

The Arlington Forester



Volume 60, Number 4

Arlington, VA

January 2019

Update on on Lubber Run Amphitheater

An update on plans for the Summer 2019 season at the Lubber Run Amphitheater tops the agenda of the AFCA monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 16th, at 7 pm in the Barrett School Library. Josh Stoltzfus, deputy director for Arlington Cultural Affairs/Arlington Arts, and representatives of the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation will make presentations and answer questions. See the article below for details.

Looking ahead, County Board Chair Christian Dorsey will speak at the February AFCA meeting and School Board Chair

Reid Goldstein at the March meeting. The April meeting will include a Farmers Market update and May is the picnic and annual membership meeting.

Finally, the results are in from our fall dues drive that requested \$10 from each household to support AFCA's activities. A total of 326 of the 851 households in Arlington Forest (38 percent) paid their 2018-2019 dues. Some 88 residents took advantage of the online payment option which was first offered in fall 2017.

Culture and Community Under the Stars

By Chris Scheer

Arlington's "Hidden Gem", the "Jewel in the Forest" – call it what you will, the Lubber Run Amphitheater has been an integral part of the Arlington Forest neighborhood since opening day on July 19, 1969 and continues to be a focal point for culture and community.

Judging from last year's robust attendance and Arlington County's continuing support of free summer programming at this unique open-air venue, interest in the amphitheater by both audience and performers is growing. Arlington Foresters will hear about County plans for the amphitheater at AFCA's January 16th meeting.

Guest speaker Josh Stoltzfus, deputy director for Arlington Cultural Affairs/Arlington Arts in the Department of Economic Development, will discuss the role of arts and culture in Arlington's economic development and focus on how the Lubber Run Amphitheater fits in.

Stoltzfus is responsible for selecting performers for the amphitheater and will discuss the booking process. He has expanded the variety of programming during the past few years and will outline County objectives regarding attendance as well as operational limitations.

Board members of the Lubber Run Amphitheater Founda-

tion will discuss the role of this grass-roots, tax-exempt organization founded by Arlington Foresters a few years ago to promote restoration of the amphitheater to a full schedule of free summer performances. The foundation advocates for County and resident support for the amphitheater, funds performances aimed at families and children and provides information about the amphitheater to the public.

The foundation accepts tax-free donations throughout the year. Donations can be made on the foundation's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Lubberrunamphitheater. Just click on the blue "donate" rectangle at top right of page. Foresters can keep up with amphitheater news on Facebook and find a complete schedule with descriptions of the programs at <https://arts.arlingtonva.us/lubber-run/>.

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. January 16 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.

County Projects Update

Lubber Run Community Center: The final walls of the 1956 Lubber Run Community Center were taken down on December 1st (see photo). The next steps are excavation for the foundation and the pouring of concrete. Construction of the \$48 million new community center will continue through 2019 and conclude in 2020. For more info, search "Lubber Run Community Center Project" on the County website.



Edison Park: The County Board in November approved proceeding with the \$1.08 million Edison Park Project funded by Arlington Forest's Neighborhood Conservation Program. Existing play areas will be renovated: a play area for children ages two-to-five, another for ages five-to-twelve, and an area with swings. New furnishings, fencing, and a gate separating the playgrounds from the street will be installed, along with ramps, railings, and walls to improve accessibility from the street and to the park trail. Native plants will be added, and storm-water management improved.

The next step is the Edison Park Design Working Group Meeting on Wednesday, February 13th, at 7:00 pm in the Barrett Elementary School Library. Residents are invited to attend to review the County's concept plans and provide input. The final concept design is scheduled to be voted on by Arlington Forest residents at the AFCA monthly meeting on April 24th. For more info, search "Edison Park Project" on the County website.

The original tot-lot playground was built in the late 1970s after years of advocacy by neighbor Mary Alice Glover. Previously, the site was a parking lot.

Carlin Springs Bridge: Construction continues on the \$7 million new bridge and its approaches. The project is expected to conclude this spring. For more info, search "Carlin Springs Bridge" on the County website.

AFCA Holiday Party

A neighborhood tradition as old as Arlington Forest found a new home December 7th at Barrett Elementary School as Santa greeted scores of Foresters from a blaring, flashing Arlington fire truck at the Arlington Forest Holiday Party.



Santa was mobbed as he got off the truck and made his way into the school's all-purpose room where he was greeted by more excited kids and camera-toting parents. Santa took his throne and heard each child's holiday hopes and wishes while kids and grownups visited tables laden with holiday treats.

Festive holiday music was provided

by Holiday Party veterans Chris Bosch (bass) and Ken Schellenberg (keyboard). Barrett Elementary School Girl Scout Juniors led by Lauren Kent helped Santa with the kids and sang Christmas songs. Ann Barbour and her mother Jocelyn ran the craft table which sent many children home with their personal tree ornaments. Jocelyn remembered taking Ann to see Santa at Forest holiday parties held long ago in the "Holly Circle" across from the shopping center.

