



Volume 53, Number 6

Arlington, VA

March 2012

## New School Proposed in Arlington Forest

Arlington Public School officials who are facing projections of a 30% increase in students over the next 10 years are weighing a menu of 39 new construction projects to increase class space. One of those options is a new a 600-student elementary school on the current site of the Lubber Run Recreation Center across from Barrett Elementary School. The new facility would feature a 38,500 square-foot community center and an 87,000 square-foot elementary school, preschool and child care center for teachers countywide.

This proposal will be discussed at the Arlington Forest Citizens Association meeting this coming Wednesday, March 21, at 7 PM in the Barrett Elementary School library. That same night at 7:30 PM, the School Board will hold a public work

session at Kenmore Middle School to narrow down the 39 construction options. Then on March 28 at 7 PM in the Washington-Lee High School auditorium, the APS staff will brief parents and community members on the School Board's priority ranking of projects. By July 1, the County Board will make a final decision on new facilities to be funded through its 10-year Capital Improvements Project budget.

On page 3 of this newsletter is the text of a February 27 statement by AFCA outlining principles that should guide APS and the County Board in considering this new school/recreation center. On pages 6 and 7 are essays by concerned Arlington Foresters. APS planning documents can be found at [www.apsva.us/capacity](http://www.apsva.us/capacity).

## A Full Season for Lubber Run Amphitheater

by Chris Scheer

A longer season featuring some old favorites and many new and exciting entertainers is on tap for the Lubber Run Amphitheater this summer. The amphitheater, refurbished and reopened last year after being closed for two seasons, will begin weekly Friday and Saturday performances this year on June 15; far ahead of last year's July 29 start date.

In response to community requests, this year's season will include some family-friendly early Sunday evening performances and weekday presentations by local community groups. More information on the schedule will be available in April.

"We are working with the county on finalizing this year's full schedule," said Esther Bowring, co-president of the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation. "The amphitheater now meets safety and access standards, two retaining walls will be replaced and the dressing rooms should be refurbished and ready in June; that means acts requiring costume changes will be able to perform."

Last year's abbreviated season drew nearly 2,400 people in spite of three cancellations due to rain and hurricane. Audience contributions to the amphitheater wishing well generated \$2,400 which Bowring said will be used to supplement the County booking budget for this year's expanded season. "The generosity of those who attended last year's performances will make this season even better," she said.

The Foundation will report on the amphitheater at the County Board's March 22

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*AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. March 21 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 *Stanley Adams Printing Co.*

## Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes articles, news notes and letters focusing on events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We also welcome photos accompanied by an explanatory caption. The next deadline is March 30 for the issue to be distributed the weekend of April 14. E-mail submissions of 400 words or less to John Naland at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space fills up, so check with the editor in advance if you plan to submit a long article. Submissions are subject to editing.

## Playground Project Approved

by Tim O'Leary

The Arlington County Board gave Arlington Forest a fine Valentine's Day present on February 14 by approving \$485,000 in Neighborhood Conservation (NC) funds to improve the playground in Glencarlyn Park near the end of South Park Drive. Planning for the improvement has already begun and the project should take about two years to complete. Major improvements include a "sand stream" with climbing and story rocks, a climbing dome, larger swings, native plant beds, a picnic area, and a wider bridge over Four Mile Run.

Arlington Forest now needs to decide what NC project it would like to propose next for consideration by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee. Since Arlington Forest is now at the end of the line for future NC funding, it will take a minimum of four to five years for a new project to work its way through the funding system. Please contact Tim O'Leary, Arlington Forest's Neighborhood Conservation Representative, at tfoleary310@gmail.com with any suggestions. Proposed projects must be on county property.

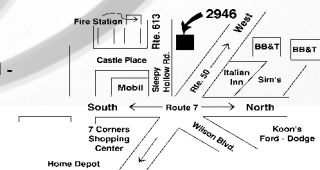
THE NEXT AFCA MEETING IS AT  
BARRETT SCHOOL ON MAR. 21

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## AFCA Resolution Concerning Lubber Run Recreation Center Site February 27, 2012

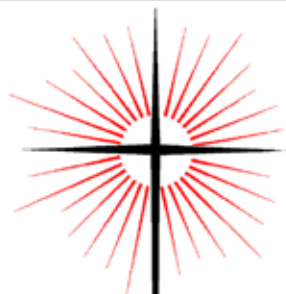
The Arlington Forest Citizens Association understands the pressure that Arlington is under to develop alternatives to handle projected increases in school enrollment over the next 10 years. As the planning process moves forward, the Association would like to ensure that the interests of Arlington Forest are also considered. As the Arlington County School Board and the Arlington County Board select from the many options being considered to address school overcrowding, Arlington Forest wants to make certain that the potential impacts on Arlington Forest of co-locating a new school and community center on the current site of the Lubber Run Recreation Center, were it to be built, are minimized to the greatest extent possible.

