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Arlington, Virginia

February 2025

## Virtual AFCA Meeting—Police Report and School Issues

AFCA invites you to join our monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, February 19, at 7 p.m. A representative from the Arlington County Police Department will report on crime in Arlington over the last year, then take any questions. We'll also have reports by our AFCA vice

presidents. To join the meeting, you can participate through Zoom by entering the following URL into your browser at about 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19: <https://tinyurl.com/hpyknmzm>.

### AFCA January 2025 Meeting

By Janet Irwin, AFCA Co-Secretary

The meeting began on Wednesday, January 15, with about 28 households joining by Zoom. AFCA President Sal D'Itri opened with an introduction of two Arlington County representatives from the county's Vision Zero program. Christine Baker is the program manager and lives in Arlington Forester(!), and Laura Castro is the principal planner. Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries. The current plan was adopted in 2021 and has been investing since then in quick-action projects to increase pedestrian safety and reduce accidents, such as the flashing yellow beacons and improved crosswalks on N. Carlin Springs Rd. at N. Edison St. and at N. Harrison St. near the Arlington Forest Club.

Vision Zero relies on data to reduce traffic hazards in risky places. A safety audit of N. Henderson Rd. resulted in improved signage at the intersection with N. Thomas St.; bus stop improvements at N. 3rd St. and N. Upton St.; and a no-parking area on the east side of N. Henderson Rd. at N. 2nd St., plus improved signage. As of November 23, 2024, a new traffic camera on N. George Mason Dr. near the Lubber Run Community Center resulted in 640 warnings and 716 citations. County staff is also working on a new project for N. Greenbrier St. and N. Carlin Springs Rd., including curb extensions, a bus stop, and curb ramp improvements; staff is also trying to improve the merge area on N. Carlin Springs Rd. with N. George Mason Dr. The new stoplight being installed at N. George Mason and N. Park Dr., due for completion

this spring, will directly affect Northside in Arlington Forest. The county is aiming to complete a new county-wide transportation master plan in 2026. Improvements for N. Carlin Springs Rd. will be a priority.

Foresters Bev Johnston and Lora Strine, who cochair a neighborhood pedestrian safety committee, gave brief presentations showing how hard they have worked over the past 10 or more years to engage with the county in approving and installing safety improvements. Without their leadership, traffic and pedestrian safety in our neighborhood would not have received the attention and responsiveness from the county that we've seen.

Sal then invited questions and comments. One comment was a proposal to ban left turns from Arlington Blvd. onto N. Columbus St., the site of many accidents because drivers relying on GPS stop in a through lane on Arlington Blvd. and try to turn left across two lanes of oncoming traffic. The same issue affects other intersections

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**AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. February 19 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 Meeting

...from page 1

in this stretch of Arlington Blvd., and Vision Zero staff is doing a pilot project to ban left turns onto N. Highland St. Depending on the pilot outcomes, the same ban might extend to N. Columbus St. in the future.

Eric Lotke, AFCA's representative to the Arlington County Civic Federation, noted that an update of the county's general land use plan (GLUP) is underway. Various committees are working on options and recommendations, to be presented for future discussion. If you are interested in any aspect of the GLUP, now is a good time to get involved with making prospective changes.

### Faces of the Forest:

#### Tell Us About Someone You Know!

*Faces of the Forest* offers a glimpse into the lives of your neighbors—people you may pass by on the street, see at the bus stop, or quickly greet as you go about your busy day but never have had the opportunity to get to know on a deeper level. There is so much magic happening in the Forest, and this column highlights the fascinating individuals who comprise the lovely community we are fortunate to call home. Send your writeup of about 400-600 words with a photo (if possible) to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Questions? Email editor Hutch Brown or text/call 703-855-1732.



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# Faces of the Forest: Tanya Saunders

By Christiana Campos



On any given day, you might find Tanya Saunders of Southside on the street training for a marathon, at Sibley Hospital helping to administer anesthesia to her patients, at a holistic wellness center leading breathwork sessions and indulging in cold plunges, or at home in Arlington Forest tending to her family.

