



The Arlington Forester

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Arlington, Virginia

January 2021

Virtual AFCA Meeting: Carlin Springs Traffic Issues and More

AFCA invites you to join our monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, January 20, at 7 p.m. To join the meeting, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m.: <https://tinyurl.com/y37cahtm>. 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 840 1554 0276 and passcode 503334. You might also be prompted to hit the

sign one or more times. This call-in number will be active starting at 6:50 p.m.

We will discuss traffic safety issues on North Carlin Springs Road and elsewhere in Arlington Forest (see page 4). Thanks go to the many neighbors who have contributed thoughtful comments and ideas in response to the Carlin Springs Road traffic proposal by our neighboring civic association in Bluemont! (See the November newsletter for details!) Liz Kauffman will provide a read-out at the January AFCA meeting.

Arlington County Civic Federation Update

By Salvador D'Itri

The Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) unites more than 90 civic and other groups in giving AFCA and other civic associations a forum for interactions with Arlington County. Delegates from Arlington Forest participate in monthly ACCF meetings from September through June each year.

The December ACCF meeting featured a study by Arlington County on increased noise from Reagan National Airport, part of an effort together with Montgomery County to abate noise levels. Arlington Forester Rich Roisman, a transportation planning coordinator for the county, delivered an interesting and detailed presentation on the effort, which includes local and federal stakeholders. Rich discussed the Aircraft Noise Mitigation Study Report (online at dca.nowgen.net) and the supporting community working group. (Although the study does not cover helicopter noise, the county is also aware of the corresponding concerns.)

An airport noise survey by the county generated 1,640 responses, reflecting resident concerns about noise

levels from arrivals and departures, especially in the morning. The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) Next Generation Air Traffic Management System has allowed for shorter spacing between aircraft and greater route precision, increasing noise levels. The working group will deliver its recommendations to the FAA, and the county will continue to look at flight path options and raise concerns about noise levels. Rich's talk begins at minute 28 here: <https://vimeo.com/492272768>.

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AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. **January 20** Through Zoom

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The Arlington Forester is the official publication of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, Arlington, VA. A nonpartisan, nonsectarian publication serving the residents of Arlington Forest, the *Forester* welcomes articles, newsbits, letters, and photos focusing on noncommercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish eight times per year (Sep to Nov and Jan to May). The deadline for submissions is the first of the month. Email your submission of up to 400 words—less, if you include a photo—to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

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AFCA November 2020 Meeting

On November 18, 2020, AFCA President Esther Bowring hosted a remote AFCA meeting with more than 25 participants by phone and video. Samia Byrd, Chief Race and Equity Officer for Arlington County, was unable to attend the meeting and will be invited to speak at AFCA's April meeting.

The meeting opened with a discussion of the new sign for the Lubber Run Community Center, which was blocking the view of oncoming traffic for drivers on North Park Drive. The county removed the sign, agreeing to find a better location. The county intends to replace one of the two Lubber Run bridges destroyed by the July 8, 2019, floods and had yet to decide on a location for the new bridge.

AFCA Northside Vice President Joel Yudken provided an update on the efforts of AFCA's Missing Middle Housing Study Committee to understand the study and make recommendations for AFCA review and a vote, possibly in spring 2021. Meeting participants asked questions, wanting to better understand the study and its community engagement process.

Arlington Foresters Lora Strine and Beverly Johnson reported on meeting with Arlington County's newest board member, Takis Karantonis, to discuss North Carlin Springs Road safety improvements. Students from Arlington Forest need to be able to safely cross the road on their way to and from Kenmore Middle School. Most Arlington Forest residents want a traffic light at some intersections, but the county has no such plans. Residents also want the County to better enforce the \$200 fine for speeding drivers. Mr. Karantonis agreed to find out whether the county plans to move bus stop locations to points after intersections and to add lighting at the street crossings.

Janice Hull told participants about the Arlington County Civic Federation meeting on November 17. Topics included qualified immunity in police reform, George Mason University's Arlington campus expansion, and the county's parking permits review report.

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

With well over 800 households, Arlington Forest has residents known for their accomplishments, whether in our neighborhood or in their careers. Tell us about a Forester you know! Do it in an interview or write a story (with your subject's permission, of course)—or tell us about someone from the past. Send your writeup of 400 words or less with a photo (if possible) to Hutch Brown at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Questions? Send an email or text/call 703-855-1732.

Faces of the Forest: Tony Nalker

By Mary Ann Strawn

It was the cat.