Special thanks to Fire Station 2 night crew chief Kevin Pachas and Forester Mark Riley who made sure Santa arrived on time; and to Barrett Elementary School staff, especially the janitors. Thank you to Donna and Richard Simpson for helping prepare the goody bags for the children. Finally, thanks to Santa's special helpers Bob and Mary Strawn, Allison Kennett, and John Naland. As he has for more than two decades, Chris Scheer organized the party.



Save the Date:
Community
Yard Sale on
May 18th

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Oh What Fun! AFCA Holiday Party

FRIDAY
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Home Renovations and Return on Investment

When upgrading your home, you can focus on maximizing resale value or personal preference. Getting value out of a remodel project isn't always about price and resale. You can purchase a reasonably priced brand names at Lowes or Home Depot or make a personal choice for a higher end appliance, which might not recoup as much of the cost upon resale. To help you prioritize, think about how long you'll live in the home after the renovation. If it's less than 5 years, resale should be a higher priority. If you'll be there for 12+ years, personalization can make more sense.

Remodeling.com conducts annual studies on resale values of various renovation projects, with findings that show returns of 50-80% of their value upon resale (contrary to what HGTV might suggest). According to the Remodeling 2018 Cost vs. Value Report (www.costvsvalue.com), a high performer in the DC area is a wood deck addition, a 99.5% return on an \$11,254 investment, where a composite deck yields 75% with a cost of \$18,266.

Another popular project is the minor kitchen remodel at 86% return (I have obtained much higher numbers in some cases) on a cost of \$22,180 vs. a \$64,514 major kitchen remodel with a 64% gain. Remodeling strictly for resale focuses on congruency along with timing and your budget. Part of my consultation with any prospective seller is to discuss goals and timelines with the right upgrades. One of our clients recently earned \$40,000 more on their home sale thanks to the right renovations. They wanted to know whether to sell "as-is" or put money into improvements. We recommended minor updates and turned a \$15,000 investment into a \$40K profit.

Do you have questions about remodeling for the long term or short term? I would be glad to share some proven strategies and show you how to maximize your bottom line to get your home sold for top dollar in the shortest amount of time on the market.

Call or email me with questions and we can confidentially discuss solutions for your situation. Happy New Year!



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The Empty Nest

By John K. Naland

When our family moved to Arlington Forest 20 years ago, we were a young couple with two preschoolers. Today, our daughters are far away at college, leaving my wife and me as empty nesters. That changed last April 14th when I looked in our back yard and saw two barred owls perched in our holly tree.

Day after day, those two large owls sat there during the daytime. They flew off in the evening, presumably to hunt for food. Although it was nesting season, they sat side-by-side on the tree branch all day long; with neither of them departing to visit or sit on a nest.

I was perplexed by this behavior until a neighbor said that an early-April wind storm had knocked down a large tree containing an owl nest near the Glencarlyn Dog Park. I presume that our owls were a mating couple occupying that nest, along with their eggs or hatchlings which did not survive the tree's fall. The two owls then sought refuge in our holly tree which, unlike many other trees in early spring, has spikey evergreen leaves that offer protection from blue jays and other birds that do not welcome the arrival of large predator birds.

For over a week, the two owls sat side-by-side inches apart. Then, having perhaps come to terms with the fact that they had no hatchlings to care for, they sat apart on

different branches. They were quite difficult to see through the leafy branches, but I became adept at spotting their football-shaped and sized silhouettes.

Finally, about a month after they arrived, our two owls did not return one morning after their night out. While



the squirrels and chipmunks that quickly returned to our back yard after a month's absence were likely happy that the owls had moved on, my wife and I missed seeing them each day. Now again, like those owls, we were empty nesters.

THE NEXT AFCA MEETING IS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16TH

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.
- AND my family and I have been **Arlington Forester's** since 2000. We are committed to our community and you!



Samuel Davis
Associate Broker
Long and Foster
Cellular: (202) 256-7039
E-mail: Samuel@LNF.com

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Home of the Month!

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Forest Exchange

Found - Keys: A set of keys was found in early December in Lubber Run Park on the trail on the other side of the stream behind the amphitheater. One looks like a house key and the other two have colored plastic covers of blue and orange. If those keys are yours, contact annenichols413@comcast.net.

Kids for Hire: Need reasonably-priced help with babysitting, yard work, pet sitting, or other tasks? Check out Kids for Hire on page 10.

Put Your Free Notice Here: Send it to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.



Repair Posts

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Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, January 16th at 7 PM, Barrett Elementary School.

Edison Park Design Working Group Meeting: February 13th, 7 PM, Barrett Elementary

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

May 15th: Picnic and Annual Membership Meeting



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Barcroft School News

This has been a busy fall at Bancroft Elementary School with field trips, music concerts and lots of workshops. Our students are working hard, getting smart, and having fun!

