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Arlington, VA

May 2011

Major Progress on Amphitheatre

By Chris Scheer

Last month, the County Board allocated money in the FY2012 Arlington budget that promises renewed life for the Lubber Run Amphitheatre. The budget includes up to \$45,000 to support programming at Lubber Run and other county performance venues and allocates \$100,000 for "study and capital needs toward restoration of the Lubber Run Amphitheatre."

The budget was announced shortly after a week of meetings with Lubber Run Amphitheatre Foundation members and County Board members culminating in an April 11 public meeting with County Manager Barbara Donellan hosted by the Foundation at Barrett Elementary School.

Donellan, along with top Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs officials, discussed the challenges faced in bringing

the amphitheatre up to current safety and access standards. They noted particular concern with meeting requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and possible flood plain restrictions.

More than 60 people filled the Barrett library at the public meeting. Foundation president Esther Bowring chaired the meeting and told Donellan that meetings with County Board members at the amphitheatre the previous week had focused on errors and misrepresentations in an engineering assessment of the facility commissioned by the county last year. Bowring said that the Foundation and its supporters throughout the county wanted more information about the facility's condition and more opportunity for public input and participation into decisions about the amphitheatre's future.

....Continued on page 2

AFCA Membership Meeting & Potluck Picnic



As is an Arlington Forest tradition, the May AFCA meeting will be a potluck picnic in Lubber Run Park and will feature the annual election of AFCA officers. It will be on Wednesday, May 18, starting at 6:30 PM in the park shelter. AFCA will cook up hamburgers and hotdogs and will provide buns, condiments, plates, cups, utensils and napkins.

Residents should bring a side dish to share (salad, veggie/fruit, chips, snack or dessert) and their own soft drinks.

While all residents are invited to every AFCA meeting, the May picnic/meeting is a great way for infrequent attendees

and recent arrivals to see their neighborhood association in action and have a say in its leadership and priorities. The event will last about one hour and will be mostly fun and informal. Children are definitely welcome. There will be a brief business meeting to provide updates on issues such as the amphitheatre plus the holding of the annual election of AFCA officers. This will be the last AFCA meeting before the three-month summer break.

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AFCA Meeting 6:30 p.m. May 18 at Lubber Run Park

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes your articles, news notes and letters which should focus on events or issues specific to our neighborhood and should not exceed 400 words. We also welcome photos accompanied by an explanatory caption. Please e-mail submissions to nalandfamily@yahoo.com. Deadlines vary with the date of the month's AFCA meeting. The next deadline is Sept 8 after the summer break. Space fills up fast, so e-mail the editor in advance if you plan to submit a photo or long article. Submissions are subject to editing.

Neighborhood Notes

by John Naland

As I complete my first year as the editor of this newsletter, I again thank Chris Scheer who, assisted by his wife Karen, served as editor for the previous 22 years. Since I am now fully aware of just how much effort goes into producing this newsletter, I think that we all owe Chris and Karen another round of applause for their years of dedication. Even now, they still coordinate the newsletter's monthly door-to-door delivery.

I also thank Laura Smialowicz who does the layout and design of each month's issue. Skillfully using desktop publishing software, she has added more photos, inserted attractive graphics and helped post the newsletter online (www.capaccess.org/forest). She has also been very responsive to last-minute changes requested by our loyal advertisers who, I am happy to report, now cover the entire cost of producing this newsletter.

Hopefully you have liked the editorial changes that we made this year. The "Kids for Hire" listing appears to be a hit judging by the number of new customers that some of the kids tell me they have gotten. I hope that readers have also found the new "Community Calendar" and "Nature News" sections to be of use.

After this issue, the newsletter takes its traditional three-month summer break from publishing. Between now and September, you can keep informed of major neighborhood developments (such as late-breaking announcements on summer performances at the Lubber Run Amphitheatre) by joining the AFCA listserv by e-mailing ArlingtonLife@gmail.com.

Amphitheatre ...from page 1

Donellan acknowledged that she had heard from the County Board and their direction to her was to solve the safety and access problems at the amphitheatre so that it can support programs this summer and work with the Foundation and other public groups to get it done.

Bowring and Donellan agreed to establish two task force groups of citizens and county employees to work on safety and access plans and programming for the amphitheatre. A number of Arlington Foresters and others attending the meeting signed up for the task forces at the end of the meeting. Donellan said she would schedule meetings of the groups within the next few weeks. In the meantime, she directed her staff to form internal groups to begin laying out options for facility maintenance and summer programming.

Donellan will attend a second public meeting to discuss the Lubber Run Amphitheatre at 6:30 PM on May 16 at the Lubber Run Recreation Center, George Mason and North Park Drives. All Arlington Foresters are invited.