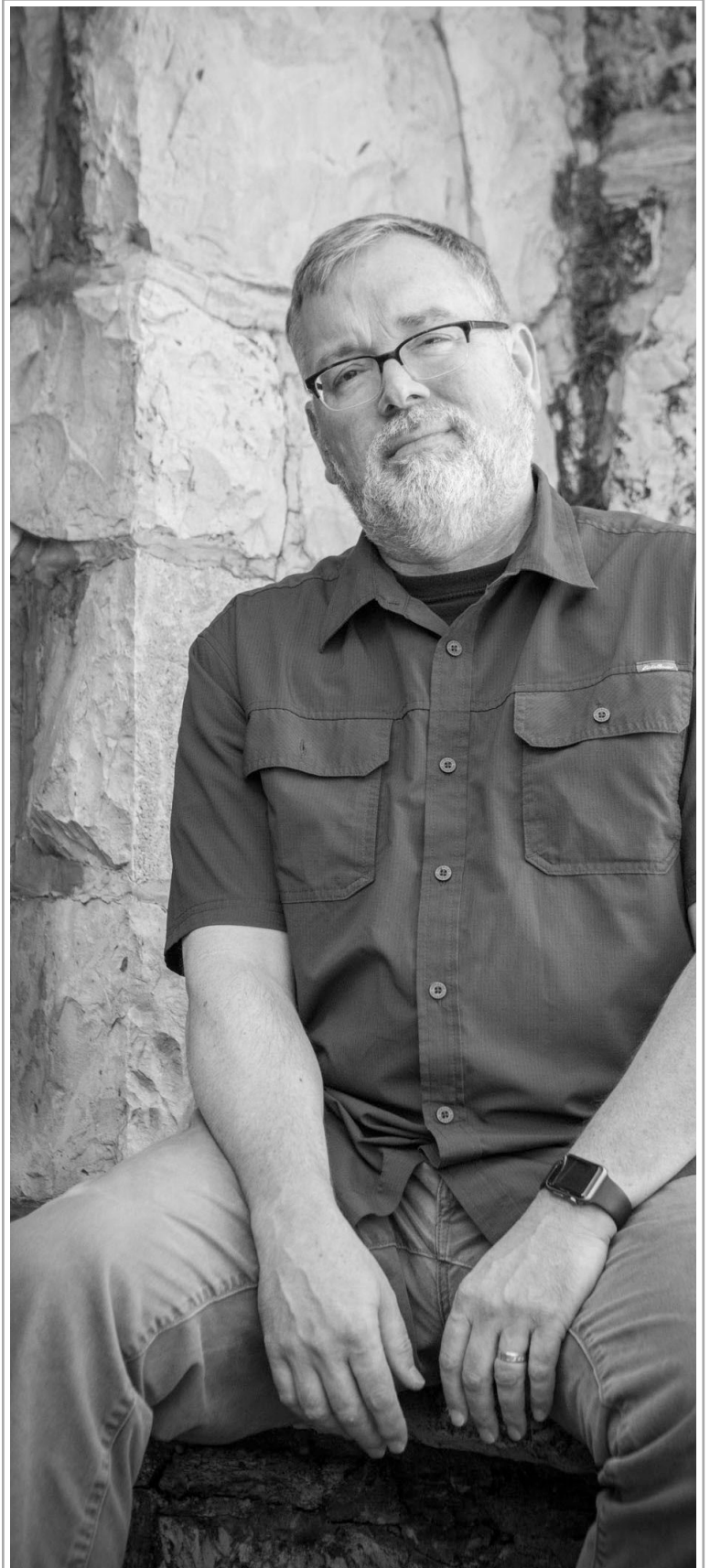
Tony Nalker of Greenbrier is a world-class musician whose celebrated career with the U.S. Army jazz ensemble has included performances around the globe. When Tony was 5, a stray cat showed up at his Indiana home. He adopted the cat, giving it a name, only to have the owner show up. “I was so devastated,” he said, “that my dad went out and bought an organ to take my mind off the loss.”

Tony took organ lessons, and his musical talent exploded. By the time he was 12, he was playing organ every Sunday in church. At 15, he was directing the choir. He also filled in for a pianist at a local supper club. Tony wanted to play trumpet in his school band but played trombone instead—too many trumpet players. In college, Tony majored in piano and trombone and took his first jazz improvisation class. “Most of my jazz influence came from listening,” he said—to Bill Evans, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, and more.

While earning his master’s degree at the University of Iowa, Tony met his wife Beth, also an accomplished musician. He heard that the Army Blues, part of the U.S. Army Band in Washington, DC, needed a pianist, so he went for an audition—and got the job on the spot. But first he had to go through basic training. It ended up being a dream job for Tony, allowing him to serve his country while doing what he loved. Based at Fort Myer, Tony lived with his family on Capitol Hill and later in Westover, finally settling in Arlington Forest in 2005 to raise daughter Emily (now 28) and son Henry (20). While with the Army Blues, he performed on USO tours to Iraq and Afghanistan as well as on diplomacy tours to Russia, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Tony also composed works for various settings.

After 27 years of service, Tony retired from the Army. But he has continued performing, including stints with the National Symphony Pops, shows at the Kennedy Center, and a world tour with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. Tony has also delighted neighbors with live “porch concerts” on North Granada Street, with appropriate social distancing. Audiences are invited to contribute to the Arlington Food Assistance Center, raising thousands of dollars. The first event featured neighbors Anna Nowalk and Retta Laumann, who are studying musical theater in college. “So many people have been hurt by the pandemic,” concluded Tony, “including many of my musician colleges. Once venues reopen, I encourage people to support live music and other arts professionals.”

