

The Arlington Forester



Volume 59, Number 4

Arlington, VA

January 2018

Katie Cristol to Address AFCA Meeting

County Board Chair Katie Cristol is the guest speaker at the AFCA monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 17, at 7 pm in the Barrett School library. She will discuss issues facing Arlington and answer questions. This is your opportunity to hear from, and provide input to, the County Board's Chair.

Ms. Cristol was elected in November 2015 as the first member of the Millennial generation on the Board. As Board Chair for 2018, she announced her top priorities are affordable housing and Metro funding. She serves on the Joint Subcommittee on Facilities of the Arlington School and County Boards. Her role on that subcommittee makes her especially knowledgeable of issues concerning the impact on school enrolment of Arlington's population growth.

At the meeting, we will also get a short update on the proposal to hold a Saturday-morning Farmer's Market in the Barrett School parking lot. A meeting was held on January 10 at Barrett School that sought to attract residents willing to serve as a local market committee to help launch and sustain the market.

Finally, the results are in from our fall dues drive that requested \$10 from each household to support AFCA's activities. A total of 338 of the 851 households in Arlington Forest paid their 2017-2018 dues. That is 27 fewer than last year despite the new option to pay online. Participation rates are Greenbrier Section-43%, Northside-39%, and Southside-33%.

Wanted: Your News and Views

This newsletter (the oldest civic association newsletter in Arlington County) is written, produced, and distributed eight times a year by a handful of your neighbors who hope you find it to be interesting and useful. As well as reporting on AFCA activities, neighborhood developments, and local school activities, each newsletter features "news you can use" such as reminders about County residential services, the Kids for Hire section, and a calendar of upcoming events.

But we are always looking for contributions from new voices to help keep the newsletter interesting. Thus, we welcome your essays, news notes, letters, and photos focusing on Arlington Forest. For example, events on your block, gardening tips, tree care advice, scout troop update, home repair tips, photos of local wildlife, reminiscences of a long-time resident, profile of a prominent neighbor, review of an Arlington Forest Shopping Center merchant, news from a neighborhood middle school or high school, or an expression of your views on some neighborhood issue.

So, if you have news or views to share, please send them in. You may e-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Submissions should be non-commercial, non-partisan, and should focus on events or issues specific to our neighborhood. The deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

County Projects.....	2	Forest Exchange.....	7
Emergency Preparedness..	3	Calendar.....	7
Nature News.....	4	Barrett School News.....	9
Around the Forest.....	5	Kids for Hire.....	10
Holiday Party.....	6		

AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. January 17 at Barrett School Library

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

Official publication of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, Arlington, Virginia founded in 1939. A nonpartisan, nonsectarian publication serving the common interests of the residents of Arlington Forest.

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Forester is printed by *Minuteman Press*

County Projects Update

Carlin Springs Bridge: Work began on December 8 with the demolition and removal of the southern span (north-bound lanes). Upon completion of the new southern half, demolition and replacement of the northern half will take place. The bridge will remain single-lane in each direction until its replacement opens in late 2019. Electronic message boards will alert drivers to temporary detours when appropriate.

Arlington Boulevard and Park Drive: Work continues on the intersection safety improvements (including storm drain upgrades). The project is scheduled to be completed by summer.

Lubber Run Community Center: County staff continue working with architects and the construction manager to finalize the design. The County will hold a community briefing in the news few months to update interested residents.

Edison Street Playground: An update on the proposed playground replacement will be provided at the February AFCA meeting.

Traffic Circle: This spring, the County plans to plant a Scarlet Oak tree and remove the vines in the shopping center traffic circle where the American Holly tree stood for 76 years until its removal last July. AFCA will install a plaque honoring Joe Cockrell who tended the Holly tree for decades.

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Make your Yard a Wildlife Sanctuary: Want to turn your yard into a welcoming space for birds, butterflies and other native wildlife? The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program can help you make your yard more wildlife friendly by providing information on sustainable gardening practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Audubon at Home ambassadors will visit your yard to consult with you on suitable native plants, landscaping, water retention, or other best practices. To learn more, visit audubonva.org.

Family Skate Night: Bring the whole family to Thomas Jefferson Community Center for Family Skate Night Saturday evenings 6:30-9 p.m. through March. With a live DJ, moon bounces and snack bar, this is a crowd-pleaser for the entire family. Only \$2 to skate and \$3 to rent a pair of wheels (moon bounce and concessions are additional). Cash Only. For more info, search "skate at Thomas Jefferson" on the County website.

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.

