

The Arlington Forester



Volume 60, Number 5

Arlington, VA

February 2019

Christian Dorsey to Address AFCA Meeting

County Board Chair Christian Dorsey is the guest speaker at the AFCA monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 20th, at 7 pm in the Barrett School Library. He will discuss issues facing Arlington and answer questions. This is your opportunity to hear from, and provide input to, the County Board's Chair.

Mr. Dorsey was elected in 2015. In addition to his County Board duties, he serves on the board of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. He and his wife live in

the Columbia Forest neighborhood and have two children in Arlington Public Schools.

Also at this month's meeting, members of AFCA's Neighborhood Conservation Plan update committee will be available to answer questions and receive comments. See the article below this one for more information.

Looking ahead, School Board Chair Reid Goldstein will speak at our March meeting. The April meeting will include a Farmer's Market update and a vote by AFCA members on the concept design for the Edison Park renovation. In May is the AFCA picnic and annual membership meeting.

Status of the Neighborhood Conservation Plan

By Hutch Brown

Want your local sidewalk repaired? A neighborhood playground renovated? A traffic or parking issue resolved?

You need to ask the County, and one way of doing so is through Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation Program. The program has given us neighborhood identification signs, traffic-calming circles in Northside, Glencarlyn Park playground improvements in Southside, invasive plant removal from Lubber Run Park, and more. Last December, the County approved funding for renovating Edison Park playground in Greenbrier.

Neighborhood conservation plan. The program also gives each neighborhood a framework for articulating its community goals in a neighborhood conservation plan. We might like things just the way they are, but conditions around us are changing. Arlington Forest last articulated a vision for the future in 1991, so we really need an update. The County will use our revised plan to align its programs and projects with our neighborhood conditions and goals.

Topics in the plan. The County guidelines call for these major topics: Land Use and Zoning; Street Conditions; Transportation/Traffic Management; Housing (including trends);

Public Facilities and Services (including schools, libraries, public safety, and other County services); Commercial/Business Areas (such as the Arlington Forest Shopping Center); Historic Preservation; and Urban Forestry (including the neighborhood parks). The guidelines also solicit information about compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

What can you do to help?

Neighborhood inputs. A small committee of neighbors (Julia Battocchi, Esther Bowring, Hutch Brown, Karen Burst, and Liz Kauffman) is working on updating the 1991 plan. Currently, we are collecting neighborhood views on Arlington

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. February 20 at Barrett School Library

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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Editor & Advertising: John Naland
703-888-0125, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

Layout & Design: Laura Smialowicz
703-528-3889, smialowicz@hotmail.com

Distribution: John Naland
703-888-0125, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

2018 - 2019 AFCA Officers

President: Allison Kennett
571-277-4441, allison.kennett@gmail.com

Vice President, Northside: Joel Yudken
703-528-8218, joel.yudken@verizon.net

Vice President, Southside: Sean Lyons
sean.mcnulty.lyons@gmail.com

Vice President, Greenbrier: Tom Smialowicz
703-528-3889, tsmialowicz@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Char Mahoney
571-241-9866, char.mahoney@verizon.net

Co-Secretary: Esther Bowring
erbowring@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lauren Mikoy
703-906-8218, LaurenDYork@gmail.com

Neighborhood Conservation Plan:
Karen Burst, 571-242-9942, burstfamily@yahoo.com
Liz Kauffman, 571-327-6497, lizkauffman@yahoo.com

Arlington Civic Federation Rep: Salvatore D'Itri

Historian: John Naland

Website: <http://www.arlingtonforestva.org>
Join AFCA listserv by e-mailing address to:
arlingtonforestva@gmail.com

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Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes articles, news notes, letters, and photos focusing on non-commercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish eight times per year (Sept to Nov and Jan to May). Deadline for submissions is the first of the month. E-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space often fills up before the deadline.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan

...continued from page 1

Forest's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (or SWOT, for short). Please send any SWOT comments you might have to Liz Kauffman at lizkauffman@yahoo.com and/or connect to this link to give us your thoughts: <http://bit.ly/>and/or connect to this link to give us your thoughts: <http://bit.ly/AFCA-SWOT-Questionnaire>.