By the way—that cat? Tony named him Chester.



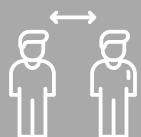
Recommendations: Transportation/Traffic Management

The following recommendations to Arlington County are from our draft neighborhood conservation plan. The full plan, posted on the AFCA website, gives the rationale for each recommendation. Send comments to plan coordinator Liz Kauffman at lizkauffman@yahoo.com or editor Hutch Brown at hutchbrown41@gmail.com.

The residents of Arlington Forest are intimately familiar with safety conditions in our neighborhood in connection with roads and traffic. Through AFCA, we stand ready to discuss a range of safety issues and improvements with the county. In particular, we urge the county to take the following measures:

- In Greenbrier, at the intersection of North Carlin Springs Road with North Harrison Street, install a four-way traffic light. Failing that:
 - install a pedestrian-activated stoplight in place of the amber rectangular rapid flashing beacon, which has proven effective only some of the time;
 - better enforce speed limits;
 - on both sides of the intersection, post warnings of fines for speeding and for failing to stop for pedestrians; and
 - publicize the traffic data that the county uses in making decisions about the intersection.
- On North Edison Street, install a series of traffic-calming measures, including:
 - speed limit signs at both ends of the street;
 - a traffic circle at the intersection with 2nd Street North, which could double as a watershed retrofit (such as a dry pond);
 - a speed bump or rumble strip on the downhill segment of the street between 2nd Street North and Edison Park; and
 - a speed bump or rumble strip on the downhill segment of the street between North Carlin Springs Road and 4th Street North.

- On 2nd Street North, install:
 - traffic-calming signage (such as Slow, Children at Play);
 - rumble strips;
 - four-way stop signs at the intersections with North Greenbrier and North Granada Streets; and
 - traffic circles at the intersections with both North Greenbrier and North Granada Streets, which could double as watershed retrofits.
- In Northside, add pavement markings on the south-bound lane of North Henderson Road to alert motorists to the stop sign at the service road for Arlington Boulevard.
- Add pavement markings on North George Mason Drive before the intersections with North Henderson Road and North Park Drive to warn motorists of a traffic light ahead.
- Better enforce the posted speed limit on North George Mason Drive as well as the requirement for drivers to stop at yellow lights.
- Install a four-way traffic light at the intersection of North George Mason Drive and North Park Drive.
- Install speed bumps or rumble strips before intersections on North Columbus Street.
- On both North Columbus Street and North Park Drive:
 - post speed limits;
 - install more traffic circles, which could double as watershed retrofits; and
 - mark pavement to prompt drivers to slow down when approaching the entrances to Lubber Run Park on North Columbus Street and Barrett Elementary School on North Park Drive.



Common Potential Sources of COVID Exposure

In November 2020, Arlington County interviewed 539 residents diagnosed with COVID. Thirty-three percent reported previous contact with a known case, including 21 percent at home and 12 percent in the community. In addition:

- 48 percent went to work;
- 38 percent went to one or more restaurants;
- 12 percent attended a social gathering (such as a wedding, funeral, or party);

- 17 percent traveled outside Delmarva; and
- 7 percent went to a gym.

The findings dovetail with reports by medical professionals that community exposure contributes to COVID spread. To prevent community spread, avoid close contact with people outside your household; wear a mask (cloth face covering); practice social distancing; and frequently wash your hands.

Recommendations: Urban Forestry



The following recommendations to Arlington County are from our draft neighborhood conservation plan. The full plan, posted on the AFCA website, gives the rationale for each recommendation. Send comments to plan coordinator Liz Kauffman at lizkauffman@yahoo.com or editor Hutch Brown at hutchbrown41@gmail.com.

Stormwater runoff is a major threat to our neighborhood parks, as are invasive species and overpopulation by deer.

- AFCA should work with the county to explore the issues associated with **stormwater management** in Arlington, including the reasons for resource protection areas as well as for a comprehensive approach to stormwater management. That includes better publicizing homeowner incentives for watershed retrofits, including homeowner incentives for tree planting.
- The county should work with AFCA to explore stormwater management options for Arlington Forest on public land and street rights-of-way, including watershed retrofits in our neighborhood and the potential for stream restoration in our creeks, starting with Lubber Run.
- The county should coordinate with AFCA in communicating homeowner programs for replacing

canopy trees and planting new ones, possibly with help from the Tree Stewards program.