Personal Emergency Preparedness

By John Naland

Arlington Forest has experienced multi-day power outages a half-dozen times in the last 20 years due to wind storms, hurricanes, and snow storms. It is inevitable that such events will reoccur. Thus, even in our urban environment, we must be prepared to fend for ourselves for a few days. Below are suggestions on how to take charge of our own personal preparedness for natural or other emergencies.

- Always maintain a five-day supply of non-perishable food, water, pet supplies, and medications.
- Prepare an emergency kit of essential items: first aid supplies, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, flashlights, extra batteries, and cash (merchants cannot process credit cards when telephone lines are down).
- Fill your car gas tank if a storm is approaching.
- Recharge mobile phones and other portable devices.
- If a power outage is likely, turn off and unplug any non-essential electrical equipment to protect them from possible power spikes.
- During a power outage, refrigerator food is safe as long as power is out no more than 4 hours. Keep the door closed as much as possible.
- A freezer section that is half full will hold food safely for 24 hours without power. A full freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours. Do not open the freezer door.

- Discard any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers) from either the refrigerator or freezer that has been above 40°F for over 2 hours.
- Stay clear of all downed lines. Do not attempt to guess which ones are deadly power lines and which are potentially non-threatening telephone lines.
- Show all family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches in the event of structural damage to your home.
- Talk with neighbors about cooperating after a storm: A neighbor with an emergency generator could recharge cell phones. A neighbor with a chainsaw could clear downed branches. Younger residents could clear older neighbor's sidewalks of snow and ice.
- If power goes out or you see a street blocked by trees or downed lines, report it to the power company or County by cell phone. Emergency response can be delayed if everyone assumes someone else reported it.
- Avoid non-essential travel when road conditions or weather is poor.
- Designate an out-of-town relative or friend as a telephone point of contact should your family members lose contact with each other.

Adam (RT) Tnaib

202-725-0055
adamt@kw.com

Your neighbor and realtor in Arlington Forest

If you are thinking about selling this spring, now is the perfect time to start getting your home ready.

Please contact me for a free/no obligation consultation to learn about simple things you can do to improve the value of your home.

I look forward to working with you.



Nature News

English Ivy is Destructive: Winter is a great time to identify and remove evergreen English Ivy. While many people find its 3-pointed, dark green glossy leaves to make pretty groundcover, if left unattended this invasive plant can weigh down large trees to the point of collapse. If allowed to cover fences, ivy can invade adjacent lawns and public parkland. But you can easily remove ivy by cutting all vines at the ground level. Cut them again several feet up the trunk and then carefully peel away the cut section of ivy. The remaining ivy will eventually dry out and die. Pull ground ivy back a few feet from the base of the tree to slow regrowth up the trunk.

Natural Arlington Blog: Did you know that Arlington County has a blog with local nature and wildlife information? Recent postings include essays on local trees, birds, snakes, residential storm water management, and stream pollution. See the Natural Arlington Blog at <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/>.

Sustainable Landscape Design: The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia present a session on how to create a sustainable landscape, building on the unique conditions of your own site. The class will focus on how to make a base map and introduce you to basic design principles you can use to transform your property. Tuesday, January 30,

7-8:30 pm, Westover Branch Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Gardening for Butterflies: Come learn about gardening for butterflies and other pollinators from guest speaker Sylvia Smechel, the lead horticulturalist for the National Museum of Natural History. February 22, 7:30-9 pm. Long Branch Nature Center, 625. S. Carlin Springs Rd. No registration required. Presented by the Washington Area Butterfly Club. For more info, call 703-560-8556.

Native Plants for Your Yard: Maybe you know a little about native plants and how they are important for the ecological functioning of our landscapes, including assisting our sagging populations of butterflies and other pollinators. Or maybe you just want some new ideas for beautifying your landscaping. Whatever your goal and knowledge level, the Plant NOVA Natives website at www.plantnovanatives.org includes easy-to-follow info to help you choose native species suited to your property. On the website, you will find a colorful guide to local native species, a list of local businesses that supply natives, and links to organizations that will come to your property to offer customized landscaping recommendations.

How will the new tax law impact the real estate market? Here are a few points to consider.

Mortgage Interest - Homeowners can still deduct interest payments on mortgage indebtedness for their primary residence and up to one other residence not to exceed \$750,000. Interest paid on any mortgage acquired on or prior to 12/15/17 will remain deductible under the former \$1,000,000 limitation (\$500,000 if single or married filing separately).

Starting in 2018 taxpayers will no longer be allowed to deduct interest payments on home equity loans.

