



The Arlington Forester

Vol. 66, Number 8

Arlington, Virginia

May 2025

AFCA Potluck Picnic

The final AFCA meeting of the 2024-25 year is a neighborhood tradition—a little business mixed with a lot of food, fun, and friends. The meeting will be a potluck picnic starting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, in the Lubber Run Park picnic shelter located upstream from the amphitheater. AFCA volunteers will cook hamburgers and hotdogs and provide buns, condiments, soda, plates, cups, utensils, and napkins. Residents should bring a side dish to share (salad, veggies, fruit, chips, snack, or dessert) and nonalcoholic drinks other than water and soda. Children and friendly dogs are welcome.

There will be a brief business meeting to hold the annual election of AFCA officers. Elected offices include President; Vice Presidents for Greenbrier, Northside, and Southside; Recording Secretary; Corresponding

Secretary; and Treasurer. We encourage anyone willing to run for any office to contact Nominating Committee Chair Art Schwartz at arthur.edward.schwartz@gmail.com.

The picnic will proceed even in light rain, but it will be canceled if it pours. In that case, please attend the AFCA meeting virtually at 7 p.m. to elect officers; AFCA's bylaws require us to hold the election in May. To join the meeting through Zoom, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:45 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21: <https://tinyurl.com/4k6ycvjm>. Alternatively, you can dial in to the meeting at 301-715-8592, where you will be prompted to enter meeting number 816 5354 1733 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.

Reporting Stream Pollution

Especially in spring through fall, water pollution can become a problem in Arlington streams. If you see signs of pollution, dumping, discharge, or discoloration in a stream, you can call the Emergency Communications Center at 703-558-2222. You can use the Arlington

County Report a Problem Tool to provide photos and additional information. Fire department or county personnel will investigate, but stream conditions can change quickly, so reporting as soon as you see something greatly increases the chances of finding the source.

Potentially Rabid Fox Reported

According to the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, a potentially rabid fox remained on the loose in western parts of Arlington County as of May 8. A fox was reported approaching or contacting dogs and people in the Highland Park-Overlee Knolls and Leeway-Overlee neighborhoods. A woman out gardening was reportedly bitten on the foot but not injured.

On April 25, an injured fox captured in Highland Park-Overlee Knolls tested positive for the rabies virus. If you see a fox or any other animal that appears sick, lethargic, disoriented, or aggressive, stay away from it and call Animal Control at 703-931-9241.

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AFCA Picnic 6 p.m. **May 21**

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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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Traffic Lights on N. Park Dr.



The long-awaited traffic lights are finally working at the accident-prone intersection of N. George Mason and N. Park Drives. (Thanks to Michael Thomas for the great photo!) The installation project, which includes curb extensions on all corners, more street lighting, and marked crosswalks, was intended to improve traffic and pedestrian safety on a major county thoroughfare. A traffic study back in 2017 had called for installing a traffic signal. Instead, the county opted for a pedestrian refuge and flashing pedestrian beacon on N. George Mason Drive. But a surge in crashes followed in summer 2021 after the Lubber Run Community Center reopened. In late 2023, the county fast-tracked the intersection for upgrades, now finally completed.



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Community Yard Sale on May 17

The annual yard sale, an Arlington Forest tradition, takes place this year on Saturday morning, May 17 (rain date May 18)—for a map, see the back page of this newsletter (a map of sale sites has also gone out on listserv). Over 40 Arlington Forest households have participated in the past, and the event attracts many bargain hunters who cruise through the area visiting multiple sales. Sellers are encouraged to make photocopies so shoppers can pick up a map leading them to other sites. To get a map, contact Allison at allison.kennett@gmail.com.

