



Volume 61, Number 5

Arlington, VA

February 2020

Pedestrian Safety on Carlin Springs Road

The focus of the February AFCA meeting will be safety improvements planned by the County for North Carlin Springs Road, specifically at the North Edison Street intersection.

The meeting is on Wednesday, February 19th, at 7 PM in the Barrett Elementary School library. Arlington County Capital Project Manager Rene Harris will update residents on the project and answer questions. Information on the project can be viewed on the County website by searching "N. Carlin Springs Road Safety Improvements."

Also at this month's meeting, AFCA officers will update residents on meetings held with several County Board members in Lubber Run Park in early February to urge them to replace the bridges and repair the trails that were swept away during the July 8th flood.

Looking ahead, later this month AFCA will open an online

survey of resident views on key issues facing our neighborhood. The survey results will guide the drafting of an updated Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan (see details below). Also, planning continues for the AFCA Home and Garden Tour set for May 2nd. If you think that your home or garden would make a good addition to the tour, please contact one of the organizers (see page 4 for details).

The results are in from our fall dues drive that requested \$10 from each household to support AFCA's activities which enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood. A total of 327 of the 851 households in Arlington Forest (38 percent) paid their 2019-2020 dues compared to 326 last year. Participation rates are Greenbrier Section-42%, Northside-36%, and Southside-33%.

Neighborhood Conservation Survey

Change is afoot in Arlington County: aging infrastructure, population growth, crowded schools, traffic congestion, zoning issues, strains on neighborhood streams and parks, and more. How do you think Arlington Forest should respond? Make your voice heard by completing the Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Survey. Take a few minutes to weigh in on issues that will affect our neighborhood for years to come.

Survey questions are being finalized as this newsletter goes to print. By the end of this month, a link to the online survey will be posted on the AFCA website (www.arlingtonforestva.org) and an announcement will be sent out via the AFCA listserv. Residents will also have the option of requesting a paper version to complete and return. A reminder notice will be included in next month's newsletter.

Be part of the change! Your responses will be tallied

with hundreds of others, and they will go into our collective recommendations for County action in our revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

Our current 1991 Neighborhood Conservation Plan is posted on the AFCA website under the Neighborhood tab.

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. February 19 at Barrett School Library

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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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.

Biophilic Cities: A Healthy and Sustainable Approach to Urban Life

By David Howell

One of the most important initiatives for urban areas in this century is the emerging Biophilic Cities movement. Biophilia is the science-based understanding of the importance of nature for our health, our happiness, and even our economic and environmental sustainability. This concept has become established in fields from medicine to psychology to child development -- and it is now becoming a central principle in urban planning and design.

The presence of nature in daily life is not a luxury; it is a necessity for well-being. Nature promotes physical and emotional health and soothes and protects us from some of the negative impacts of modern urban life. The reality and recognition of that value carries over to everything from the workplace and schoolroom to property values, retail sales, community identity, and environmental stewardship.

The core benefits that come from everyday experience with nature stem from the genetic evolution of humans in nature, and the continued responses we have through our senses to the myriad stimuli of natural sights, sounds, smells, and tactile sensations. These translate into physical, mental, and emotional responses that help restore, refresh, ease anxiety, bring focus, and just make us feel good.

For centuries, poets, philosophers, and others have espoused the importance and benefits of nature. More recently, we are learning why and how this is true. Our science is catching up with our human instincts. We are also now realizing that many urban residents -- children, adults, employees, and retirees -- do not have nature in their daily lives. This deficiency impacts on all aspects of urban life.

Biophilic planning, policies and practices are increasingly being embraced by urban jurisdictions for the benefit of their residents, their local economy and environment, and their reputation as attractive and healthy places to live and work. Cities including Austin, Portland, Milwaukee, Phoenix, St Louis, Norfolk, Pittsburgh, and DC, already have added to their development and environmental policies a commitment to incorporate and promote natural spaces and features as a priority.