Successful Neighborhood Cleanup

by John Naland



Around 125 Arlington Forest residents came out in the fresh spring air on Saturday, April 30, to participate in the first annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup. They tackled six cleanup sites around our neighborhood: Lubber Run Park (35 volunteers),

the trail below the N. Edison playground (21 volunteers), the buffer strip on the southside of Route 50 (25 volunteers), Four Mile Run at the foot of N. Granada (30 volunteers), Four Mile Run at the foot of S. Park (10 volunteers) and the N. Henderson traffic circle (4 volunteers).

In a good sign for our nation's future, over half of the helping hands were kids: Barrett Daisy Troop 6100, Brownie Troop 396, Cub Scout Pack 648, Boy Scout Troop 648, along with many children who came out with their families. The volunteers gathered up mounds of trash, debris and invasive plants which the County later hauled away. Accompanying this article are several photos of the cleanup.

After the event, I received the following congratulatory note from Mr. Lyndell Core, parks maintenance supervisor for the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources:

"We appreciate and value the energy and the effort shown by the Arlington Forest community to commit time to demonstrate stewardship of our natural resources. Time is a scarce resource for us all and to see so many residents make the choice to give back to the community and the park is inspiring. Thank you from Arlington County park management and staff for using your free time to help clean up Lubber Run Park and Four Mile Run."



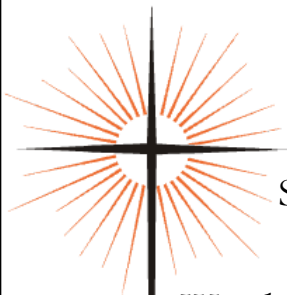
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Join us each month for a fun family feature outdoors at dusk (about 8:30 p.m.)

Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social, June 25, 6:30 – 8:00

St. John's Book Club June 7, 7:30 p.m. discusses James Michener's *Caravans*

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5



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Jim

The strawberries are coming!

By Ryoko Reed

Three years ago, about this time in the spring, the national news was filled with an outbreak of salmonella in packaged salsa. The horror! My favorite fat-free condiment and I could not eat it for fear I would lose 10 pounds the unpleasant way. At first, the CDC suspected tomatoes, then peppers, and eventually, I forget what they found. But no matter. I took matters into my own hands and started an organic garden...in our front yard. Since then, we have added two more garden beds in our front yard, because it gets the best morning sun in our lot. Our front yard vegetable garden beds have been a great way to get fresh local food, but we've connected to our Arlington Forest neighbors like never before—from our friends in the neighborhood to people driving by stopping in front of our street. I've given away pounds of potatoes, tomatoes, Asian cucumbers, chard and lettuce to name a few to share in our bounty. I've had our daughter Kimi and her neighborhood friends help me plant seeds, pick vegetables and help weed our garden.

For those of you walking by our garden in the first block of N. Granada St. on your way to the WO&D trail, to the bus stop, or other activities, let me walk you through our garden in springtime. We follow a bio-intensive gardening method, and use techniques studied and promoted at Ecology Action, a non-profit organization in California. (Disclaimer: My brother-in-law studied there and is now an organic farmer in Mendocino County in California.)


First, gardening is all about the soil. We mix together our homemade compost, topsoil, sand, and peat moss. Second, we use a method called "double digging." You'll see my husband James through rain, hail and wind double digging in our garden during spring. That is a method where you dig more than 24 inches below and mix up the soil. This produces great aeration in our garden bed. Finally, we use a planting method called "companion planting." This is where, instead of traditional farming where you have rows and rows of one crop, you mix in other "companion" plants, such as marigold (which repels some insects), mint (which repels other insects like aphids), and strawberries (which attracts good insects like bees). Instead of rows, we plant these companion plants in hexagon patterns across our garden bed.


In our newly installed garden bed, we have 25 strawberry plants establishing its roots, crowns and now flowers. We also have lettuce, marigolds and zinnias growing so we



can attract bees for the strawberry plants. In our second garden bed, we started four different kinds of tomatoes—red, pink, orange and yellow—with cucumbers, nasturtiums, sweet peas and kale. In our third garden bed, we have collard greens, more tomatoes, basil, soybeans, bush beans and carrots. On the side, we have three grow-bags of potatoes.

I'm excited about the planting season, and look forward to writing about the harvest season in August—stay tuned or stop on by!