Some tips for success: (1) Prepare in advance. Sort clothes by size. Group similar items together. Use shopper-friendly ways to display merchandise (like tables and clothes racks). Have grocery bags on hand. Obtain dollar bills and coins to make change. If selling electronics, set up an extension cord to show that the items work. (2) Price items reasonably. Savvy shoppers will buy elsewhere if prices are too high. Be prepared to negotiate down from the listed price. (3) To snag buyers who make yard sales their business, start setting up at 7

a.m. By late morning, people come looking for closeout prices and even freebies. If left with furniture or other large items that you simply want to get rid of, leave them at the curb with a “free” sign and they will probably be gone by Sunday afternoon. (4) Keep your cash in a pocket, shoulder purse, or fanny pack. If you use a cash box, don’t leave it unattended while you are with a shopper. Decline personal checks. If you go indoors, have someone watch your merchandise. Sellers near Arlington Blvd., Carlin Springs Rd., George Mason Dr., and Henderson Dr. might consider posting homemade signs along those thoroughfares pointing into the neighborhood to their sale (please remove signs at day’s end).

For many people, yard sale success is not measured by profit but by how much unwanted stuff is moved out. The sale is also a great community event. Families can say hello to neighbors down the block and find their own bargains. Kids can set up a lemonade stand. So, whether you are a seller, a buyer, or both, please join us on May 17.



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Special Dispatches to the Washington Star

Alexandria, Wednesday, August 28, 1861

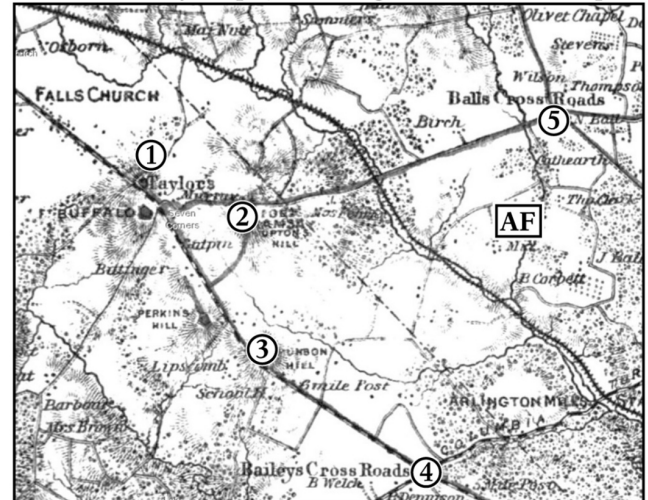
"It turns out that they [Confederate cavalry] are not entrenching at Bailey's Cross Roads [but rather] at Taylor's Tavern, a mile south of Falls Church, where they are believed to have five 9-pounder rifled guns apparently in battery behind a slight work of brush

In the course of yesterday afternoon, a mounted company of them crossed Four-mile Run at Riley's Hill, and came down the county road to Mr. Southern's gate—our pickets retiring before them to Ball's Cross Roads, half a mile below. I hear from towards Alexandria that such apparent advances on their part took place over the whole line. What was meant by them ... I know not; nothing like an attack, as is evident from the fact of their retirement before daybreak, everywhere. They succeeded, I hear, in killing two of our pickets near the Chain Bridge, and this morning one of our mounted pickets ... is missing.

Yesterday, shortly after noon, our picket guard, 12 men strong, at Munsen's Red Hill, a mile above Bailey's Cross Roads, was surrounded suddenly by a force of 300 Secessionists, who opened fire upon them, killing one man Six of the twelve were captured by the enemy, and the other four escaped back to our guard at Bailey's Cross Roads.

The Secessionists pursued the four retreating men to a point near Bailey's Cross Roads, when the appearance of a company of regular cavalry coming to the reinforcement of the guard there caused the enemy to face about and make again for Munson's Hill. Heretofore that guard has been but a single company. I do not believe that it will soon again be set upon in such fashion, unless a general

From: "Military Map of N.E. Virginia, 1865, War Dept."



- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Taylor's Tavern | 4. Bailey's Crossroads |
| 2. Riley's (Upton) Hill | 5. Ballston |
| 3. Munsen's Red Hill | 6. Present-day Arlington Forest |

attack be designed by the enemy. [Description of Union casualties.] Whether the Confederates suffered any loss is not known. Our companies and the pickets fell back to the camp, about a half mile beyond Arlington.

Col. Hoffman and the Quartermaster of the regiment, hearing that a large force of the Secessionists were in the vicinity of Falls Church, took a circuitous route, and got on top of a house about a mile from the church to reconnoiter. They had a good glass, but were unable to detect the presence of troops in any force in that vicinity."