Arlington is currently preparing for a similar commitment, as stated in the Biophilic City Resolution, adopted by the County Board last December. As our County grows increasingly dense and more developed, the biophilic cities initiative is an important opportunity to preserve and enhance the natural characteristics of our urban habitat for the benefit of all residents.

Why Songbirds Matter

By Liz Kauffman

On a fragrant spring morning, returning thrushes, warblers, and mockingbirds can make Arlington Forest sound more like an Amazon rainforest. Flashy golds and reds and racing stripes glow in the sun as the birds go about their business of building nests. I love their performances.

But birds offer more than song and dance. They pollinate oaks as well as nut and fruit trees and plant new trees in our forests. By feeding on wood-boring beetles, leaf-sucking caterpillars, and root-gobbling grubs, they help our forests, gardens, and lawns stay healthy. And dining on mosquito larvae keeps the mosquito bite rate down--oh-so thoughtful, our avian friends!

Science magazine last October published a study on the threat to bird populations. Numbers in the United States and Canada have fallen by 29 percent since 1970 alone. That's 2.9 billion fewer birds than there were 50 years ago. And it's not just rare bird populations collapsing, it's black-bird and sparrow populations, too.

Nesting birds invest time and energy gathering food for their hungry broods, one parent protecting them while the other finds the next meal. Last year, we enjoyed a Carolina

wren couple's growing family, chirping and guzzling as they prepared for their first flight, until a neighbor's roaming cat killed the mother wren. Without mom, the four chicks died, a generation erased.



Mama Carolina Wren

What can we do? Keep cats indoors, at least in spring. If you must let them out, fence your yard. Let our farm and forest ecology partners reproduce. Thanks!



Demise of Wren family

Arlington Forest History

If you moved to Arlington Forest within the last few years and plan to stay awhile, you might want to grab one of the last available copies of the Arlington Forest history book that was published in 2015 to mark our neighborhood's 75th anniversary.

Did you know that George Washington surveyed the western boundary of what is now Southside Arlington Forest; that slaves toiled on land in what is now the Greenbrier Section; and that the U.S. Senator who authored the Thirteenth Amendment (abolition of slavery) later owned much of what is now the Northside Section?

Read about Foresters beating pots and pans from open windows on the day that Imperial Japan surrendered. Read how current Foresters joined together to save the Lubber Run Amphitheater and to rid Lubber Run Park of invasive plants. See a year-by-year listing of events in our neighborhood from 1939 to 2015. Read articles on Arlington Forest's architecture, landmarks, and geology.

The 150-page book contains maps, vintage photographs, reminiscences by early Foresters, and much more. A PDF version is posted on the AFCA website (www.arlingtonforestva.org) under the Neighborhood tab.

Five copies of the book remain. You can order one for home delivery by sending a check for \$20 made out to "AFCA" to John Naland, 100 N. Granada St, Arlington VA 22203.

Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation Seeks Social Media Manager for a Paid Position

If you have social media skills, are interested in the arts, and want to earn \$500 working just a few hours a week mid-May through mid-September on a flexible schedule, then consider becoming the social media manager for the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation (LRAF).

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. Let us know about your relevant experience.

Home Tour Planning in Full Swing

By Tricia Freeman

"Arlington Forest: \$5990. Detached homes with six spacious rooms. Just 10 minutes easy drive from Lincoln Memorial. \$590 cash/\$39 a month. FHA financing available."

After receiving the recent 2020 Arlington County real estate tax assessments, it's clear that much has changed in our neighborhood since that display ad appeared in the February 8, 1941 Evening Star. The location, however, is still "superb" and the houses have been well-loved homes to a succession of occupants who have painted, decorated, landscaped and expanded them to make them as sought after today as they were then.

The AFCA Home and Garden Tour, set for Saturday, May 2nd, from 12 to 4 p.m., celebrates that commitment to our homes and community. This popular event, which occurs every three years, gives Arlington Foresters the chance to share their creativity and vision with neighbors who are anxious to see what all the hammering and sawing has yielded.