The Arlington Forest Citizens Association has long sought an upgrade of the Lubber Run Recreation Center. We continue to believe this too is important. We recognize that some trade-offs will be required as a specific plan is developed. We request that the School Board and County Board maintain an open and transparent dialogue with the Arlington Forest Citizens Association as planning proceeds.

The Association strongly urges the School Board and County Board to adopt the following guiding principles

as a new school/recreation center is considered for the site of the Lubber Run Recreation Center:

- Minimize the traffic impact that two adjacent schools plus a recreation center would have on the neighborhood.
- Minimize noise impact and light pollution on the immediate neighborhood.
- Minimize air pollution impact of idling buses and increased vehicle traffic on the neighborhood.
- Maximize the amount of green space on the property.
- Minimize/mitigate impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff.
- Maximize physical and landscape buffers on the property to visually shield the surrounding residential neighborhood.
- Ensure adequate parking for both Barrett School and the new facility without relying on adjacent on-street parking.
- Ensure that existing neighborhood amenities, such as the playground and picnic space, remain available to the public even during school hours.
- Adequately address concerns about security and safety resulting from the concept plan to put in an underground parking facility.



### ***Observe Holy Week With Us***

St. John's Episcopal Church is a small congregation with a big heart. We believe that questioning and doubts are part of mature faith development. Always inclusive, we invite you to bring those questions inside the faith community where we help people establish a deeper relationship with God.

*-Reverend Ann Barker, Rector*

#### **Sunday Worship Services**

8 am and 10 am

#### **Sunday Christian Education**

Adults 9 am - Youth 9:20 am

#### **All are welcome to all services and activities!**

- April 1** Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms - at 8 am and 10 am  
**April 3** Book Club *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain 7:30 pm  
**April 5** Loaves & Fishes Meal & Service 6:30 to 8 pm - Bring a can of tuna for AFAC  
**April 6** Good Friday Services at 12 noon and 7 pm  
**April 8** Easter Festive Holy Eucharist with children's message 10 am  
Easter Egg Hunt and reception after the service  
**April 13** Family Happy Hour - movies for kids - social time for adults - snacks 4 pm

## **St. John's Episcopal Church**

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# Neighborhood Cleanup in April

by John Naland

**Cleanup:  
Saturday  
April 28th  
9-11 am**

The second annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup is set for Saturday, April 28, from 9 to 11 AM. Please join us if you enjoy walking, jogging, or biking in our local parks; if you have children who you want to learn to care about the environment; if you want to benefit from some light exercise in the fresh spring air; and/or if you want to help protect the watershed.

At last year's inaugural event, 125 residents came out to clean up six sites. So far this year, neighbors have stepped forward to coordinate efforts at three sites: Four Mile Run at the foot of N. Granada, the buffer strip on the southside of Arlington Blvd, and the N. 2nd Street traffic circles.

There are at least four other sites that could benefit from trash and

debris removal: the upper Lubber Run Park streambed (meeting at the amphitheater), lower Lubber Run Park streambed (meeting at the N. Edison playground), the Arlington Blvd northside buffer strip, and Four Mile Run at the foot of S. Park. But we cannot schedule cleanups at those sites unless at least one neighbor steps forward to serve as cleanup day coordinator. To volunteer to be a site coordinator, contact John Naland at [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com) by March 30. Sites lacking a coordinator will be dropped from this year's event. The April newsletter will give the final list of cleanup sites.