Neighborhood survey coming up. Based on your SWOT inputs, we will formulate a survey and distribute it to every household in Arlington Forest for completion online or on paper. The survey results will give us the basis for recommending projects in our plan.

Neighborhood walkthroughs needed. County guidelines call for a list of needed repairs to sidewalks and a list of any missing streetlights. For both lists, we will need volunteers for neighborhood walkthroughs. Bob Strawn, a veteran of the 1991 plan, has already volunteered for the walkthrough for sidewalks. To volunteer for either walkthrough, please contact Liz Kauffman at lizkauffman@yahoo.com.

Writers/reviewers needed. For each topic in our revised plan, we will need a volunteer writer to describe the current situation, along with any corresponding problems and opportunities. The county guidelines can help you decide what to include, although you might need to wait for walkthrough and survey results, depending on topic. We will also need reviewers with subject matter expertise, including on the ADA. To volunteer as either a writer or a reviewer, please contact Liz Kauffman at lizkauffman@yahoo.com.

Sample text. Parts of some sections (such as Urban Forestry) have already been drafted (in which case, if you volunteer for those sections, you can review and revise). The following excerpt gives a flavor of the draft plan so far.

"In 2015, the Maryland-based Old-Growth Forest Network designated a 24-acre stand of trees in Glencarlyn Park as old growth (never been logged). The stand borders the asphalt spur trail that leads from the W&OD Trail up to 2nd Street South in Glencarlyn, in a pocket just south of Arlington Boulevard. The Glencarlyn stand is one of only two recognized old-growth forests in all of Arlington (the other is in Arlington Cemetery); it contains about 100 notable trees, some more than 2 centuries old. The county has an opportunity to protect a rare Virginia old-growth stand and to post an educational sign about it."

Next AFCA meeting. Please join us at the next meeting of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association! Members of the committee for revising the neighborhood conservation plan will be there for questions and comments.



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Something Wicked in the Land of Ahhhs

Decline in Birds linked to Non-Native Plants

By the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

Insect-eating birds that depend on the availability of high-calorie, high-protein cuisine -- namely caterpillars and spiders -- during the breeding season to feed their young are finding the menu severely lacking in backyards landscaped with even a small proportion of nonnative plants, according to a new study from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. This reduction of food availability has led to a decline in the breeding success, the study found.

"Landowners are using nonnative plants in their yards because they're pretty, easy to maintain, and tend to have fewer pests on them," said Desirée Narango, a graduate student researcher at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and first author of the study. "But it turns out that a lot of those insects that some people see as pests are actually critical food resources for our breeding birds. For landowners who want to make a difference, our study shows that a simple change they make in their yards can be profoundly helpful for bird conservation."

The study is the first to link the decline of a common resident bird species to the lack of insect prey that results from the use of nonnative plants in landscaping. Narango and colleagues placed nest boxes in more than 160 yards in the D.C. metro area and collected data from homeowners monitoring the nest boxes for Carolina chickadee nests,

eggs and nestlings. In those same yards, they also studied adult and juvenile survival by gathering data from the homeowners on individually marked birds they had resighted.

The researchers found that the only yards that produced enough chickadees to sustain a stable population were those with a plant composition made up of more than 70 percent of native plants. Because more than 90 percent of herbivorous insects will only eat one or a few native plants, the use of these plants in landscaping is essential to ensure breeding birds have enough insect prey to eat. For the same reason, native plants are also likely critical for other resident birds, endangered species, and migratory species.

"These artificial suburban landscapes are doing nothing for bird conservation," Narango said. "But by using native plants, we can provide food for not only our common North American species, but we're also providing vital stopover habitat and resources for migratory birds during their perilous journeys."