At a meeting in early February, Home Tour committee members started to pull together a list of potential properties. During February and March, they scour the three sections of Arlington Forest to find the right mix of houses to feature on the tour, looking for homes with additions large

and small, as well as kitchen, bath or basement renovations.

Every member of the committee loves cruising around the neighborhood and won't be shy about knocking on your door in hopes of landing a house for the tour, but we need the help of the entire Arlington Forest neighborhood. If you've finished a project in the last few years that you would like to share, or if you've walked by a house you'd love to visit, perhaps to inspire a project of your own, please contact us. We hope to have up to 14 homes on the tour. Since early May should be lovely, your outdoor spaces with gardens, decks, ponds, and porches will inspire us.

Please contact any of the committee members if you want to nominate a property (we are particularly interested in more Southside Arlington Forest homes): Katherine Roberts (kenkatroberts@verizon.net), Gloria Mog (gloriamog@verizon.net), Tricia Freeman (triafree@gmail.com), Erica Canfield (ericafcanfield@gmail.com), Jennifer Messman (jwmessman@hotmail.com), Lindsay Stevenson (lindsay.g.stevenson@gmail.com), Marta Layseca (marta@envirohomedesign.com), Marsha Lederman (mar.lederman@gmail.com), Barbara Englehart (barbara.englehart@gmail.com), Cheryl Roesel (croesel@verizon.net), Heather Weir (heather.weir@gmail.com).

The Spring Market has arrived!

Momentum from the 2019 real estate market has continued into the new year. We are in the 8th year of a real estate bull market, and the conditions have been much more favorable to the seller. There has been a shortage of housing inventory nationally and locally. In 2019, the supply of property in Arlington & Alexandria was down 50% compared to a historic 5-year average. Single family homes in Alexandria & Fairfax appreciated 9.6% & 10.5% over a 5-year period while Arlington homeowners realized a 22% growth rate. Another factor in the current and recent market was the announcement in 11/18 of Amazon's HQ2 move to Crystal City. In an already hot market, Arlington became a focal point for speculators, home buyers and investors. The hype is more psychological than actual. Amazon hired 400 workers last year and is scheduled to bring on 600 to 800 employees in 2020.

Here is an example of what is happening in the current real estate market. After a 2-week coming soon marketing period starting in mid-January we activated 244 N. Columbus Street on 1/29. After one week of aggressive marketing we received 12 offers on the day of our contract deadline, resulting in an astounding sales price, far above the asking price.

With current mortgage rates at 3.5%, homebuyers are coming out in droves, seeking homes to buy to take advantage of existing conditions with very few properties to choose from.

Have you had thoughts of selling? The next few months will present a huge opportunity with the current environment and trends. Contact me for a confidential discussion about your situation and we can customize a plan for you. *Who you hire matters - put my 35 years of local market expertise to work for you!*



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Around the Forest

Lubber Run Bridge: The pedestrian bridge over Lubber Run nearest to Lubber Run Community Center has been barricaded for two years due to structural deterioration. A replacement bridge is currently being fabricated and is anticipated to be delivered to the site in March. It will be set on new concrete piers placed behind the existing rock piers to minimize stream disturbance. Completion of the project is anticipated for late spring 2020. For more information, search "Lubber Run Park Bridge Replacement" on the County website. The County is also currently milling and repaving a section of the paved trail near the amphitheater.

Edison Park Renovation: The County Board is scheduled to vote on awarding the construction project on February 22nd. If approved, construction would likely begin by summer and be completed by the end of this year. For more information, search "Edison Park Neighborhood Conservation Project" on the County website.

Lubber Run Community Center: The County reports that construction of the new community center is on schedule and is expected to be finished this fall. For more information, search "Lubber Run Community Center Project" on the County website.