A multifaceted woman and mother of three (Noah 19, Sabrina 15, and Caleb 12), Tanya and her husband Ken moved to Arlington Forest in July 2006. Recently married and the parents of two young children, they settled into a three-bedroom, two-bath house across the street from the Arlington Forest Shopping Center. A few years passed, and the Saunders expanded their family with the addition of Caleb. They realized that they needed more space for their little ones and Tanya had always dreamed of having a house that backed up on the forest. Staying in Arlington Forest was nonnegotiable. After searching and patiently waiting, they found the perfect property in Southside, where they built their dream home (featured in Arlington Magazine!). You can often spot

Boden, a goldendoodle, and Hudson, a sharpei rescue, frolicking merrily on the Saunders' front lawn or taking long walks with Tanya around the neighborhood.

Tanya's roles in life are multiple and limitless. Aside from juggling parenting responsibilities with Ken, she is a nurse anesthetist, neuroplasticity teacher, breathwork facilitator, astrologer, author, and podcaster. She is also an avid runner who has completed 10 marathons (including NYC and San Francisco). She's currently training for a spring marathon in one of her favorite cities, PARIS!

In Tanya's own words:

**What lights your fire?** "Learning ... growing, moving my body! I would be a very happy woman if I could run or walk on the trails every day listening to one of my classes."

**What do you like best about living in Arlington Forest?** "Friends who authentically feel like family, the neighborhood pool, the trails, the proximity to DC, and the quiet simplicity of our homes but with an initiation to make it unique and impactful to the homeowner."

**Favorite mantra or quote:** "You can never solve a problem on the level on which it was created." -Albert Einstein

**What's your idea of a perfect weekend at home?** "Friday pizza and movie night with family (when I'm not on call!), Saturday morning breathwork, run, sports with the kids, Saturday date night with husband or friends, Sunday morning breathwork, run, church, then brunch at SER!"

**A little-known fact about you?** "Ken and I eloped!"

**Where can people find more about you?** "www.tanyaanders.com and/or experience a breathwork journey at Awarehouse in Clarendon."

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# It Takes a Village (or a Forest): Neighbors Prompt County Action



Stormwater pooling due to poor drainage at the intersection of S. Aberdeen St. with S. Park and S. Columbia Dr. was a longstanding neighborhood nuisance and safety hazard due to icy conditions in winter. Now the county has installed new drainage pipes at the intersection, thanks in good part to Southside neighbors, who were finally able to connect with the right people in county government and show them evidence of flawed street engineering.

As Arlington County launched its Sparrow Pond Restoration project in late summer 2023, neighbors spoke with Arlington County Stormwater Outreach Specialist Lily Whitesell about dangerous conditions at the nearby intersection. They described the sheets of ice covering the intersection, hours spent shoveling snow to divert winter snowmelt, and pools of standing water after rainstorms year-round, and they showed Lily photos of the problem. Lily asked them to film the intersection during a rainstorm to document the flow of water, which they did. Seeing the water in action made a difference, as did obvious erosion at the head of the spur trail down to the W&OD Trail. As a result, the county moved

forward with an intersection drainage project after the Sparrow Pond project was completed. Lily reached out to several neighbors at the intersection for approval to do drainage work on or adjacent to their properties, and she asked several neighbors for input during the initial design phase.

Bringing attention to the drainage problem while the county's focus was on the Sparrow Pond project was key. Although the Sparrow Pond restoration and related drainage projects were both long, noisy, and occasionally disruptive for neighbors, the storm drains were completed just before the first snowfall in early January 2025. The new drains seem to have helped prevent icy water from pooling in the intersection, a very welcome improvement.

Lily and her team listened to Foresters' concerns and then kept neighbors apprised of what was happening throughout the project. Lily was great! This is one of those occasions when the right people were in the right place at the right time, contributing to a project that will hopefully benefit everyone who uses

the Park-Columbus-Aberdeen intersection whenever it rains or snows. It just took a village of Foresters to get the ball rolling!

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"Very cold. Many men rose this morning very sick. The Reg. moves this morning about a mile and stakes ground for a new camp, about half a mile from our first camping ground near Arlington Heights. By night our tents are up and we begin to be settled again, but upon an abominable camping ground. About the only fence we have seen standing in Virginia was a few rods of it near Fall's Church. Houses, groves, orchards, shade trees and fences have been destroyed or leveled for miles on miles around.