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New Advertiser: In this month's issue, we welcome new advertiser Enhanced Remodeling (see page 3). We encourage residents to turn first to our advertisers and neighborhood businesses when you need goods or services.

How's the market?

Compared to the previous December, contract activity in Arlington was up 20% in December 2018. The Amazon announcement created a perfect storm – it fueled demand precisely at a time when inventory is seasonally low. In December 2018, inventory was about 40% lower than it was in September 2018 in Arlington. As expected, inventory was already headed down before the Amazon announcement, so when contract activity increased in the last six weeks of the year in Arlington there was already less inventory to fight over. Since we were then in a time of year where few listings come on the market, buyers were grabbing whatever was there.

And that squeeze resulted in absorption rates rarely seen. In Arlington, there were only 9 townhomes on the market at the end of December and there were 28 that went under contract – the absorption rate for townhomes priced under \$1,000,000 was 100%. Detached homes and condos

under \$1,000,000 had absorption rates north of 70%! Predictions are that these meteoric rates will not to continue to rise.

So far in January and early February the inventory level of homes is lower than past years. Lower to medium priced homes up to \$800,000 are attracting multiple offers since there are more buyers in those price ranges. Over the last three months, prices are up, and competition is fierce in Arlington and the close in surrounding Northern Virginia communities. Homes in turn-key condition get the most attention and sell quickly. In reality, all homes will sell when priced properly for their location, size and condition. In early February we are seeing a few more new listings hit the market which is a good sign for buyers. With prices rising, right now is a great time to buy with mortgage rates below 4.5% for a 30-yr fixed mortgage but could start going up again anytime.

Let's talk if you are curious about how you can optimize your real estate goals!



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Around the Forest

Teen/College Student Paid Summer Internship: If you have social media skills, are interested in the arts, and want to earn money working just a few hours a week on a flexible schedule, then consider an internship with the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation (LRAF) this summer mid-June through mid-August. You will be promoting Amphitheater performances on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday mornings using Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and the Arlington Forest and Arlington Forest Families listservs, as well as monitoring and responding to social media. Duties include posting performance information during the week and then, on the weekends, attending as many performances as possible for a few minutes and posting photos and videos. Interested in learning more? Email the LRAF co-presidents at mar.lederman@gmail.com and erbowring@gmail.com. Mention your age and describe any relevant experience.

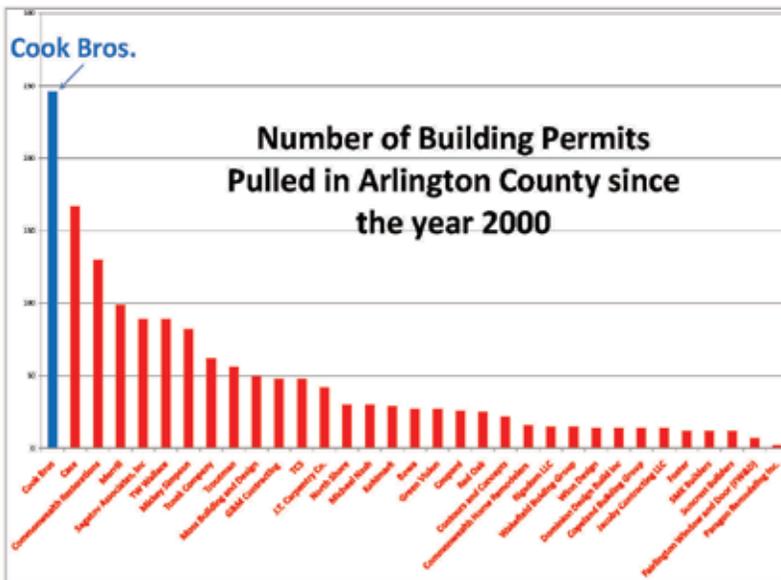
Sparrow Pond Restoration Project: The County plans to improve the pond located along Four Mile Run just south of Southside Arlington Forest. A public meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14th at 6:30 PM at Carlin Hall (5711 4th St South) to explain plans to restore the pond and seek input on the new draft design.