- The county should continue its policy of replacing street trees that have died or been removed and filling canopy gaps in our neighborhood parks.
- The neighborhood supports the control of English ivy, lesser celandine, kudzu, and other **invasive plants**. Neighbors should work with the county, in alignment with programs such as Tree Stewards and Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, to sustain invasive plant control in Lubber Run Park and extend it to Glencarlyn Park, for example in the resource protection areas at the confluence of Lubber Run with Four Mile Run and along Arlington Forest Branch.
- The county should work with Dominion Energy and NOVA Parks to remove invasive species and establish native prairie and wetland vegetation, where appropriate, throughout the Bluemont/Glencarlyn Park corridor along the W&OD Trail.
- The county should inventory the **deer population** in Arlington, assess the scope of the damage by deer to plants in our local parks, and determine whether our local deer have exceeded the ecological carrying capacity of the land.
- The county should assess the impact of deer on the safety, health, and well-being of Arlington residents in view of the cultural carrying capacity of the land, including damage from deer browsing on private property.
- The county should lay plans for managing deer populations within the biological, cultural, and ecological carrying capacities of the land.

☑ Arlington Election Trivia, 2020

More voted than in 2016, but turnout was lower:

- 2020: 131,518 (79% of registered voters).
- 2016: 122,023 (82% of registered voters).
- Absentee voters (mail, dropbox, or early): 108,394 (65% of turnout).
- Mail alone: 48,467 (29% of turnout).
- Election day: 23,124 (14% of turnout).

Missed the election?

You can already register for 2022!
Visit bit.ly/VoteArlington to register.

Results:

- **Arlington County Board:** Libby Garvey (D), 71%.
- **Arlington School Board:** Cristina I. Diaz-Torres (D), 43%; David Marcus Priddy (D), 36%.
- **Bond referenda passed:** Metro and transportation (\$30 million); local parks/recreation (\$3.6 million); community infrastructure (\$7.5 million); stormwater program (\$51 million); Arlington Public Schools (\$53 million).
- **Senate:** Mark Warner (D), 79%.
- **House:** Don Beyer (D), 79%.
- **President:** Joe Biden (D), 80.6%.

What About Our Local Deer?

By Hutch Brown

I always enjoy seeing white-tailed deer, but their growing numbers in Arlington County worry me. They eat so many woodland plants that they can destroy habitats and alter forest types, which begs a question: How many deer are there and where do they all live?

Deer are transient rather than residential, with an average home range of about a square mile, or 640 acres. The four major parks in our area (Bluemont, Bluemont Junction, Glencarlyn, and Lubber Run) cover about 200 acres, so every deer you see probably ranges throughout our greenway parks and beyond—and into adjacent neighborhoods, which grow foods that deer like to eat.

Deer move around at dawn and dusk, usually bedding down at night and during the day. Water is often the first thing a deer seeks upon rising, so our local deer probably never stray far from our local creeks. Food is vital: each day, a deer eats 5 to 7 pounds of plants, which vary seasonally from spring ephemerals to winter woody browse. As the year progresses, the food sources change, so our local deer are constantly on the move in search of new plants to eat.



Photo: Leo Horwitz

Deer are social rather than solitary. Most travel in small herds of related females and their offspring, often joined by unrelated males. Pecking orders depend on size, age, and gender, but an alpha female is often the leader. Deer communicate by smell, by visual display (like that flashing white tail), and through vocalizations we seldom hear (like grunts and bleats). Traveling in herds allows for shared detection of threats and foods.

How many deer do we have in our local parks? In fall 2018, I counted a herd of 12 outside the Long Branch

Nature Center, where 20 years ago there were none. Our deer population has definitely grown, perhaps beyond the carrying capacity of the land, which experts put at about 20 deer per square mile.

You can see the impacts in munched hostas and other ornamental plants—but also in cropped seedlings and other damage to trees and shrubs in our local parks. How big is the threat? To tell, we need a county assessment of the damage and an inventory of our local deer population, plus a deer management plan.

The housing market has seen record-breaking growth since June after briefly put on hold during the outbreak of the pandemic this spring. Despite looming economic uncertainty, highly controversial elections, and the aggravated spread of the pandemic, home buyers continued to snatch up the relatively few homes listed for sale. This time the housing market is largely being driven by two factors: a shortage of available housing inventory and extremely low-interest rates.

Double-digit annual growth in both list and sale prices show an extreme lack of inventory and incredible demand — A sign of a hot seller's real estate market. Home sales have risen to a 14-year high. Speedy home sales continue in all regions of the country and the median sales price continues to have double-digit growth. November, which marks the traditional slowdown of the housing market, remained a hyperactive month. December was more active than normal

and the flow of buyers and sellers remained abnormally high in the 4th quarter. Not only the housing demand but the supply of new listings has also reached the highest point since the onset of the pandemic.

In the Northern Virginia, November's 2020 average price was at \$685,445 (up 9.52%) and sales were up 33.43% from November 2019. Arlington's average price was \$862,232 (up 18.61%) and sales were up \$28.9%.

Current 30-year fixed rates are in the 2.5% to 2.75% range. Last year at this time, 30-year rates were at 3.85%.