State and Local Taxes (SALT) – In 2018, itemized deductions for property taxes and local income taxes of individuals are limited to a combined total of \$10,000. Retirees in high tax states might feel some affect.

Overall, a small portion of homeowners may be affected with decreased tax write-offs, mostly those in the upper brackets above a \$900K price point, and the impact should be minimal.

About 70% of the population in the US don't itemize their taxes, and now the standard deduction has been increased.

Everyone must look at their overall tax situation and consult a CPA.

It is unlikely that most home values in our local market will be adversely affected, as people who want to buy a home will still move forward with their plans to do so.

If you are in the market to buy or sell a home, get an expert on your side who can walk you through the entire process from start to finish—we can help! Put our 33 years of experience to work for you!



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AFCA Holiday Party Says Goodbye to LRCC

Arlington Foresters of all ages turned out to greet Santa Claus and the holidays on December 8. This was the last Arlington Forest Holiday Party at the current Lubber Run Community Center before it is torn down and replaced. Santa arrived riding a strobe-flashing, siren-screaming Arlington County fire truck. He was mobbed as he got off the truck and made his way to the rec hall where he was greeted by more excited kids and camera-toting parents gathered for this neighborhood party which has taken place annually since 1946.

Santa sat on his throne hearing each child's holiday gift wishes. Kids and grownups alike swarmed over the tables laden with holiday treats. Festive holiday music was provided for the 14th year by Foresters Chris Bosch (bass) and Ken Schellenberg (keyboard). Barrett Elementary School 4th grade Brownies led by Lauren Kent helped Santa with the kids and led the singing of Christmas carols. Amy Seymore and husband Spencer ran a great craft table which

which sent many children home with their personal tree ornaments. And as he has for more than two decades, Chris Scheer organized the party.

Thanks go to LRCC director Marco Dillon and his staff who decorated the hall and assisted throughout the evening. Thanks also go to Captain Bosephus Bennett at Fire Station 2 (Wilson and George Mason) and Mark Riley who arranged for Santa to arrive on time in dramatic fashion.

The Lubber Run Community Center will be out of commission for the next few years which means the AFCA holiday party is looking for a new home. An obvious possibility is Barrett Elementary School, but some have suggested an outdoor venue that harkens back seven decades to when the first parties were held in the "Holly Circle" in front of the Arlington Forest Shopping Center. One possibility may be the Lubber Run Amphitheater and fire pit area. What do you think? Send your thoughts and suggestions to Chris Scheer at scheerjchris@gmail.com



AFCA
Holiday Party
Dec 8th
Lubber Run CC



Forest Exchange

Family Game Night: St. John's Episcopal Church will have a family game night on Saturday, January 27 from 7-9 pm. Bring your favorite games and a non-perishable item for AFAC. St. John's will also provide games. Enjoy playing with old friends and new friends. Snacks will be provided. St. John's is in the Glencarlyn neighborhood at 415 S. Lexington St. Enter through the 5th St. door.

Newsletter Delivery Crew: For the first time in years, no teens are on the waiting list to get an Arlington Forester delivery route. Several of the 12 routes usually come open each fall when current delivery teens depart for college or otherwise give up their routes. Each route covers 66 to 86 houses, pays \$10 to \$13, and takes 60 to 90 minutes of work eight times a year. Available routes may not be in the same immediate neighborhood where the delivery teen lives. To get on the waiting list, email newsletter@arlingtonforest.org.

Kids for Hire: Do you want help this winter with snow shoveling? Could you sometimes use reasonably-priced help with babysitting, yard work, pet sitting, or other tasks? Nearly 30 neighborhood youths offer their services in the "Kids for Hire" listing on page 10.

Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, January 17th, 7 PM, Barrett Elementary School. See page 1 for details.

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

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 21st. Help beautify our neighborhood parks.

Taste of Arlington: Late-May. Annual food tasting event along Wilson Blvd near Ballston Mall.

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday, May 19th. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

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

Arlington County Fair: August 15th to 19th. Rides, food, displays, and racing pigs.

Future AFCA Meetings:

February 21: Edison Park update

March 21: School Board member TBD

April 18: Ballston development update

May 16: Picnic and Annual Membership Meeting



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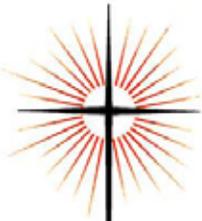
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St. John's Episcopal Church

Jan 27 **Family Game Night** Hot chocolate and popcorn provided - Free - 7 - 9 pm

Feb 6 **Book Club** - *Journey to Munich* by Jacqueline Winspear - 7:30

Feb 13 **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** - Everyone is welcome - 6 - 7:30
Prices are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and free for children under 6.