StormwaterWise Landscapes: The County's StormwaterWise Landscapes program provides matching grants for property owners to reduce stormwater runoff and improve drainage on their property. Approved projects include pavement removal, pervious driveways and patios, rain gardens, or conservation landscaping. Stormwater is rain that flows into a storm drain without any treatment. Stormwater runoff carries pollutants such as fertilizer, oil, bacteria, and sediment into Arlington's streams. The practices funded by the StormwaterWise program collect or slow down stormwater and help keep pollutants out of Arlington's streams. Applications for the StormwaterWise Landscapes program will be accepted through March 15th. Visit <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/stormwaterwise> to learn more about the program and to apply.

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk: Long Branch Nature Center, Wednesday, March 6th, 8:30 - 11am. Adults are invited to join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for a walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Park in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcomed. Bring binoculars if you have them. Register at 703-228-4747 or online at registration.

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Keeping the “Forest” in Arlington Forest

By John K. Naland



Trees shade 62 percent of Arlington Forest according to Arlington County’s December 2017 Urban Canopy Assessment. By comparison, the Glen Carlyn neighborhood is at 50 percent, Barcroft at 46 percent, and Bluemont at 43 percent.

Our tree canopy is down one percent from 2008. That thinning is caused by the loss of mature trees due to storms, disease, and home expansions. The County study calculates that our neighborhood’s potential maximum coverage is 76 percent.

Early spring is a great time to plant a tree. There are several programs you can turn to for assistance if you want to help keep the “forest” in Arlington Forest and beautify your property.

First, AFCA offers matching grants to neighbors who plant tree from an approved list of shade trees. Grants of up to \$125 will cover one-half of the cost of buying and planting a tree (including delivery). There is a limit of two tree grants per property. Thus, for example, a resident who planted one tree costing \$300 and a second that cost \$200 would receive a grant of \$125 for the first tree and \$100 for the second.

All you must do to qualify is be current on your 2018-19

AFCA dues and agree to plant a tree from the approved list. The application must be approved before the purchase. For details and the application form, go to www.arlingtonforestva.org and click on the AFCA tab.

Second, Arlington County’s Tree Canopy Fund provides grants to plant trees on private property. This program provides trees with diameters of about two inches that will grow to large canopy trees. Grant requests were due on January 7 for Spring grants, but a second round of grants will be available in the Fall. For more info, see www.ecoactionarlington.org.

Third, each October, the County offers 2 to 4-foot-tall tree “whips” planted in two-gallon containers that you can pick up from several locations including the Bon Aire Memorial Rose Garden. For more info, search “Tree Distribution Program” on the County website.

Finally, if you have at least a four-foot strip of grass between the curb and sidewalk, you can ask the County to plant a tree there. The County will also consider requests to plant trees in parks and other public property. For more info, search “Tree Planting Program” on the County website.

**The next AFCA Meeting is
Wednesday, February 20th**

Your Arlington Forest Representative for selling or buying a home!

- I have been a full time agent listing and selling real estate in the Washington Metropolitan area since 1986. I have a proven track record and hold myself to the highest standards of professionalism. It is based on integrity, loyalty and dedication for all of my clients.
- As a native Washingtonian and growing up in Adams Morgan I have an incredible knowledge about real estate in Washington DC. I attended Oyster Elementary, The Field School and West Virginia University. I received a degree in Interior Design which allows me to help my clients visualize and layout space.
- Have you heard of Habitat for Humanity? Well I have a partnership with them to help low to moderate income families in Washington DC find decent and affordable housing. I have been instrumental in finding suitable site throughout the District of Columbia to build safe and affordable housing. If you want more information on how to be a part of this great organization please feel free to call me and I will connect you with the appropriate people.
- Most of my business is based on referrals driven by clients who have had a pleasant buying or selling experience with me as their agent. I am dedicated and committed to providing quality service with the highest level of professionalism. I am willing to go the extra mile when it comes to serving my clients. My clients have benefited greatly over the years due to my knowledge and expert negotiating skills. You can be assured that you will get the very best representation possible when you decide to work with my team.
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Forest Exchange

Sustainable Landscaping: Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia are presenting a program on how to select native plants that will thrive on your yard's conditions. Learn how to select appropriate plants for your site, what is meant by a native plant, and some best management practices for installation and maintenance of your planting bed designs. Wednesday, February 20th, 7:00pm, Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 South Walter Reed Drive. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.