Are you living in your ideal home now? If you are thinking of a new lifestyle, I'm glad to help with some strategic planning.

Who you hire matters - put my 36 years of local Arlington market expertise to work for you and your largest financial investment!



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Amphitheater Donations to Performers

By Esther Bowring



Photo: Daniel Brown

The COVID pandemic has affected the arts community, preventing performances throughout the metropolitan area. Unfortunately, the Lubber Run Amphitheater was also affected, shutting down for the 2020 summer season. The nonprofit Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation decided to do our small part to aid performers. With a generous anonymous donation of \$2,500, the Foundation contributed \$100 to each of the 25 performers who helped us celebrate the Amphitheater's 50th anniversary in 2019.

The gratitude from recipients shines through the following notes:

- **Wildlife Ambassadors:** "I cannot thank you enough for the generous gift. Your support means a lot to us right now."
- **Justin Jones:** "Thank you so much for this welcome and surprising news."
- **Véronneau:** "When we performed in 2018 at Lubber Run, we recorded the show and the following year released our Véronneau—Live from Lubber Run CD, which won a WAMMIE award for Best World Music Recording. ... We are full-time professional musicians and have suffered a very real income reduction due to the lack of performance opportunities. I'm really touched by the Foundation's generosity."
- **The Fuss DC:** "Thank you so much; what a lovely surprise, especially in these crazy times! I hope we are able to make music with you all again."
- **Mr. Gabe Music:** "What a pleasant surprise! My band and I very much enjoyed our visit to Lubber Run Amphitheater last year and look forward to performing there again once life gets back to normal. Thank you so much for your kind gift."
- **Rocknoceros:** "Wow. Thank you so much. ... Lubber Run has always been a great venue for us, and we have many great memories there."
- **Irene Jalenti:** "What a beautiful initiative. Thank you so much for thinking about me! Thank you again for your generosity, and happy 50th anniversary of the Amphitheater."
- **The Grandsons:** "Lubber Run is our favorite place to perform. We are thankful for your thoughtfulness."
- **King Soul:** "This donation is very kind. We love being at Lubber Run."
- **Arlington Philharmonic:** "Many thanks!"
- **Mariachi Los Amigos:** "Beautiful! Thanks so much!"
- **Carly Harvey:** "Thank you for the unexpected kindness we need right now."
- **Eric Knaus (The Great Zucchini):** "Super, super appreciative."

We hope that 2021 will be better for everyone and that you will join us in welcoming these and many other performers back to the Lubber Run Amphitheater as soon as it is safe.

How We Care for Lyon Park's Trees

By Bill Anhut

The author is a member of the Lyon Park Board of Governors and an Arlington County Tree Steward.

Lyon Park has just over 60 trees, including two cochampion white ash trees (the two largest white ashes in Arlington County) and a Notable Tree of Arlington (the county's fourth largest willow oak). In recent years, we have planted two sycamores, a red maple, a pin oak, and a sweetgum. We also planted two disease-resistant American chestnut seedlings during Lyon Park's 2019 Centennial Celebration, a swamp white oak in spring 2020, and a sugarberry and linden in November 2020 through Arlington's Tree Canopy Fund. All of the young trees are thriving.

Unfortunately, all ash trees in Virginia are endangered by the emerald ash borer, a pest introduced from China. For the past 10 years, Lyon Park has hired arborists to help us fend off the borer, and our arborist again treated the trees in spring 2020, pruned the deadwood, and mulched the trees.

On November 5, a healthy limb from one of the ashes broke off in high winds—an enormous branch 2 feet



thick and 40 feet long. Through annual inspections, an arborist can minimize the possibility of falling limbs or trees, but it can happen. Within the past year or two, we removed a tuliptree because it might fall, and we've regularly pruned deadwood from other trees.

Lyon Park has four white oaks that were severely stressed by renovation construction of the community center. For the past 4 years, our arborist has fertilized the oaks and pruned the deadwood from them. In November 2020, he noted that changes in our climate,

particularly summer drought and temperature spikes in 2019, had affected the four oaks. Three of the four have enough healthy branching that they can be nurtured for the foreseeable future. The fourth shows signs of a fungus and must be removed in winter 2021.

The Lyon Park Board of Governors, charged with caring for our park and community center, is proud of our champion white ashes, our notable willow oak, and all our other trees. We will continue to care for them, plant new trees, and remove any trees that pose a danger to our park users. We will also continue to consult with our arborist in the care of our trees.



Paul Cachion, MBA

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What Does \$1 Million Buy?

First off, Happy New Year! I will only add to the already-large chorus, but I hope 2021 bring us all health, happiness, and the ability to get back to our lives as they used to be sooner, rather than later, this year.

What does \$1 million buy? In the two zip codes that comprise Arlington Forest, it buys you a house and a few cups of coffee. In 22203 and 22204, the average price of a house on the market now is \$924,372 (so, in reality, you could also get unlimited cups of coffee). In the 22203 zip, the average price is actually above \$1 million. Even at these prices, the market continues to be a seller's market, with houses going quickly and multiple offers on good properties.