Feb 14 **Ash Wednesday**

Ashes to Go at Ballston Metro Station - 7:30 - 8:30 am & 5 - 6 pm

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes in church - noon & 7:30 pm

Sunday Worship Services
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Arlington Regional Master Naturalists: The Virginia Master Naturalist program trains and certifies volunteers to provide education, citizen science and outreach to conserve and manage natural resources and public lands. The natural history courses include biology, botany, herpetology, ornithology, forest and aquatic ecosystems and more! Spring 2018 training classes are held Mondays, February 26 to May 21, from 9 am to 3 pm primarily at Long Branch Nature Center. For more info and the application, visit <https://armn.org/basic-training/>. Application deadline is January 26.



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Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest

If you are considering putting your home on the market, I would suggest that you begin getting your home ready as soon as possible. By having your home ready and in great shape for the new owners, the price that you get will be higher than if you don't prepare the home for sale. I have a list of things that owners should do in preparation to market their home. If

you would like to meet with me to see your home and give you some ideas on how to prepare it, please call me for a free, no obligation consultation. With the inventory low, it is an ideal time to sell your home. I look forward to meeting with you.

Jim

Barrett School News

2018 is off to a cold start, but thankfully Barrett students can walk safely to the school building, thanks to the hard work of the custodial staff to clear pathways through the snow and ice!

Looking back to the weeks before winter break, students, parents, and staff all enjoyed Barrett's annual Bingo Night on December 15, and many took home fun prizes. On December 19, 4th and 5th graders impressed the audience with their band and chorus performances in the Winter Concert. The Barrett community participated again this holiday season in the Barrett Gives campaign, purchasing clothes, toys, and books to make the holidays brighter for more than 50 Barrett students in need.

Upcoming events include Family Fitness Night on January 19, the Family Valentine Dance on February 16, and Pan-African Heritage Night on February 22. Mark your calendars now for April 28, 2018 for the Barrett Auction at the Arlington Holiday Inn! Proceeds will go toward the design, construction, and maintenance of the KW Barrett outdoor classroom.

Congratulations to all of the creative Barrett students who participated in the Arlington County PTA Reflections

Contest. The theme was "Within Reach." Ella Englehardt's film "The End of a Chapter" won first place for Primary Film for Arlington County and will be entered into the Northern Virginia District competition. Julia Green (Intermediate Music Composition) and Owen Currier-Smith (Primary Photography) received Awards of Excellence in their categories, and Alexander Kerr and Farrell Hidayat received Awards of Merit for their Visual Art.

Join the 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. You do not need to have a Twitter account to view Twitter content; just search "#kwbpride" to see all that's happening in our school community.

Save the dates for Barrett events:

- Family Fitness Night, January 19th
- PTA Meeting, February 6th
- Family Valentine Dance, February 16th
- Pan-African Heritage Night, February 22nd
- Barrett Auction, April 28th



Paul Cachion, MBA

Cell: 571-216-6802

Email: CachionHomes@gmail.com



Happy New Year!

2017 was a busy and exciting year for both our family and for Cachion Homes. I expect the same will be true for 2018 as well! I wish a healthy and happy 2018 to you, and all your friends and family.

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Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are available for babysitting, pet sitting, and other services. To be added or deleted, e-mail newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

Southside:

- Daniel O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, tomara@teamcfw.com, 703-769-3767
- Ethan O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, tomara@teamcfw.com, 703-769-3767
- 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
- Julia Rogers (college breaks only): babysitting (RC certified), yard work, juliaerogers23@gmail.com, 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, tutoring, 703-248-8885
- Ethan Hall (college breaks only): snow shoveling, k.hall.b@verizon.net, 302-650-4428
- 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: math tutoring, soccer lessons, snow shoveling, leaf raking, yard work, carstenschuer@gmail.com, call/text 703-209-0905
- Leah Shvedova: babysitting (references), tutoring through 8th grade (Social Science, English, Algebra), pet sitting, watering plants, 571-426-6818
- Emma Weaver: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-875-8185

Northside:

- Daniel Brancati: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, car washing (in your driveway), daniel@barms.org, 703-243-1916
- Laura Brancati: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, laura@barms.org, 703-243-1916
- 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

Next AFCA Meeting:
Wednesday, January 17th
Guest Speaker: County Board Chair Katie Cristol

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- 3905 - Thomas Jefferson MS
- 3917 - Washington Lee HS*
- 4566 - Wakefield HS*

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