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# Barrett Brownie Troop 6100

by Elizabeth Vizard

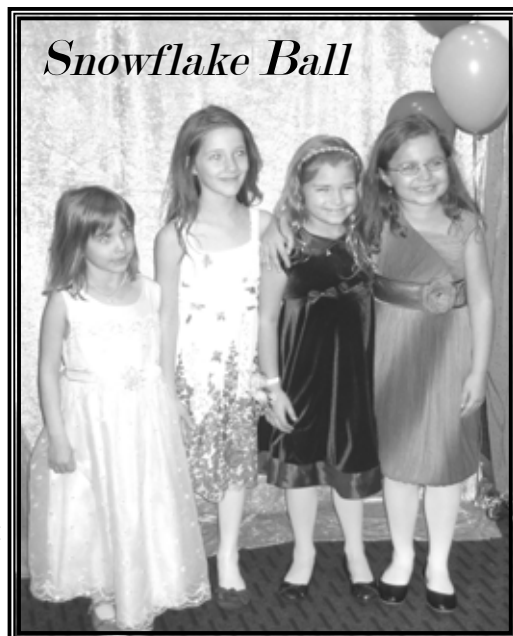
Barrett Brownie Troop 6100 was busy in February. The girls attended the annual Snowflake Ball, participated in their first cookie sale, and participated in World Thinking Day 2012.

The 15th Annual Association 60 Snowflake Ball held at the NRECA in Ballston provided an opportunity for a young Girl Scout to experience a dress up event with a special adult in her life (see accompanying photo). It was also an opportunity to honor girls in Association 60 who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. The service project for this event was the collection of non-perishable food items for the Arlington Food Assistance Center and Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the cookie sale. Troop 6100 sold 1,476 boxes during the pre-sale period alone! Another 140 boxes were sold during the Kettler Capitals Iceplex booth sale. Thin Mints are the clear favorite (29% of the sales) and Samoas are second with 20% and Tagalongs a close third. Cookie donations to Troop 6100 will go to Miriam's Kitchen in Washington, DC which provides free homemade meals and high quality support services to more than 4,000 homeless men and woman each year.

Each year the girls participate in activities and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and

Girl Scouts in nearly 150 other countries. The troop along with 160 other Girl Scouts in our local Association participated in World Thinking Day on February 24. This year's theme was "We Can Save Our Planet" based on the United Nation's Millennium Development Goal 7 focused on environmental sustainability. Each troop picked a country to study and present at the event. Troop 6100 chose Guyana, and was honored to have the assistance of fellow Arlington Forester Amanda Bisnauth-Thomas who shared her family's heritage and ancestry about her home country of Guyana.



*Snowflake Ball*



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*Jim*



# A New School in the Neighborhood

by John Naland

In 1957, Arlington Forest residents opposed the building of the Lubber Run Amphitheater citing concerns about noise, traffic, safety, and loss of green space. Today, the amphitheater is a treasured neighborhood asset. History may be repeating itself today as voices are being raised in opposition to building a new school and community center on the site of the Lubber Run Community Center.

It is clear that several new schools need to be built somewhere in Arlington to accommodate the County's increasing numbers of children. And while Barrett School's current attendance district is projected to be only 12 students over capacity in 2017, the five elementary school districts that border Barrett are projected to be 408 students over capacity (that includes Barcroft School which is projected to be seriously overcrowded with 127 students over capacity). In addition, McKinley School (whose district begins a few blocks up the road from Barrett) is projected to be 211 students over capacity.

Thus, one option to avoid overcrowding is to build a new 600-seat neighborhood school above Lubber Run serving an attendance district just to the east and north. If no additional capacity is built anywhere, then fairness might require the School Board to redraw all elementary

school districts to spread the overcapacity equally. That would leave Barrett just as seriously over-crowded as Barcroft is projected to be.

For that reason, Arlington Foresters with young children who will need someplace to go to school in the coming years need to be engaged in our community's discussion of this issue which has so far focused on the concerns of neighbors who live near the site. By taking a balanced approach, our neighborhood will be better positioned to work cooperatively with County officials to mitigate any adverse local impacts should the new public infrastructure be approved.

## Amphitheater ...continued from page 1

public hearing on the proposed 2012 budget and invites Arlington Foresters to attend the 7 PM meeting at the Arlington Courthouse, 2100 Courthouse Plaza. Look for more details on the AFCA list serve and amphitheater Facebook page.

"Our enthusiastic presentation at last year's budget hearing engaged Board members in supporting the amphitheater's rehabilitation," Bowring recalled. "This year we're looking for an even larger cheering section to thank the Board for their ongoing support, show them that the amphitheater continues to have strong Community backing, and ensure funds for the other renovations needed are included in next year's budget."