As always, if you have any questions about the market, feel free to reach out to me with any and all of your real estate needs.



Member Long & Foster Executive Club.

Parks Update

Another Oak Falls

In recent years, Lubber Run has been devastated by floods, which wash away soils that hold roots for the many large trees in Lubber Run Park. In fall 2020, another large tree (a northern red oak) fell over Lubber Run, temporarily blocking the trail below Greenbrier. Such deadfalls, even when forced by unnatural flooding, create welcome habitats for wildlife, and the county has cleared the trail but left the fallen oak and branches in place.

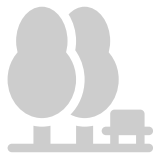
Dead Tree Removal



A county contractor removed several dead oaks from Arlington Forest Park (across from the shopping center), leaving 2-foot-high stumps. For the remaining tree removals, the contractor will follow the county plan to leave 8-foot snags for wildlife while letting the trunks rot on the ground. No young pines or junipers have yet been removed to protect the rare oak savanna, but the county has flagged areas with sensitive plants and mowed most of the park (leaving oak seedlings intact).

Protecting Public Spaces

Arlington County will be updating its Urban Forest Master Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan and merging them to guide its future work in improving our natural environment. You can read the current plans online at Public Spaces Master Plan (of which they are component parts) and get involved in updating them.



Trail Plans

Restored native prairie vegetation graces a corner of Bluemont Park below Greenbrier. A short unpaved road traverses the meadow, used by Dominion Power trucks to service transmission towers along the W&O Trail. Pedestrians also use the road as a shortcut. Years ago, the county rejected proposals to pave the road but installed posts and a chain (now gone) to keep vehicles out. Now, the county plans to place a post at the driveway apron on North Carlin Springs Road to keep vehicles out. Pedestrians can keep using the trail.

County News

Arlington COVID Dashboard

Get the latest information about new cases of COVID-19 in Arlington, including cases by zip code, at data-dashboards.arlingtonva.us/covid.

COVID Information

If you're feeling sick or have been exposed to someone with COVID, the sooner you act, the better. A government website called COVIDCHECK.org gives you valuable initial information, including a symptoms check and test site locations. You can start there to help protect yourself, your family, and your friends.

COVID Vaccinations

In December, the county board considered whether to accept state grants totaling \$660,000 to help prepare for the mass distribution of vaccines when they become available. The money would be used to hire temporary staff, operate clinics, and cover other vaccination costs.

Flood Risk in Arlington

Nobody is exempt from flood risk—where it can rain, it can flood. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is updating flood insurance rate maps for Arlington County. You can find more information and view the preliminary maps at tinyurl.com/y5qwc535.

Improving Internet Service

A group of Arlington citizens is encouraging the county to adopt an Arlington Broadband Authority to help reduce the cost of internet service, especially for lower income households. The authority would install a municipal optical fiber for anyone who wants it. Internet service providers would then compete through the network. Find out more at ArlFiber.org.

New County Logo

The Arlington County Board will choose a new logo for the county in a 6-month community process culminating in a decision at a county board meeting in June 2021. Find out more at topics.arlingtonva.us/engage/.

New Police Liaison

Arlington County has appointed a new community outreach police officer for our district. Juan Pablo Montoya of the Arlington County Police Department Community Outreach Team started on November 22, 2020. He is our community's main point of contact for concerns and ideas about the Arlington police. You can contact him at jmontoya@arlingtonva.us or 571-214-9364.

Around the Forest

Light Pollution

Some households keep backyard floodlights on during the night; others have floodlights activated by motion detector (and triggered by nocturnal animals). Security is important, and lights can help stop crime. But using lights that are not so bright or shields that direct the light where needed can be just as effective without flooding neighbors' yards and homes with unwanted light.



Mystery Curb Marking

Last fall, the county painted a stretch of curb yellow on 3rd Street North below the new playground at the Lubber Run Community Center. Yellow restricts parking to loading and unloading, yet the location makes no sense and no corresponding signs are posted. People park there anyway to use the playground.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan

Sponsored by the county, the plan is a once-in-generation opportunity for our neighborhood to take positions on issues ranging from schools, to parks, to neighborhood housing and more. You can review the draft plan on the AFCA website by clicking on Neighborhood, then going to the link. You will find email addresses for members of the writing team, who are happy to take comments and make revisions.

Popular Arlington Restaurant

Arlington Magazine, in its 2020 poll of best places to eat, listed the Ballston restaurant SER as a runner-up for both "Restaurant You Missed Most During Quarantine" and "Outdoor Dining." Known for its Spanish-style dishes, SER is owned and operated by husband-and-wife restaurateurs Javier Candon and Christiana Campos, who live with their three children in Arlington Forest.

Penrose Trading Co Internet Consignment Services

Are you downsizing? Moving? Seeking to de-clutter?
Want some extra cash? Sell your items online!