Wanted: Treasurer: AFCA is looking for a volunteer to serve as the association's treasurer as long-time treasurer Lauren Mikoy is stepping down. Duties include tracking the AFCA budget, depositing dues and advertiser checks, and paying bills such as from the newsletter printer. The position is busiest in the fall when dues payments roll in, but less busy during the rest of the year. Bookkeeping or accounting experience is desired. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the treasurer or AFCA president (contact info is on page 2).

St. John's Mardi Gras Pancake Supper: St. John's Episcopal Church is hosting a family-oriented Mardi Gras Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 25th from 6-7:30 pm. The traditional meal will include delicious pancakes, sausage or ham, and apple sauce with an array of non-alcoholic beverages. They will have music and provide Mardi Gras beads for the kids. Prices are only \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12, and free for children under 6. St John's is located at 415 S. Lexington St. in the Glencarlyn neighborhood. Use the 5th Street entrance.

New Advertiser: Welcome to new advertiser Tracy Taylor (see below). We encourage residents to turn first to our advertisers and neighborhood businesses when you need goods or services.



Tracy C Taylor, Author

W-L High School Graduate
George Mason University Graduate
DeVry University Graduate
United States Army Veteran
Writer of Adventure Books, Children's Books, Christian Books, Dental Fiction, Poetry, and Young Adult Fiction
Longtime resident of Arlington



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Wondering Ardor
Parody of Parables
Something Wicked in the Land of Ahhhs
Good Habits to Have (Financial Help Book)

By John Naland

-- *Dogs*: Dogs may not run off leash in public except at designated dog parks. Owners must clean-up after their pets.

-- **Wildlife:** The Animal Welfare League of Arlington will respond to calls about injured animals (taking them for rehabilitation or euthanasia), stray pets, or removing dead wildlife. They do not capture healthy wildlife such as foxes, opossums, raccoons, rabbits, or snakes.

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Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, February 19th, 7 PM, at
Barrett Elementary School Library.

Presidential Primary Election: March 3rd.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 25th. Help
beautify our neighborhood parks.

Home and Garden Tour: Saturday, May 2nd.

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 16th. Turn unwanted stuff
into cash.

County Board Primary Election: June 9th.

Lubber Run Amphitheater: Mid-June. Live entertainment
under the stars.

Arlington County Fair: August 12th - 16th. Rides, food and
displays.

Future AFCA Meetings:

March 18th: Farmers Market Update and Preview

April 15th: Lubber Run Community Center Update

May 20th: Picnic and Annual Membership Meeting

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Barcroft School News

We have a bonus day this leap year and we have the perfect way for you to enjoy that extra time. Join us for the Barcroft Snowball Stride 5K – special Leap Day edition! Starting at Barcroft Elementary School and run mostly on the flat and fast W&OD trail, this is a great way to enjoy a run or walk with family, friends and neighbors. All proceeds benefit the Barcroft PTA to support student enrichment activities and staff mini grants. Register now at www.dccoadrunners.org/sign-up/barcroft-5k. We look forward to seeing you on February 29th at 9 am!

Barcroft Elementary School will be hosting two upcoming tours for families of rising Kindergartners. You are welcome to visit the school on the following dates: Thursday, February 13th, 9:15-10:45 am; and Tuesday, March 10th, 12:45-2:15 pm.

If you have questions, you can contact the school at 703-228-5838. Our principal, Judy Apostolico-Buck (did you know she is Arlington Public Schools' 2019 Principal of the Year?), is happy to talk with prospective families. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about all the exciting things happening at Barcroft!

Thank you to AFCA for their ongoing support and financial contribution to Barcroft PTA. We appreciate your support!

Be Counted: Census 2020 Starts in March

The U.S. Constitution directs the federal government to conduct a national census every ten years. The results determine the number of Representatives each state has in Congress. The results also tell the government how to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to communities like Arlington. That money supports schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.

In 2020, you will have the options of completing the Census form online, on paper, or by phone. Expect an invitation by April 1st from the U.S. Census Bureau to fill out your survey, listing everyone physically present in your household. You can learn more on the official 2020 Census site at www.census.gov and on Arlington County's 2020 Census page.

