Paul Cachion, MBA

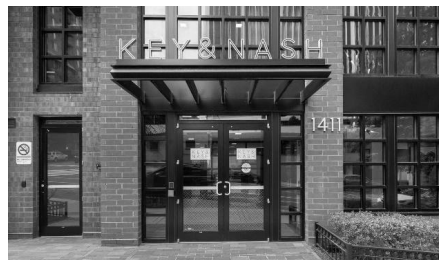
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Looking to Downsize?

I often have clients asking me to sell their single-family homes, so they can downsize, take care of less, and still be nearby.

In that vein, we have a spectacular condo coming on the market in one of Arlington’s premier buildings, Key & Nash, in Rosslyn. A spacious 2BR, 2 bath, with an office, the building has a beautiful rooftop lounge area, and a tranquil courtyard for parties. A walker’s paradise, the home is less than 200 yards from Metro, and close to restaurants and nightlife.



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Help Desk for Computers and Cell Phones

Courtesy of Arlington Parks & Recreation, you can meet one-on-one with an expert to get your technology questions answered in a friendly, welcoming environment. Bring your device and get assistance with apps, removing computer viruses or malware, storing pictures and files, and any other questions you have. Please sign up in advance for a 30-minute appointment at 55plus@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4769.

- Mondays, 12-2 p.m., at Walter Reed Community Center
- Thursdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Langston-Brown CC
- Thursdays, 1-3 p.m., at Arlington Mill CC
- Fridays, 1-3 p.m., at Lubber Run CC

April: Flappers and Speakeasies— Songs of the 1920s

Join Ken Schellenberg and friends as they perform some iconic songs from a century ago. You'll be surprised to find how many songs you know!



- Monday, April 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Arlington Mill CC
- Wednesday, April 22, 1-2 p.m. at Aurora Hills CC
- Thursday, April 23, 11-noon at Langston Brown CC
- Friday, April 24, 11-noon at Walter Reed CC
- Monday, April 27, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Lubber Run CC

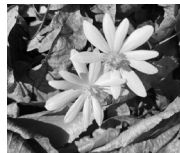
Congressionalists Seek Wastewater Infrastructure Repairs

Fourteen members of Congress from the metropolitan area, including Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), are seeking federal funding to rehabilitate and modernize the Potomac Interceptor, the major wastewater pipe that burst in January, sending 40 million gallons of sewage into the Potomac River. In February, the delegation called for federal investments in overhauling wastewater infrastructure nationwide. DC Water is planning \$600 million in repairs for the Potomac Interceptor over the next 10 years. Downstream results from the January spill could include harmful algal blooms and fish kills this summer.

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 don't 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.

Spring Flowers in Our Local Parks



Ephemeral (passing) forest plants, which exploit full sun before fading away in late spring, are emerging in Lubber Run and Glencarlyn Parks. Bloodroot, a white flower, carpets spots below Greenbrier and near the Glencarlyn dog park. If you're lucky, you can find trillium and mayapple amid the bloodroot blooms. You can also see a whole hillside of Virginia bluebells from the spur trail connecting Lubber Run to the Edison Park playground.

Arlington County Plans Snow Removal Improvements

At a February meeting, county officials discussed the response to the "snowcrete" storm on January 24-25. County Manager Mark Schwartz promised to present new plans in July for managing winter storms. He acknowledged mixed county results in the January response but praised the response by many residents. Schwartz's report could include revisions to the county's ordinance on clearing sidewalks after storms. Following the January storm, 15 citations were issued for failing to meet requirements.

Arlington's Deer Management Program

In February, Arlington County began culling deer herds with professional sharpshooting in parks along the Potomac River and Four Mile Run corridors, including in Glencarlyn and Bon Air Parks. For security reasons, the county didn't announce specific dates and times in advance, but sharpshooting was planned through March. Operations took place at dusk and at night, after the parks closed, with police and park rangers ensuring security. Sharpshooters fired downward from tree stands at short range, using sound suppressors and lead-free ammunition. The meat from healthy deer went to Arlington food banks. The program is intended to prevent deer overpopulation and protect the health of Arlington's forests.

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.

Community Calendar

1920s Song Sing-Along: Monday, April 27, LRCC

Annual AFCA Picnic: Wednesday, May 6, Lubber Run pavilion

Arlington Forest Home and Garden Tour: Saturday, May 9

Annual Yard Sale: A Saturday in May

Summer Turnaround Day: July 11

Fall Turnaround Day: November 7

AFCA Meetings

April 15, 2026: Backyard pest management—mosquitoes and more

May 6, 2026: 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.

Improvements Coming to Arlington's Wastewater Plant

Arlington County has launched Arlington Re-Gen, a major modernization of its Water Pollution Control Plant on S. Glebe Rd. The project is a multiyear upgrade intended to make the facility cleaner, greener, and ready for the future. The facility generates biosolids, a nutrient-rich material that can be treated and reused. Re-Gen plans to let the plant transform this material into Class A biosolids and renewable natural gas, reducing its overall carbon footprint. Commissioning and startup of the new facilities are planned for 2031.

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| William Cordon | | 301-509-7915 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | Yard help |
| Ady Lombardi | | 703-395-2063 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Elsie Lombardi | eflombardi13@gmail.com | 703-732-9316 | | ✓ | | ✓* | | | ✓ | | |
| Sol Mashkuri | | 571-643-5883 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Lyla Olesen | Sammiolesen@outlook.com | 615-999-1099 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Cleaning |
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| Sabrina Saunders | sabrina_saunders@icloud.com | 202-531-2247 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Tutoring |
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| Francesca Segas | Loren_um@hotmail.com | 202-948-9792 | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Brooks Everitt | Ang.everitt12@Gmail.com | 571-244-7691 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Henry Hawks | | 202-744-5334 | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 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 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Avery McGrann | snooz_ette@yahoo.com | 571-225-2484 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓* | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Sierra McGrann | snooz_ette@yahoo.com | 703-489-7170 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Nicky Petrucelli | tony.petrucelli@gmail.com | 703-629-0425 | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | Lawn care |
| Gabe Pettit | susanagescudero@gmail.com | 571-210-0629 | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Caulder Pickard | katiepickard@gmail.com | 571-244-6870 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
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| Thomas Walsh | tvswalsh22@gmail.com | 202-236-4953 | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
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| Natalie Bryant | Natalie.a.bryant@icloud.com | 703-447-8555 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
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