While the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation is working on obtaining tax-exempt status (thanks to AFCA's and the Glencarlyn Citizens Association's donations to cover filing fees), donors can make tax-free donations through the Arlington community Foundation (ACF), 818 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22203 with checks made out to the ACF and labeled "for" the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation. ACF has agreed to accept amphitheater donations under its tax-exempt status.

Send your questions and suggestions regarding the Lubber Run Amphitheater and the upcoming 2012 performance season to [lubberrunamphitheater@gmail.com](mailto:lubberrunamphitheater@gmail.com) and keep up with amphitheater news and Facebook activities.

## Retirement May Be Far Off, But the April 17 Deadline for IRA Contributions Isn't.

You have only so many years to prepare for retirement. That's why contributing to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is so important. Fortunately, you still have time to maximize your 2011 IRA contribution before the April 17 deadline.

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# Questions about the Lubber Run Proposal

by Esther Bowring

Arlington Foresters are carefully considering an Arlington Public Schools proposal that could drastically change our neighborhood.

To address school overcrowding, APS is considering construction of a new school and recreation center on the current site of the Lubber Run Recreation Center. Virtually all the children attending the new Lubber Run School would live outside of Arlington Forest. Options being considered are:

-- A "neighborhood" school dividing the grades between the new school and Barrett. Because in 2017 Barrett is projected to only be 12 children over capacity, the 600 students for the new school would be redistricted from other more overcrowded neighborhoods.

-- A "choice" school totally separate from Barrett that would be open to students from other overcrowded schools.

It is commendable that the county is thinking creatively about overcrowding solutions, including dual-use options. The community has waited many years for Lubber Run Recreation Center to be renovated and a new facility is in the county's 2014 budget. However, we need to think through all the implications of what is instead being proposed by APS and whether it will delay a new Recreation Center.

According to an agreement signed by the School and County Boards, "Services provided to County residents will continue at a comparable or greater level." Yet, the proposed facility would take up virtually the entire site, eliminating green space, the neighborhood playground, the basketball/volleyball area, the picnic area, and the playing field. In addition to neighborhood children, students from Barrett regularly use these spaces for recess and outings. Other school concept plans under consideration by APS are on much larger lots, where ample green space can be preserved.

The plan would also add to congestion. School buses would use Park Drive for pick up and drop off, while parents and recreation center users would enter from 3rd

Street. Such activities would push more traffic through the neighborhood, and pedestrian safety near Barrett is already a serious concern.

Parking is another issue. Plans for the new facility include only about 100 parking spaces, the same as the current parking lot, which is seriously undersized for the proposed uses and already provides badly needed overflow parking for Barrett.

New construction along Henderson Drive and George Mason Drive of the 500-unit Madison Apartments and 100 or more townhouses has already reduced neighborhood green space, and both traffic and parking demands within the neighborhood will rise as people move into the buildings.

A new recreation center with space for early childhood education and kindergarten could free up needed capacity at Barrett and add immeasurably to our community -- if the new facility is of an appropriate scale for the site and the neighborhood. As we move forward, let's work together to ensure that the impacts of any facility that is built on the site are mitigated and it really is an asset for Arlington Forest.

Please inform the School Board and County Board of your views on this issue by emailing them at [countyboard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countyboard@arlingtonva.us) and [school.board@apsva.us](mailto:school.board@apsva.us).

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## Around the Forest

**ECARE:** Saturday, April 7, 8:30 AM to 3 PM at Thomas Jefferson Middle School parking lot. Dispose of hazardous household materials, computer monitors, and televisions (\$15 fee for computers and a \$20 fee for televisions), and recycle small metal items, electronics, shoes, clothes, linens, eyeglasses, and durable medical equipment. Serviceable bikes will be collected by Bikes for the World to be sent to countries where they are needed for basic transportation. For more info, visit [www.arlingtonva.us/recycle](http://www.arlingtonva.us/recycle).

**Annual Community Yard Sale:** This year's yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 19. Check next month's newsletter for tips on how to turn unwanted stuff into cash.