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Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, February 20th at 7 PM, Barrett Elementary School.

E-CARE: Mid-April. Semi-annual recycling event.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 27th. Help beautify our neighborhood parks.

QuarterFest (formerly Taste of Arlington): May 18th-19th near Ballston Quarter mall.

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 18th. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

Lubber Run Amphitheater: Live entertainment under the stars resumes in June.

Arlington County Fair: August 14th to 18th. Rides, food, displays, and racing pigs.

Future AFCA Meetings:

February 20th: County Board Member

March 20th: School Board Chair Reid Goldstein

April 24th: Farmers Market Update and AFCA Vote on Edison Park Project

May 15th: Picnic and Annual Membership Meeting



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Barcroft School News

It has been an interesting start to 2019 with the weather closings, delays and early releases. Despite the schedule challenges, we have fit in math and writing workshops, field trips to the Planetarium, music concerts, and student led parent teacher conferences.

Student led conferences are new for Barcroft this year and were a great way to hear from our children about their goals, assessment of progress and areas of growth – all matched with data from the teacher assessments. An additional new way to follow in class activities this year are weekly learning logs. These learning logs provide updates for each grade around learning plans and activities in key subject areas. Parents – please make sure to click on the Barcroft News and Learning Logs that are sent out each Friday.

We are looking forward to our Friendship Party on February 15th at 6:30 pm to enjoy some fun, music and dancing with our Barcroft Friends. Upcoming activities for your calendars include STEAM night on March 14th and Family Fitness night on April 25th.



PHOTO: Barcroft School Resource Officer Detective Gammell speaks to Barcroft’s PTA and Biba Chat.

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Annual Four Mile Run Stream Cleanup: Arlington County Park Rangers are calling on volunteers to help clean Four Mile Run at Glencarlyn and Barcroft Parks on Saturday March 9th 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Volunteers should wear waterproof boots and bring gloves. Bags will be provided. Ages 8 and up. Questions? Call 703-525-0168 or search “stream cleanup” on the County website.



Electronic versions of this newsletter are available:
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Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest

Barrett School News

January presented some weather-related challenges with closures and delays, but the KW Barrett community managed to squeeze in plenty of activities!

Members of the Barrett Student Council Association (SCA) took a special field trip to the Ed Games Expo at the Kennedy Center. As the U.S. Department of Education explains, "Game-based learning is gaining popularity in education as more young people and adults learn from games both in and out of the classroom. Well-designed games motivate students to actively engage in content that relates to coursework and master challenging tasks designed to sharpen critical thinking, problem solving, employment and life skills." The Expo promotes game-based learning for students of all ages, with topics such as STEM, reading, and social studies. The trip was a hit.

While students were learning outside of school, teachers were teaching outside of school. Barrett teachers Jessica Idol and Karli Boothe presented at the Virginia ESL Supervisors' Association Annual Conference, held in Portsmouth January 31st-February 1st. This annual conference provides K-12 Virginia educators and administrators of English learners opportunities for professional development, learning new ideas, networking, and program planning.

Ms. Idol and Ms. Boothe discussed classroom structures and routines to support effective co-teaching. Barrett's big annual fundraiser, the Read-A-Thon, is coming in early March, and STEAM Night is March 21st.

Appropriate for the cold weather, Barrett parent and ultra-marathoner Michael Wardian took #KWBpride to Antarctica as part of the World Marathon Challenge (pictured).