"We turned in late last night, and after a few hours' rest I was called out about 4 a.m., with all of Company F and was hurried down with Lieuts. Hall and Dustin to guard the Virginia end of the Long Bridge [connecting Virginia with DC near the current I-395 bridge]. We had no rations, and when breakfast time came along, I went to a Sutler's tent near by to purchase something for myself and the men of the Company to eat, but found that I had not a cent of money with me; I had lost somewhere that morning my pocket-book containing over 8 [green-backs], belonging in part to myself and the rest to the men of my Company. I could not return to camp without a permit, so I hurried across the bridge to Gen. Casey's

Hdqrs. in Washington, stated to him the circumstances and obtained permission to return to camp.

"I then went to our camp with Lieut. Hall, and we hunted for the lost pocket-book for a long time but without success. While we were talking about the matter, and devising plans to recover the money, it incidentally occurred to Lieut. Hall to see if his own money were safe. Thrusting his hands into his pockets, he drew forth not his own pocket-book, but the very one I had lost. We sat down then and there, counted the money and found it all right. Lieut. Hall was surprised beyond measure. While dressing in the morning, in the hurry and darkness, we had exchanged pantaloons. That exchange caused me several hours of worry, and a tramp of nearly ten miles done at the top of my speed. On the whole the hardest morning's work I ever did in my life before breakfast."

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# Smokey Bear Artist: Arlington Forest Neighbor

By Hutch Brown

Smokey Bear celebrated his 80th birthday last August. An artist working for the U.S. Forest Service created Smokey in 1944, but it took another Forest Service artist, Rudolph "Rudy" Wendelin, to make him famous by giving him the features he has today. Wendelin lived in Bluemont at 4516 N. 7th St. (near Ballston), so he was an Arlington Forest neighbor.

Smokey was created by the Forest Service during World War II, when wood was needed for the war effort. To prevent human-caused forest fires, the Forest Service worked with The Ad Council to launch the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (CFFP) program in 1942. The CFFP adopted Smokey as its official symbol 2 years later when the artist Albert Staehle created the first depiction of Smokey dousing a campfire.

Other Smokey artists followed, but the best known was Rudy Wendelin, whose paintings of Smokey continued until his retirement from the Forest Service in 1973.



Born to Austrian immigrants in 1910, Wendelin grew up in Kansas. He joined the Forest Service in the 1930s to work on art projects for the Civilian Conservation Corps, then transferred to the Navy during World War II. Returning to the Forest Service in 1946, he took over the Smokey Bear project—and the rest is history.

Wendelin softened and humanized Smokey's features, making the character more appealing to children. He made Smokey a household name, distributing artwork across the country, hosting talks at schools, and creating ads for newspapers, radio, and television. His work earned him many awards. In his professional and personal life, Wendelin used art to communicate the importance of conservation. His

legacy lives on in the enduring and endearing figure of Smokey Bear. You can find out more about Wendelin online at Arlington Public Library Center for Local History.



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## Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

Barcroft held its Online School Auction on February 1-9. Back by popular demand, the PTA is hosting another adults-only event at the Barcroft Community House (800 S. Buchanan St.); you can purchase a ticket online and join us on Saturday, February 22, 7 p.m., for a silent auction and fellowship, with all funds raised going to support the Barcroft PTA. To view the auction catalog and to bid or buy a ticket to the in-person event, visit [ourschool.auction/barcroft](https://ourschool.auction/barcroft). Even if you decide not to bid or purchase a ticket, you can donate to the PTA on the auction website. The Barcroft PTA is grateful for the support and encouragement of our neighbors!

Other upcoming events include Bingo Night on February 27 and Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week on May 5-9. 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](mailto:barcroftptapresident2024@gmail.com) if you would like to support the PTA or have any questions.



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### Schools Preparing for Possible Immigration Action

According to ArlNow, Arlington Public Schools (APS) is preparing for immigration enforcement changes announced by President Donald Trump. The school system is training school administrators and staff and has added online resources for families. APS does not ask about students' immigration status and will not allow immigration officials to enter schools or remove students "without following proper legal protocols," according to Superintendent Francisco Durán.