[Note: The name "Mix" on the map just below the "AF" for Arlington Forest indicates the farm of Charles E. Mix, Commissioner of U.S. Indian Affairs under President James Buchanan. The Mix house was built in 1820-40 near the northwestern corner of Greenbrier.]

Thanks to Larry Bowring for this piece of local Civil War history!

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Lubber Run Amphitheater Summer Season

By Ken Schellenberg


The schedule for the free summer concert series at Lubber Run Amphitheater has been announced—see the calendar schedule enclosed in this newsletter—and it's very exciting! Since construction of the first permanent stage in 1969, Arlingtonians have enjoyed free summer cultural events at this sylvan venue two blocks from Rte. 50. Bring a picnic and some friends and enjoy the arts at the Lubber Run Amphitheater!


The season kicks off with a 2-week run of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" performed by The Arlington Players, who are celebrating their 75th anniversary with a return to Lubber Run. "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"—a charming musical for the whole family—will be performed starting Friday, June 6 (8 p.m.); Saturday, June 7 (8 p.m.); and Sunday, June 8 (2 p.m.). It will continue the following weekend (June 13, 14, and 15 at the same times). This performance is funded in part by your donations to the Wishing Well and the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation.

The remainder of the Summer Concert Series continues on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with Sunday family performances at 11 a.m. (except as noted on the schedule). Family performances are copresented with the Arlington Public Library. June brings Afro-beat music with Elikeh (June 20); a Beatles Tribute (June 21); Culture Queen for the kids (June 22); blues/rock with the Bobby Thompson Trio (June 27); soul and jazz with Cecily (June 28); and the Arlington Philharmonic (June 29 at 6 p.m.). After a break for July 4, programs continue with the 257th Army Band (July 5) and Mr. Jon and Friends for the kids (July 6).

Music continues in July with the husband-and-wife songwriting team the Sidleys (July 11); King Soul (July 12); and magician Drew Blue Shoes for the kids (July 13). Reggae comes to Lubber Run from Bongo District (July 18); then the U.S. Navy Commodores perform (July 19), and the Rainbow Rock Band entertains the kids (July 20). The final performances of the summer will be jazz-fusion from Project Locrea (July 25); a Rolling Stones tribute from Wanted Man (July 26); and Encore Stage for the kids (July 27). Closing night brings the progressive bluegrass of Big Howdy (August 1).




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Forest for more than 20 years and
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Ravens Came Back This Year

Common ravens nested again this spring along the W&OD Trail in Glencarlyn Park below Arlington Forest—see the photos and information below, courtesy of Forester David Howell. Since 2023, the ravens have nested on a concrete support of the Arlington Blvd. bridge over Four Mile Run; the support is on the far side of Four Mile Run, right below the road. This year, the ravens had five chicks (upper photo on right, taken on March 16). Three chicks flew away by April 20, with the remaining two about to fledge (lower photo).

Ravens look like American crows, only larger and with a deep and raspy croak rather than a loud caw. Like crows, they eat almost anything and are very smart; unlike crows, they don't hang out in large groups. They are native to northern Virginia but have been largely restricted to the Blue Ridge, so a nesting pair here has been unusual until now.

Ravens mate for life. They often reuse well-located nests year after year, making repairs and improvements. They typically have three to seven chicks, with the eggs starting to hatch in mid-March. In 2023, our local ravens had two chicks, and last year they had four. Next year, they will probably show up in January or early February to fix up the nest and begin another brood.



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Five Great Reasons to Garden with Natives



The article is adapted from a piece by Plant NOVA Natives.

There are many more native plant gardeners today in northern Virginia than there were 10 years ago, as shown by increasing commercial demand for native plants. It's a permanent shift in behavior driven by a deepening understanding of the interdependence of native plants with insects, birds, and many other creatures. We have become ever more aware of the impact of our choices on the biodiversity of our region; there is no going back. If you're still on the fence about natives, here are five great reasons why native plant gardening is good for what ails our planet—and our own hearts.

1. When you garden with native plants, you learn to name and recognize them in the wild. That knowledge is nice to acquire, and it helps foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world. Simply stated, when we know more, we care more about the environment and our collective human efforts to nurture it.