**MLK Service Day 2012:** What good can come when 19 teenager boys come together on a school holiday? Well, when it's the Boy Scouts of Troop 648 and the holiday is Martin Luther King Service Day, a tremendous amount of good is the answer! On Monday, January 16, Troop 648 boys collected over 200 pounds of used clothes at the Arlington Forrest United Methodist Church, which were sorted, bagged and later transported to Good Will. The boys also collected about 40 pounds of bed linens, towels and new pillows for the Arlington New Hope Housing Center, assisting the homeless. Every scout learns in the Scout Oath, "To Help Other People at All Times". This means, making the world a better place, even when it means spending a part of your day giving someone the shirt from your back or a pillow to rest his or her head on at night. Currently, Troop 648 has a strength of 42 boys, from Arlington Forest, North and South Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church, all hoping to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, as have 107 scouts from Troop 648 done before them. The Troop is run under the guidance of Scout Master and local Forester, Rodney Sampson. You can read more about Troop 648 at [www.facebook.com/Troop648](http://www.facebook.com/Troop648).

**Trash Cart Etiquette:** Here is a reminder about refuse and recycling carts left out after collection day. Both Arlington Forest tradition and Arlington County ordinance say that those items should be placed out for collection no earlier than 5 PM on the day prior to collection and should be returned to their normal storage location no later than 24 hours after collection. That storage location should not be in front of the residence unless there is fencing or landscaping that screens the containers from view from the street. See Arlington County Code Chapter 10, Article I, Section 10-6, Paragraph B.1.b.

**Request from Southside Resident:** Early each morning my daughter and I walk up S. Columbus to the GMS bus stop and nearly every day we have to dodge piles of dog droppings on the sidewalk. My guess is that there is one primary culprit since there is usually more than one day's worth of poop on a small stretch of the sidewalk. Please, if you have a dog, carry a "doggie bag" (or two!) with you when walking your dog. There is no reason why people should have to step over poop left by a careless pet owner.

**AFCA Membership Drive:** As of early March, 313 of the 853 households in Arlington Forest had paid their \$10 AFCA dues for the Sept 2011 to Aug 2012 fiscal year. Participation rates by section are Greenbrier Section-38%, Southside-37% and Northside 34%. If you have not sent in your dues, please do so today using the coupon on this page. Your dues support AFCA's efforts to enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood.



### AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES

#### ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

Deliver this form and your check for \$10 payable to "AFCA" to your respective AFCA section vice president.

*Greenbrier:* Tom Smialowicz, 26 N. Granada St. 22203

*Northside:* Allison Kennett, 139 N. Park Dr. 22203

*Southside:* Douglas Sims, 119 S. Columbus St. 22204

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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CUT ME OUT >>>>

## Community Calendar



**Next AFCA Meeting:** Wednesday, March 21, 7 PM, at Barrett School library.

**Voting Dates:** March 27 County Special Election, June 12 State Primary, and November 6 General Election.

**Future AFCA Meetings:** April 18 and May 16 (annual picnic in Lubber Run Park).

**Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:** Saturday, April 28. Our second annual volunteer clean-up of public spaces around Arlington Forest.

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

**Taste of Arlington:** May 20 in front of Ballston Mall.

**Ballston Farmers Market:** Late-May reopening date.

**Lubber Run Amphitheater:** Live entertainment under the stars resumes on June 15.

**Arlington County Fair:** Carnival rides and good eats on August 8-12. See <http://arlingtoncountyfair.us/> for details.

## Forest Exchange

**Wanted-AFC Membership:** Friends of the Gibson-Mutty family are seeking an Arlington Forest Club membership since they are moving to Bluemont this spring. If anyone is interested in selling a membership, please contact Bill Boswinkle at 571-224-2238.

**Summer Employment at AFC:** Attention Arlington Forest Club pool members: the snack bar is looking for responsible teenagers, 14 and up, to work during the upcoming swim season. Interested teens can contact Marcie Williams at [marciamarciamarcia83@gmail.com](mailto:marciamarciamarcia83@gmail.com).

**Put Your Notice Here:** Send your notice by March 30 to [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org).

**Kids for Hire:** Need reasonably-priced help with babysitting, yard work, pet sitting, or other tasks? Check out Kids for Hire on page 14. If you have a tween or teenager who has a service to offer, encourage them to sign up.

**AFCA Listserv:** Follow late-breaking neighborhood news by joining the AFCA listserv by e-mailing [ArlingtonLife@gmail.com](mailto:ArlingtonLife@gmail.com).