PS: Unlike the Neighborhood Conservation Survey team, the Census folks will track you down if you don't complete your form by the deadline.

Save the Date:
*The next AFCA Meeting is
February 19th, 7 pm at Barrett*



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I'm here and ready to assist you in any way. Demand remains high among buyers and interest rates are still low, causing many buyers to make their home purchase as soon as homes come on the market. There have been multiple offers on many homes lately.

Get started with me! Every advantage is yours when you do business with Long & Foster.

Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest

Barrett School News

The Barrett PTA Special Committee continued our engagement with Arlington Public Schools as it proceeds with the Elementary School Planning/Boundary Process, which will impact the elementary school boundaries of the entire school district.

Arlington County School Board Chair Tannia Talento attended our January PTA meeting to provide guidance on how to continue to best advocate for our school community. After the APS school board voted on February 6th to adopt the Superintendent's recommended Proposal #1 to move choice schools to new locations, Ms. Talento returned to Barrett the next morning to discuss the issue at our Friday Volunteers meeting to address the concerns of many of our Spanish-speaking parents (see picture).

APS will now move forward with the next three phases that will involve developing new boundaries for many elementary schools. Because Barrett is a part of the boundary change discussion, Barrett PTA will continue to engage APS and inform our community as the process transpires (please contact Andrea Shaw, andreavshaw@gmail.com, to stay engaged and get involved).

Save the date of Saturday, April 25th! We are only two months away from our biennial Auction – the biggest fundraiser to support the Barrett PTA. This year, the Auction will be held at the Continental Pool Lounge in Rosslyn,

which has interior design elements inspired by nightclubs from the 50's through the 80's! To celebrate more than 80 years of Barrett serving our community, we will have a 1980's auction theme! In addition to attending, please consider contributing auction items or experiences – two years ago, we had a lot of success (and fun) with Arlington Forest hosting bourbon-tasting events, movie nights, and a backyard concert.

Finally, congratulations to Barrett's (and Arlington Forest's) very own 4th grader, Oliver Jacobs, who was among the nine finalists in NASA's "Name the Rover" essay contest. Oliver's submission of Endurance was chosen as a finalist among more than 28,000 submissions! NASA will announce the winner in March. The contest winner will be flown to Cape Canaveral, Florida, to watch the launch of the rover. Go Oliver and Endurance!



Paul Cachion, MBA

571-216-6802

CachionHomes@gmail.com



Amazon HQ2 Bubble?

When I walk through the neighborhood, and see friends and neighbors at get-togethers, I get asked this question all the time – "How much has Amazon affected Arlington prices?" While there have been no shortage of articles and press with wild, speculative claims (some stating prices have gone up by as much as 30%), here are the facts:

In Arlington in 2018, the median home price was \$890,000, and went to \$953,200 in 2019, an increase of 7.1%. For condos, the median price in the same time period went from \$399,000 to \$423,900, an increase of 6.2%. While these are stronger than typical annual increases, they largely reflect low housing inventory (supply), and to a lesser extent the Amazon effect. Bottom-line, however, most industry experts agree there is no bubble.



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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, 703-302-559
- 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:

- 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
- Anna D'Itri: dog walking, pet sitting, mother's helper, mail collection, watering plants, 703-346-3467
- Gabriel D'Itri: snow shoveling, lawn mowing, leaf raking, 703-346-3467
- Ellis Early: dog walking, pet sitting, 202-339-1414
- 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, carsten-schoer@gmail.com, call/text 703-209-0905
- 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,

Northside:

- Daniel Brancati: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, Daniel@bmbs.org, 571-279-2710


- Niittisha Choudhary: babysitting, water plants, tutor (elementary to seventh), dog walking, Niittisha@gmail.com, 703-981-1229
- 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
- Casey Dinan: babysitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, chrisbettdinan@aol.com, 703-525-5763
- 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: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, plant care, sophiestewart4@gmail.com, 703-713-5902



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