2. Native plant gardening is even more enjoyable when shared with others. Your newly acquired knowledge will undoubtedly lead to connections with other like-minded native plant lovers. New friends and acquaintances will appear, sharing tips, experiences, and a collective love of gardening. An expanded network contributes to a sense of belonging as we act in concert with others instead of alone.

3. Climate change is a daunting global issue, yet native plant gardening encourages and empowers us as individuals. Property owners of all stripes can do something to benefit the soil, the climate, and the entire ecosystem. Don't fall into the trap of believing we are too small to make a difference: together, we can help heal the planet.

4. Native plant gardeners love the beauty of the blooms as much as do the insects that pollinate flowering plants. You don't need to sacrifice aesthetics. Native plants not only attract pollinators and nurture their life cycles but also offer stunning displays of color and texture that never fail to please.

5. Many native plants bloom late in the season. When nonnative cultivars are starting to fade in the midsummer heat, many natives are just beginning to show up and show off, featuring a lively view that both delights the viewer and sustains local wildlife well into fall. The stalks, seedheads, and berries continue to beautify the garden through winter.

Gardening has always been fun, but gardening with natives is also meaningful. It serves a healing purpose and adds our name to the group effort. At the end of the day, native plant gardeners create beautiful spaces where humans and plants not only meet but conspire to collaborate. We are collectively honored to "smell like dirt" after creating such powerful things. It all starts with planting your first native plant. To learn the how-to's, visit the Plant NOVA Natives website.

Bees in Our Region

By Alonso Abugattas, Arlington County Natural Resources Manager

The piece is adapted from an online article at <https://tinyurl.com/2p86yd64>.

In spring, you might see carpenter bees buzzing about, along with other kinds of bees—all of which play important ecological roles. Worldwide, 75% of our plants rely on an animal pollinator, and no pollinator is more important than bees.

We have some 450 native bee species in our region; the European honeybee, first brought to Jamestown in 1627, is unlike most of our native bees. Honeybees are social (living in hives with a queen and making honey), whereas the vast majority of our bees—like carpenter bees—are solitary, with a single female taking care of her young by collecting nectar and pollen for them all by herself. She is not aggressive and (unlike honeybees) often incapable of piercing our skin with her stinger, though multiple defensive stings are possible. Solitary bees fly away rather than defend their nests, for if the solitary mother dies, her nest and eggs are dead anyway; better to fly off and start over. By contrast, honeybees live for the hive, defending it even if they lose their lives by stinging. Male solitary bees also fend for themselves and are efficient pollinators. (No male bees or wasps can sting because stingers are modified egg-laying organs; only female bees can sting.)

Of our native bees, 70% live underground; the other 30%—like carpenter bees—often rely on cavities in trees, walls, fences, and so on. Most solitary bees dig burrows provisioned with nectar and pollen for their young; if the habitat is right, many female bees will nest near each other. After collecting enough food and laying eggs, the mother bee dies and the bee larvae develop until they emerge, often in the following year. Although bees use many different flower types to feed themselves,



almost half of our native bee species are specialists in the type of pollen needed for their young. Specialist bees often need a single family, genus, or even species of flower to reproduce—a good reason to include many types of native flowers in our yards and to preserve them in our parks.

The bee in the photo is a hibiscus bee, which needs pollen from plants in the mallow family to reproduce. I noticed these bees digging their burrows in Arlington Forest Park (the 1-acre park in Northside next to the shopping center). Hibiscus bees look like bumble bees but dig solitary burrows in the ground, and they carry water on their fuzzy bodies to wet the ground and soften it for excavation. The dirt often forms little turrets around the entrances to their holes. Arlington Forest Park has the bare, well-drained ground these bees need, a water source nearby, and plants in the mallow family for the pollen they need to reproduce.

Car Wash and Power Wash Without Harming Streams

The best place to wash your car is at a commercial car wash. Commercial car washes are required to trap grease, oil, grime, soap, and dirt onsite for delivery to the Water Pollution Control Plant, where it is further cleaned and treated. If you wash your car on the driveway, the runoff can enter a storm drain and flow into a neighborhood stream, affecting fish and other aquatic life. If you

do wash your car or pressure wash at home, make sure the runoff flows onto a grass or landscaped area. Limit your detergent use and block any runoff to the street using rags or other absorbent material. Discard used washwater indoors in a sink.