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## In Loving Memory of Our Friend and Neighbor Jeff Lund

by Robert and Elizabeth Greene

We want to share with the Arlington Forest community how a very special man, Jeff Lund, contributed to our neighborhood with his loving friendship, remarkable talents and dedicated efforts to improve the world around him, including many projects at Lubber Run Park and other parks in our community. Jeff passed away on February 25, and our deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends.

Many of you will remember Jeff as a longtime leader of Boy Scout Troop 648 at Arlington Forest United Methodist Church. Jeff, who was an Eagle Scout himself, combined his keen intellect with endless generosity to pass along to others his love of nature, his incredible talent with woodworking and metalwork, and his extensive knowledge of plant life, geology and engineering.

As spring approaches, hopefully even those who did not know Jeff will have an opportunity to reflect upon his devoted efforts to our neighborhood. As you enjoy a walk through Lubber Run Park, take a moment to note projects on which Jeff worked tirelessly over many years with scouts, their families and friends, as well as the Arlington County park system.

At the Edison Street entrance to Lubber Run Park, you will notice a hand-built wooden bench, and as you continue along the path another wooden bench is on the right side built into the steep hillside overlooking the stream. As you continue down the path, just before you get to the bridge crossing the stream, notice on your left several young sycamore trees sheltering oak seedlings, and throughout the entire park there are many other similar reforestation projects. Also note the timber supports along the paths through the park and many other projects to control erosion. Finally, take a moment to notice the beautifully rebuilt benches and entrance to the fire ring behind the Lubber Run Amphitheater.

Jeff would always lend a helping hand and no matter what was broken or needed repair, he would use his clever mind to come up with a solution. His interests included a love of Appalachian culture and traditional bluegrass music (he particularly enjoyed the banjo, which he played often). He also delighted in drawing, basket weaving and cooking delicious treats such as pumpkin butter, white beans and pecan shortbread.

Like so many others, we will deeply miss Jeff.

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# Barcroft School News

We have several opportunities for our neighbors to participate in activities at Barcroft Elementary School in March. Our **Spring Session of PTA After-School Enrichment Classes** begins on April 16 and ends on June 8. We are opening up our registration process to non-Barcroft Elementary students in the neighborhood beginning on March 14. Registration ends on March 21 at 4:00 PM. To view a list of classes offered and to register, go to: <http://www.enrichmentmatters.com/Barcroft/>.

Between March 19 and 30, students break for **Spring Intersession**. Students may take a holiday from school or enroll in two weeks of morning and afternoon classes. These classes cover a range of exciting topics including: journalism, cooking, sports and fitness, graphic design, nature and animals, video game design, art, literature, music, science and math.

In addition, Barcroft will host an **Intersession Career/Interest Showcase**. Parents and neighbors are invited to share information about your career and/or interests to students anytime between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM during the weeks of March 19 to 23 and March 26 to 30. Tell us about your profession and hobbies and we'll match you to a class. Contact Katie Madigan, our Intersession Coordinator, to volunteer, at [katie.madigan@apsva.us](mailto:katie.madigan@apsva.us).

Finally in March, we wish our two student teams good luck as they participate in the annual **Odyssey of the Mind** Competition on March 31.

April promises to be exciting as well. Spring Break occurs on April 2 to 6, and students may enroll in **Fit Camp** activities during April 2 to 5. Third Quarter **Report Cards** will be sent home on April 12. The school will host a **Family Academic Night: Kids Marketplace** on the evening of April 17. All families are invited to attend this wonderful event that teaches kids how to budget money.

Barcroft will observe **Professional Administrative Assistants' Week** on April 23 to 27. Finally **Spring Picture and Class Portrait Day** will be April 26.

To learn more about what's happening at Barcroft, go to <http://www.apsva.us/site/default.aspx?domainid=388>.

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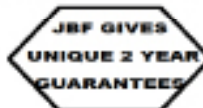


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# Barrett School News

Barrett Elementary School has been busy the past few months. The Barrett Family Book Clubs **Take Your Family to School Week** was a tremendous success. Thank you to the National PTA for this grant. We had six book club selections celebrating Asian culture, read several books by authors Grace Lin (who visited our school in the fall) and Lenore Look, and had 102 students participate in the book club meetings. Students and families ate hundreds of dumplings, pounds of fried rice, and bags of fortune cookies. The book club conversations were rich, engaging, and exciting. It was truly an incredible experience. Kudos to our community of readers!