### Intersection Progress

On February 3-12, crews installed equipment on the signal mast arms at the intersection of N. George Mason and N. Park Dr. The work required closing one traffic lane approaching the intersection but sidewalks and crosswalks remained open, with signs and cones directing traffic and detours. The project will be completed when spring arrives in late March.

### Water Pipe Break

On about January 20, neighbors reported water pipe breaks on the 100 block of N. Columbus Dr. not far from the Lubber Run Amphitheater. Arlington County was notified of the burst pipes, which were repaired within days. Two more breaks occurred on the same block in late January. Freezing temperatures can cause such breaks.

### Snow Shoveling

We got measurable snow again this year, and more could come in February/March. Arlington County's snow removal ordinance requires property owners to clear snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their properties within 24 hours (36 hours for a snowfall of more than 6 inches). Homeowners who are physically incapacitated are exempt. Neighborhood "snow angels" repeatedly shoveled in January for neighbors who couldn't, earning their thanks. For snow shoveling help, see Kids for Hire on page 10.

### Winter Salt

Arlington County is helping to reduce salt use on winter roads by replacing rock salt with brine, which uses a quarter as much salt. Excess salt is bad for soils, streams, plants, and wildlife. You can use less salt on your walkways by shoveling early (before snowmelt turns to ice) and evenly distributing modest amounts of salt. A 12-ounce mug of salt should be enough for a 20-foot driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares.

## Community Calendar

**Next AFCA meeting:** Wednesday, February 19, 7 p.m.

**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.

**February 19, 2025:** Police report

**March 19, 2025:** Arlington Neighborhoods Program

**April 16, 2025:** Spring gardening

**May 21, 2025:** Neighborhood picnic

### Snow/Ice Issue?

Arlington County has a "Report a Problem" website with a link to a "winter storm form." You can use the link to report a local problem with snow or ice on a street or sidewalk, such as an unplowed street. You can find it online at Arlington County Request a Service.

### Oldest House in Arlington

Arlington Forest has several of Arlington's oldest homes, but the oldest is located at 5620 S. 3rd St. in neighboring Glencarlyn. The Ball-Sellers House was built by farmer John Ball in 1750 as a two-room log cabin on his 166-acre farm along Four Mile Run. Marian Sellers, the last private owner, donated the house in 1975 to the Arlington Historical Society. The house is open to visitors on Saturdays, 1-4 p.m., from April to October. An exhibit of artifacts from the house will open in April at the Arlington Historical Museum on Arlington Ridge Rd. as part of preparations for the nation's 250th birthday in 2026.

### Wildlife Encounters

We occasionally encounter foxes, raccoons, coyotes, and other animals in our yards and parks, sometimes (though rarely) during the day. If you think an animal is sick or injured, you should contact Animal Control at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. The league has an emergency number and an online form to fill out for nonemergencies. You can find both online at Arlington County Animal Control.





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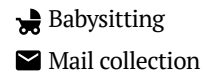
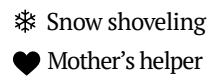
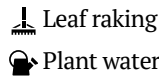
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Southside

Greenbrier

Northside

Name	Email	Phone									Other
Sophia Cordon	kitkat67@msn.com	301-509-7915	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
William Cordon		301-509-7915	✓	✓				✓		✓	Yard help
Amy Mashkuri		571-643-5883	✓	✓							
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Henry Hawks		202-744-5334	✓					✓		✓	
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Not valid with other offers,  
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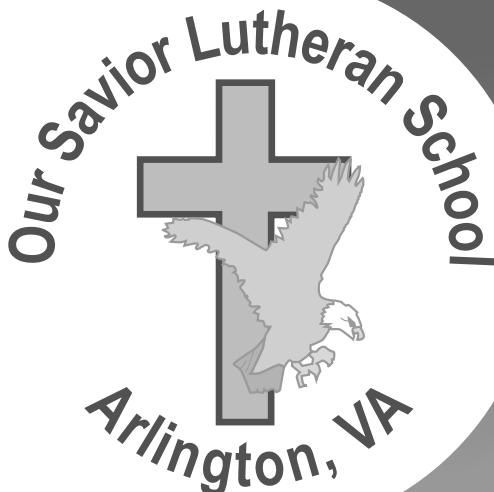
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