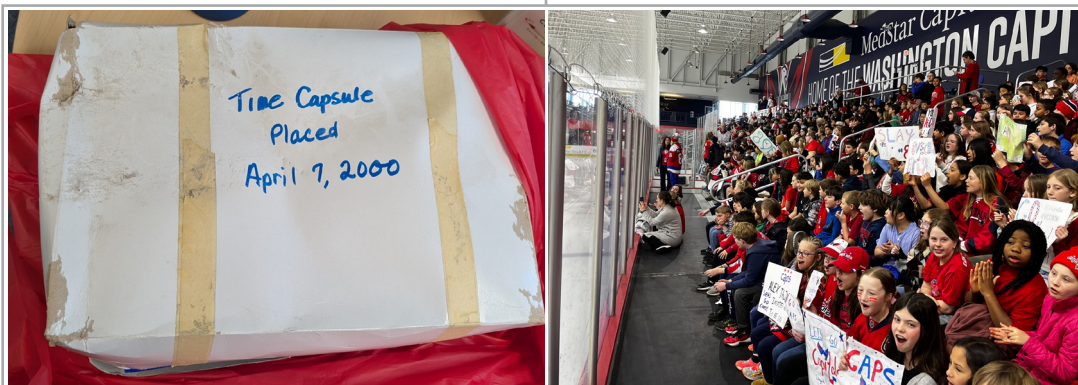
School News: Barcroft Update

By Samantha Bell

The students had a fun and exciting month with several great experiences. First, the much-anticipated opening of the Barcroft Time Capsule, which was buried on April 7, 2000, was opened exactly 25 years later on April 7, 2025. Inside, we found so many treasures—from student predictions about the future, to class pictures, the first Harry Potter book, and even Pokémon cards! It was a wonderful moment of connection between past and present for Barcroft students.

On April 9, 4th and 5th graders from several APS schools including Barcroft had a blast attending MedStar

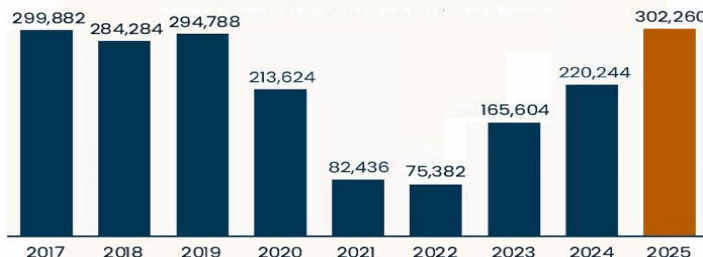
Capitals Iceplex as the Washington Capitals hosted a “Kids Day” practice to celebrate Alex Ovechkin’s record-breaking moment when he became the National Hockey League’s all-time scorer, with 895 goals. On April 10, Step Afrika visited the school for a fantastic performance teaching students the art and history of step dancing. On May 1, the Barcroft Elementary School Choir was invited to perform for the Arlington County School Board to recognize the great arts programs in Arlington.



The best piece of advice for sellers today? Remember this phrase: **If the asking price isn’t compelling, it’s not selling.** Unfortunately, the number of sellers who are having to reduce their price is on the rise. Many aren’t factoring in current market conditions. In today’s market, buyers have more options, and they’re skipping overpriced homes without a second thought. So, let’s work together. With my help, we can collaborate and set a price on your home to pull people in, not push them away.

The Number of Price Cuts Is Back at More Normal Levels

Listings with Price Cuts, March of Each Year



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School News: Kenmore Update

By Samantha Bell

Each month, Arlington Public School (APS) recognizes outstanding staff who go above and beyond in support of students, families, and school communities. Dawn Scattolini (also known as Ms. Hunter), Kenmore's Theater Arts Teacher, was named as one of the April APS All Stars. Dr. Durant, APS Superintendent, said she brings Kenmore's theater program to life with creativity, vision, and a deep commitment to student voice. She unites students of all backgrounds and abilities to produce high-caliber shows that build confidence and community. Her guidance transforms middle schoolers into performers, leaders, and collaborators, enriching their school experience in powerful ways. Kenmore

Middle School is an arts and communications technology focus school where the arts and communications technology are integrated into the Arlington middle school curriculum. Visit the school's website to learn more about the focus program at <https://kenmore.apsva.us/about/arts-communication-technology/>. You can find more information about the theater arts courses offered at Kenmore at <https://kenmore.apsva.us/teams/elective-choices/theater-arts-drama/>.