Clothes, electronics, collectibles, toys, games,
housewares, antiques, etc.

I do all the work - photograph, list, pack and ship, etc.
You sit back and collect the cash!

Contact me, Josh, for a free and friendly consultation.
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Deer Predators?

Deer overpopulation has become an issue in Arlington parks. The coyotes and bobcats sighted in our vicinity, even if they become common, are too small and solitary to be effective predators of our local deer. Natural deer predators—wolves and cougars—are extinct in Virginia. The only remaining predator is human.

Edison Park Playground



The new playground on North Edison Street in Greenbrier reopened right after Christmas. The playground includes a play area for small kids and, for bigger kids, a DNA Tower—a winding metal scaffold 31 feet high with a web of netting to climb through. An in-person grand opening for this project will have to wait until the pandemic recedes, maybe in early summer. If anyone wants to organize a virtual reopening, Liz Kauffman can connect you with county folks. You can reach her at lizkauffman@yahoo.com.



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AFCA Meetings

January 20: Carlin Springs traffic issues

February 17: School boundaries and other schools-related issues

March 17: Lubber Run Park issues

April 21: to be determined

May 19: Picnic and annual meeting (tentative—if conditions allow)

Community Calendar



The coronavirus pandemic has forced AFCA to limit the number of community events, with some down as tentative—to be held if conditions allow.

Next AFCA meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 7 p.m.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 24

Home and Garden Tour: Saturday, May 1 (tentative)

Annual AFCA Picnic: Wednesday, May 19 (tentative)

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 22 (tentative)

Young Foresters Corner: Open Forum for Youth

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

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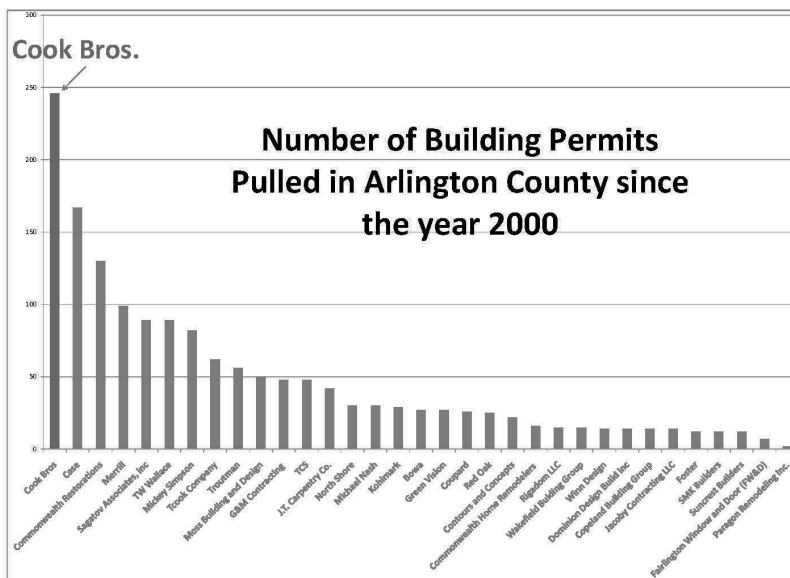
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Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

It's hard to believe 2020 is over and students have completed 3 months of the school year virtually. Before Winter Break, Barcroft students celebrated spirit week and joined in a live (virtual) holiday sing-along with hot cocoa snack kits from the PTA (see photo).

Throughout the fall, families and staff had to keep up with ever-changing plans by Arlington Public Schools (APS) for some students to return to the school buildings. A few students with special education needs are learning at school now as part of phase 1 of the APS plan, which means that six Barcroft students are back in the school building. No additional students will be back in the classroom until phase 2 begins, in January at the earliest. In early December, the Arlington County School Board voted to change Barcroft's school calendar to align with the traditional APS school calendar.

This past year was tough for many families, and the PTA has been focusing on ways to help Barcroft

families. Thank you to those who have supported our PTA and donated to our winter coat drive, Thanksgiving food distribution, and holiday toy shop. The Barcroft families deeply appreciate what we are able to provide from our wonderful community.

A new PTA Outdoor Committee is enhancing the schoolyard for spending class time outside, this school year and beyond. Donations so far include six new picnic tables and some tree stumps, and we will be working on the gardens this spring. If you can donate plants, please contact Carrie Lombardi at calombardi3@gmail.com. The PTA is also planning an online raffle fundraiser in the first quarter of 2021. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @BarcroftEagles and on Facebook at Barcroft Elementary School PTA for updates, or reach out to the PTA at president@barcroftpta.org with any questions about PTA happenings.



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Barrett School News

By Will Le

Happy New Year to all of our Barrett families and friends! Though glad to say farewell to 2020, we were still grateful for many things last year, especially for the generous donations and volunteer work of our school community. Over the past 8 months, we distributed about \$70,000 worth of grocery cards, essential food items, produce, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, and school supplies—along with thousands of books to our students. We distributed produce and turkeys a week before Thanksgiving, then capped the year with a produce-and-book distribution in mid-December, made possible through funds raised by the Arlington County Council of PTAs. We hope to continue the distribution events in the new year.