Thank you to all our Barcroft neighbors that supported the Election Day Bake Sale. We love seeing you, hearing your Barcroft stories and having your support. Thanks to the funds raised by the bake sale and other fundraisers, the PTA was able to start a new staff mini-grant program. This fall, we funded six mini-grants including a new rug for the art room, water coolers for the cafeteria, book bags for students, Apple TV for a classroom, games for the fame lending library, and laminating supplies (our teachers love to laminate)!

Thank you also to all who braved the rain for the Snowball Stride 5K on December 15th. We loved running with our staff, students, and neighbors.



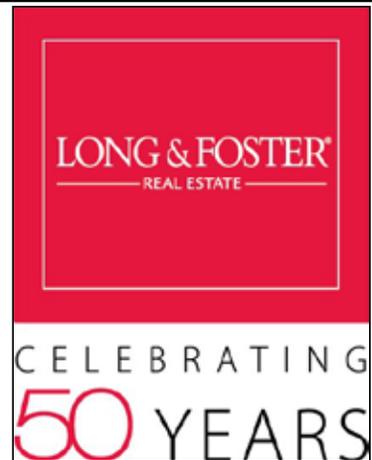
PHOTO: Runners take on the Snowball Stride 5K

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Trash/Recycling Cart Repair: Is the lid broken off your County trash, recycling, or yard waste cart? Is there a big hole in the side? Is a wheel broken? To get it fixed, use the County's online "Report a Problem" application at <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/reportproblem>. Click on "Residential Curbside Collections" and then on "Carts."

Your News and Views: This newsletter (the oldest civic association newsletter in Arlington County) welcomes articles, news notes, letters, and photos focusing on events or issues specific to Arlington Forest. For example: a scout troop update, a profile of a notable neighbor, events on your block, gardening tips, home repair tips, or an expression of your views on a neighborhood issue. If you have news or views to share, see the Editor's Note on page 2 for submission guidelines.



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Happy New Year!

Sometime this year, you may be selling your home. Inventory has declined by double digits, yet demand remains high amongst buyers. Interest rates are moving up, causing many buyers to make their home purchase as soon as possible. If you are considering selling, call me and I can walk you through the entire selling process.

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

Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest

Barrett School News

At the time of this writing, Barrett families are enjoying a two-week winter break and return to school Monday, January 7th. The new turf on the Barrett playground is expected to be completed in time for students' return. Hopefully the weather will be warm and dry enough in early 2019 for a lot of outdoor recess!

In December, Barrett announced its nominations for APS Employee of the Year in a variety of categories: Teacher of the Year: Andrea Donovan; Assistant of the Year: Jennifer Buckley; Office Staff of the Year: Stephanie Matadial; Custodian of the Year: Blanca Castillo; and Extended Day Staff of the Year: Xavier Cooper. The Barrett community congratulates these outstanding individuals and thanks them for their exceptional service to Barrett students and families!

2018 also marked the five-year anniversary of the arrival of Barrett's principal, Dan Redding. Mr. Redding was born in Vermont and moved to Centreville, Virginia, in 1985. He graduated from Chantilly High School and the University of Virginia with a B.A. in history and an M.A. in elementary education. Mr. Redding taught at Abingdon Elementary and Oak Ridge Elementary, was a school technology coordinator for Barcroft, Glencarlyn, Jamestown, and Gunston, and served as assistant principal at Kenmore Middle School and Carlin Springs Elementary. He also worked in the APS Central Office as director of employee

relations. This fall, Mr. Redding was spotted participating in Bingo Night, enjoying author visits, reading at the book fair, attending the heritage assembly, and judging the 5th grade poetry slam.

When the NASA InSight Lander landed on Mars in November, students watched live from the Barrett Discovery Lab. They were extra excited because Barrett names were on the mission! NASA etched names on a microchip that sits on top of the lander, and Barrett was the first elementary school in Virginia to be selected for the NASA Explorer School program, which invests in STEM to inspire and engage future scientists, engineers, and technicians.

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.



Electronic versions of this newsletter are available:
www.arlingtonforestva.org

Paul Cachion, MBA

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CachionHomes@gmail.com



Uniquely Friendly Neighborhood?

As the holidays wind to a close, I think about what a colleague asked me a few months back—"Arlington Forest: that is a uniquely friendly neighborhood, isn't it?"

In the past couple months, we've been to a Halloween fire-pit with s'mores, a few holiday parties, one of which is in its 20th year, some New Year's Eve festivities, and a New Year's brunch, in its first year (which I hope becomes a long-running tradition). This neighborhood always seems to come together, not just to celebrate holidays, but also when neighbors are experiencing challenges. It is what makes this such a great place to live. Why is it "uniquely friendly," though? Is it the sidewalks, so folks walk dogs (and themselves) more? Is it the two parks? Is it the size—larger than many Arlington neighborhoods? Is it less transient than many other Arlington neighborhoods? (It is.) Probably all of the above and more. Either way, it's a place I call home and love. Call anytime to talk about the neighborhood or your real estate needs.



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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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