The last day of school is June 18. Thank you to the Arlington Forest community for all of your support this school year!

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News Bits

Bald Eagle Spotted



In late March, a neighbor alerted Lindsay Cosley of Greenbrier to a bald eagle in the trees along N. Granada St. Lindsay took some fantastic photos and shared them through listserv, including the one here.

May Potluck Picnic

Due to technical difficulties, the AFCA meeting scheduled for April 16 was canceled, but the annual AFCA potluck picnic will be held as scheduled on Wednesday, May 15. AFCA is making the arrangements, including reserving the pavilion in Lubber Run Park and supplying hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, chips, and so on. We need volunteers to help carry in supplies and set up—if you can help, please contact Sal D'Itri at afcaprez@gmail.com.

AFCA Elections Coming Up!

At the AFCA picnic/meeting on May 15, AFCA will hold elections for officers in the coming year. Elected offices include President; Vice Presidents for Greenbrier, Northside, and Southside; Recording Secretary; Corresponding Secretary; and Treasurer. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Art Schwartz at arthur.edward.schwartz@gmail.com.

Primary Elections on June 17

Arlington County will be holding primary elections on June 17. The Republican Party is not participating. On the ballot for the Democratic Party will be six candidates for Virginia lieutenant governor, two for Virginia attorney general, three for Virginia House delegate (including incumbent Patrick Hope), and two for Arlington County Board (James DeVita and incumbent Takis Karantonis). Find out more at Elections Arlington County VA.

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News Bits

Pulling Invasive Weeds in Lubber Run Park



On March 29, volunteers joined Foresters Stephanie Martin and Alex Sanders to pull invasive weeds in Lubber Run Park. Stephanie and Alex are park stewards appointed by the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, a local nonprofit organization, to work with Arlington County in caring for Lubber Run Park. Volunteers help the county remove invasive weeds from the park by putting in a few hours several times a year. In March, they cleared an area on one edge of the park of English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, and bush honeysuckle.

Native Plants Are Coming Back



Removing invasives from Lubber Run Park has allowed native spring ephemerals to return. Ephemerals bloom in early spring, exploiting sunlight on the forest floor before the trees leaf out. This March, native bloodroot formed patches of white blooms in Lubber Run Park; in the gulley downslope from Edison Park Playground, homeowner Paul Kovenock—who was instrumental to invasive weed removal in the park in the 2000s—has planted a hillside full of Virginia bluebells, adding blue and green to the white and yellow of the bloodroot returning nearby. Even trillium was spotted in early April amid the bloodroot blooms near Lubber Run.

Community Calendar

Lubber Run Farmers Market:

Open Saturdays 8 a.m.-noon through November 22

Annual AFCA Picnic: Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 6 p.m.

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 17 (rain date May 18)

Lubber Run Amphitheater:

Summer schedule enclosed in this newsletter

Turnaround Day: Sunday, June 15

Wintergreen in Lubber Run Park



Maybe you know wintergreen as a flavor for candy and chewing gum. The flavor derives from oils taken from American wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), a small herbaceous plant native to our area. You can find a similar but unrelated plant called striped wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*) in Lubber Run Park, but it's tiny and easy to miss. It has lovely bright green pointed leaves with a white stripe down the middle. In early summer, it has a small white or pinkish five-petaled flower.

Outdoor Volunteer Opportunities

The 300-plus-volunteer Arlington Regional Master Naturalists program is a great way to learn about local environmental issues and to pitch in and help. An evening training program with weekend field trips leads to volunteer opportunities for nature walks, stream monitoring, invasive species control, and more. Find out more at armn.org/.

Kids for Hire

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

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Paul Cachion, MBA

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