Our turkey distribution came through the generosity of Barrett parents Katherine and Gabe Thompson of Thompson Italian, who purchased 160 turkeys through their purveyor. Thompson Italian also supported Barrett with a successful Restaurant Night in early December. Families were able to enjoy delicious fresh pasta and seasonal dishes while supporting the Barrett PTA!

Among the many who helped our community last year, Jennifer Sauter-Price (“Pajama Mama”) also stands out for her Read Early and Daily (R.E.A.D.) organization. R.E.A.D. has provided Barrett and the entire Arlington community with thousands of books. R.E.A.D. also organized our first-ever virtual book fair, which raised money to support our PTA.



Our January PTA meeting featured Larisa Zehr, a representative from the Legal Aid Justice Center. She spoke about tenant rights, including how tenants can navigate the legal process and what the various eviction moratoriums mean for families who rent.

Congratulations to Barrett student Alexander Kerr, whose essay “Why Do We Matter In a Community?” was “Outstanding Interpretation of the Theme” in this year’s Reflections contest! Alex’s essay reflects how our entire school community has come together to support one another through these challenging times.


Our school librarian, Greg D’Addario, reported that Barrett students are still reading, even though classes are virtual!


As of January 1, Barrett readers had checked out 1,831 ebooks, many more than over the same time period last year. Find out about checking out ebooks and print books by contacting greg.daddario@apsva.us.

Happy New Year, happy virtual learning, and happy reading!

Potomac River Declines in Health

In its biennial health rating for the Potomac River, the Potomac Conservancy gave the river a B- in 2020, down from a B in 2018. Heavy rains in recent years have washed more sediments and other pollutants into the river than usual. Regional stormwater management measures, including stream restoration, have not kept pace with rising weather extremes, reversing steady improvements since 2011. Find out more at potomacreportcard.org.

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Greenbrier

Northside

Name	Email	Phone											Other
Dylan Heinrich	dylanheinrich@icloud.com		✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	Odd jobs
Ethan Heinrich	ethan.heinrich27@gmail.com	703-475-8430		✓		✓*	✓	✓			✓	✓	*RC certified; Tutoring, ages 6-13
Emilie Kluge	emiliekluge@yahoo.com	571-457-1983	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	Tutoring
Colin Mashkuri	cjmashkuri@gmail.com	571-480-2855	✓					✓					Math tutoring
Andrew Rogers	andrewmcyt@gmail.com	703-892-0226	✓	✓						✓			
Caroline Rogers	carolinearogers@verizon.net	703-892-0226	✓	✓		✓							
Cecilia Brennan	christybren@yahoo.com	703-475-3809	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Donna Corina		703-248-8885	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓						*RC certified
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Evan Dempsey	Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com	703-559-9690	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Anna D'Itri		703-346-3467	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	
Gabriel D'Itri		703-346-3467			✓		✓						Lawn mowing
Charlotte Lawson	CharlotteLawsonnn@gmail.com	703-933-8880	✓	✓									
Ciara McLaughlin	ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com	703-712-9215				✓*					✓	✓	*Safe Sitter certified, references
Reid Messman		703-469-1988	✓*	✓									*References
Shea Messman		703-469-1988				✓*							*Safe Sitter certified, references
Alexandra Orli		703-528-5618		✓		✓*		✓			✓*		*References
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Ben Sparks	benchispas@gmail.com		✓	✓									
Emma Weaver		703-875-8185				✓*							*Safe Sitter certified, references
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Tyler Dinan	chrisbettdinan@aol.com	703-525-5763	✓		✓	✓	✓						Lawn mowing
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Jeremy Fagen	jeremy.fagen@gmail.com	571-645-3475	✓	✓				✓					
Evie Price		703-402-5138	✓	✓		✓*		✓			✓	✓	*Pediatric training
Sophie Stewart	sophiestewart4@gmail.com	703-713-5902	✓	✓		✓		✓					
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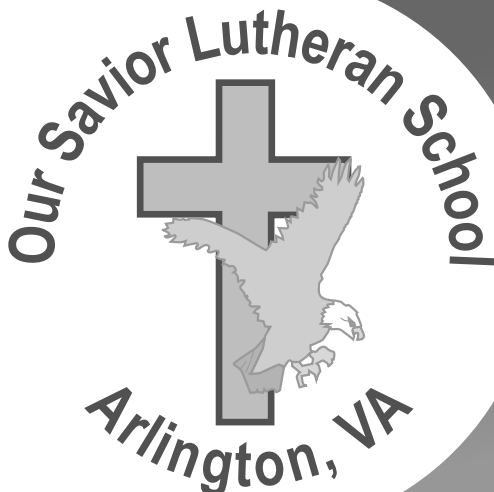
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