**Barrett's Rock the Refuge Celebration and Science Discovery Night** was amazing: 62% of the student body attended as well as many former students and incoming students. Students had a great time getting their science passports stamped at many demonstrations, including the **Raptor Conservancy of Virginia**, the **Barrett Robotics team**, and snakes from the **Long Branch Nature Center**. In addition, Barrett students played a game based on the migration patterns of birds.

**Barrett's 5K Race and Kid's Marathon Mile** is Saturday, April 21, at Bluemont Park. We invite community runners

to participate, and we are looking for sponsors and raffle prizes. Please visit the website to register and for more information: <http://barrett5k.jimdo.com/>

The **Y.E.S. (Youth Experiencing Success) Club** at Barrett is hosting a fundraiser: "Backpack Buddies." Students will be contributing money to donate to the **Arlington Food Assistance Center**. AFAC will then use the money to fill backpacks full of food for students and families in need. We hope to raise \$2,000 for these families. If you are interested in donating, please stop by the main office at Barrett. Look for an update in April about our fundraising totals. Thank you!

## Barrett's Upcoming Events:

Spring Musical: "The Emperor's New Clothes",  
Thursday, March 22

Kindergarten Information Session,  
Thursday, April 12, at 12:45 PM

Barrett's 5K Race and Kid's Marathon Mile,  
Saturday, April 21

Arts and Writers Fair and Used Book Sale,  
Thursday, April 26

**DC-Area Housing Market Ranks Among Nation's Strongest; Housing Affordability At All-Time High**  
Metropolitan Regional Information Systems (MRIS) data shows the DC-area housing market improved over last year:

**\*Inventory is down more than 25%**  
(currently representing a three-month supply—*the lowest in seven years*)

**\*Purchase contracts are up 4.6%**

**\*Foreclosures are down 67.2%**

**\*Average price is up 1.4% overall**

\*Arlington experienced an average price jump of 17.2% compared to January 2011

\*A market forecast by real estate statistical analyst Veros suggests that the local market will grow at 2.9% in 2012, and places the **DC-area at #3 in its "Projected Five Strongest Markets."**

New Census Bureau data shows that Washington, DC ranks fourth on a list of most affluent cities. And, **ten of the richest counties in the US**, with highest median household income, are in the DC-region—five in Maryland and five in Virginia. Loudon (VA), Fairfax (VA) and Howard (MD) Counties come in first, second and third for the nation.

The National Association of Realtors (NAR) calculates that **housing affordability is at an all-time high**. Combining housing prices with household incomes and mortgage rates, the index shows *the typical family has twice the income needed to buy a median-priced home*.

Freddie Mac just released its weekly Primary Mortgage Market Survey, surveying mortgage rates near 60-year lows. Rates are 3.875% to 4.125% (30 year fixed conforming loans), helping to keep homebuyer affordability high.



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*These Arlington Forest youths are available for babysitting, pet sitting, yard work and other services. They are listed by neighborhood, but some may prefer to work within a few blocks of home. To be added, e-mail newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.*

### Northside:

- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Sophie Frank, babysitting (Red Cross certified), soccer training, tutoring, sophie.e.frank@gmail.com, 703-859-0722
- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046
- Bo Sampson, babysitting (Red Cross Certified), dog walking, tutoring, bo.i.samps@gmail.com, 703-447-7678
- Gabby Young, babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, merrywesing@yahoo.com, 703-622-4229
- Chris Werbos, dog walking, pet sitting, yard work (can work with power tools), chris.werbos@gmail.com

### Southside:

- Caroline Rogers, pet sitting, dog walking, carolinearogers@verizon.net, 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (Red Cross certified), juliaerogers23@gmail.com, 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), dog walking, pet sitting, yard work, jonny.boy4@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046
- Liz Tiernan, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), dog walking, pet sitting, lizzytiernan@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

### Greenbrier Section:

- Zephren Collinson, babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, tutoring, 703-528-3595
- Kate Felsenheld, pet sitting, dog walking, k.cliffhero@gmail.com, 703-276-9874
- Alex Hendel, babysitting (Red Cross certified), dog walking, tutoring, alexhendel@gmail.com, 703-763-0070
- Alice Naland, babysitting (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, nalandfamily@yahoo.com, 703-888-0125
- Lucy Naland, babysitting (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, LucyMNLand@gmail.com, 703-888-0125



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