Join the Barrett PTA at <http://barrett.my-pta.org/>. For up-to-date information on Barrett events, follow the PTA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/barrettpta and Twitter @BPTAE in English and @BPTASP in Spanish. You can also find Principal Redding and numerous staff members on their own Twitter accounts. Search "#kwbpride" to see all that's happening in our school community.



Paul Cachion, MBA

571-216-6802

CachionHomes@gmail.com

You've Got Questions; I've Got Answers

I am proud to say that our firm, Long & Foster, has just been named the #1 residential real estate company in the Washington, DC region by the Washington Business Journal. And I was voted the Best Residential Realtor by the readers of the Sun Gazette a couple years back, and have been a top vote-getter ever since (our girls would say, "weird flex, dad, but OK"). Bottom-line: you've got a great resource here in the Forest for any real estate questions.

Whether it's "what does the build out of National Landing mean for our home values?," or "what return on investment will I see for a two-story addition?" or "what did that house on Aberdeen go for?" – no question is too big or too small.

I truly enjoy talking real estate, so feel free to pick up the phone and call anytime, or just stop me on the street.



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Kids for Hire

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

Southside:

- Colin Mashkuri: math tutoring, plant watering, dog walking, cjmashkuri@gmail.com, 703-302-5599
- Ethan O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, yard work, 571-699-5079
- Andrew Rogers: yard work, dog walking, pet sitting, andrewmcyt@gmail.com, 703-892-0226
- Caroline Rogers: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, carolinearogers@verizon.net, 703-892-0226

Greenbrier Section:

- CeCe Collinson: babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, mail collection, 703-528-3595
- Donna Corina: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, 703-248-8885
- Atalie Dempsey: dog walking, pet sitting, babysitting, plant watering, mail collection, atalie.dempsey@gmail.com, call/text 571-317-9216
- Evan Dempsey: mail collection, leaf raking, snow shoveling, babysitting, pet walking, pet sitting, plant watering, Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com, call/text 703-559-9690
- Shae Dempsey: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, mail collection, snow shoveling, leaf raking, Shaelyn.dempsey@gmail.com, 703-350-7650
- Ellis Early: dog walking, pet sitting, 202-339-1414
- Jack Holt: babysitting (RC certified), yard work, snow shoveling, leaf raking, watering plants, tutoring, jackloginname@gmail.com, call or text 703-470-8040
- Anthony Lawson: yard work, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Charlotte Lawson: leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Reid Messman: pet sitting, dog walking (references), 703-469-1988
- Shea Messman: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-469-1988
- Alexandra Orli: babysitting (references), mother's helper, pet sitting, watering plants, call 703-528-5618
- Carsten Schoer: snow shoveling, leaf raking, carstenschoer@gmail.com, call/text 703-209-0905
- Leah Shvedova: babysitting (references), tutoring, pet sitting, watering plants, 571-426-6818
- Ava Smialowicz: babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com, text 703-424-0895
- Ben Sparks: pet feeding, dog walking, benchispas@gmail.com
- Emma Weaver: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-875-8185

Northside:

- Daniel Brancati: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, daniel@bmb.org, 571-279-2710
- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting (ages 4-12), yard work, riittishachoudhary@gmail.com
- Ely Constantine: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, lawn mowing, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Tyler Dinan: babysitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, chrisbettdinan@aol.com, 703-525-5763
- Alex Eng: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dcharveydc@yahoo.com, 703-861-1890
- Evan Eng: pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dcharveydc@yahoo.com, 703-861-1890
- Jeremy Fagen: pet sitting (any animal), dog walking, plant watering, jdoxen11001@gmail.com, 703-200-2396
- Leina Gabra: babysitting (ages 4-12), house sitting, leinagabra@gmail.com, 703-973-8914
- Ethan Nissenson: lawn mowing, leaf raking, snow shoveling, Enissenson@verizon.net, 703-201-0523
- Sophie Stewart: mother's helper, pet sitting, sophiestewart4@gmail.com, 703-402-5494

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