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AFCA Meeting, May 18th,
6:30 p.m. at Lubber Run Park*

Around the Forest

Gunfire along Lubber Run: 150 years ago, Union and Confederate troops may have skirmished in what is now Lubber Run Park according to a long-time resident who says that Civil War-era mini-balls were found in trees there during tree trimming in the 1950s. It is certain that the Mary Carlin House (ca. 1800) and the Charles E. Mix House (ca. 1820-40) – both in the Greenbrier Section -- were around during the war. As our nation commemorates the Civil War's sesquicentennial, the editor of this newsletter would like to hear from anyone who knows of historical documents that detail Civil War events in Arlington Forest. One possibility for a local commemoration would be a walking tour of those sites.

Yard Sale: The May 21 Community Yard Sale map on the back cover of this newsletter depicts those participants who signed-up by this issue's copy deadline. AFCA will place classified ads in local newspapers the week before the sale. Sale participants living near Arlington Blvd, Carlin Springs Rd., George Mason Dr. and Henderson Dr. are encouraged to post signs pointing into the neighborhood and to their sales (please remove signs at day's end). Suggestions on how to make the most of sale day are in last month's newsletter which is online at <http://www.capaccess.org/forest/>.

Four Mile Run Trail: The County plans to rehabilitate the 27-inch sanitary sewer pipe that runs along the Four Mile Run bike trail from Route 50 to Columbia pike from mid-May to late June. Nearby residents may notice noise from bypass pumps and a boiler truck which will be onsite. Some of the work may take place at night. The pumps and boilers will run up to 24 hours at a time while the new sewer liner cures. The contractor will run hoses across the bike/pedestrian path for bypass purpose, Signs, ramps, lighting, and cones will be placed to alert trail users.

Michael Kerley Honored: Forester Mike Kerley received the Arlington County Civic Federation's top award at its annual dinner and awards program last month. Mike was honored for his accomplishments during his two years as president of the Federation which represents 81 neighborhood associations and countywide groups including AFCA. Mike has also been an AFCA representative to the Federation for a number of years.

Boy Scout News: Boy scouts from Troop 648 (Arlington Forest United Methodist Church) will head off for a week of scout camp in late June. However, before that in mid-May and then later in the summer, look for the scouts in Lubber Run Park, as they carry out two scheduled Eagle Scout service projects to plant trees, clear out invasives and restore park trails.

Student Honored: Northside resident Dawson Cannon was on the Washington-Lee High School team that placed as first runner up in the national 2011 Construction Industry Roundtable (CIRT)-ACE Mentor Design Competition. The competition promotes innovation in the design and construction community to improve the quality of life, while also understanding challenges unique to the industry.

Cub Scout News: Cub Scout Pack 648 celebrated another successful year with their Blue and Gold Dinner at Our Savior Lutheran Church on April 8th. The Pack also celebrated ten scouts who earned the Arrow of Light badge, the highest award in Cub Scouting: Andrew Hawkins, Carl Barrett, Henry Pulley, Louis Chavez, Jack Peterson, Harrison Gardner, Ruben Stann, Garrett Johnston, Cliff Hawrey, and Luke Hoffman. Most of these scouts will continue their scouting adventures with Boy Scout Troop 648. Parents interested in Cub Scouts should contact Carey Johnston at johnston.carey@verizon.net, 703-243-3570, for more information. Boys can start Cub Scouts when they are 7 years old or start the 1st grade.

"Green" Homes: If you missed the April presentation at the Arlington Central Library on "High-Performance Home Renovations" by Marta Layseca of EnviroHomeDesign, you can see it online at <http://envirohomedesign.com/presentation.html>. The lecture explains how old homes can be updated into high-performance homes that are beautiful, functional and healthy while minimizing materials during construction and conserving water and energy during the building's life. One of the homes cited in the talk is in Arlington Forest.

Block Parties: A great way to get to know neighbors is to organize a block party. For example, the first block of N. Granada has a party each September which the majority of neighbors typically attend, bringing their own chairs and pot luck appetizers, entrées and desserts. The kids have a blast playing in the closed-off street. To hold a block party, a permit to temporarily close the street to non-resident traffic must be obtained from the County. It costs \$64 (including the delivery and pick up of six orange cones to detour traffic) and must be picked in person. See the County website for details.



Nature News

Plant a Tree: The Arlington County Tree Canopy Fund (TCF) provides grants to community groups to plant trees on private property to increase Arlington's tree cover. TCF provides funds for planting trees with diameters of about two inches that, at maturity, will be large canopy trees. AFCA will file an application for those interested in getting a tree. Contact Tim O'Leary at 703-525-0975 or tfoleary310@gmail.com for additional info or Colleen Green at 703-521-0034 or colleen.m.green@us.pwc.com to place an order. The deadline is July 1. The list of available trees and other program details are at www.arlingtonenvironment.org/treecanopyfund.htm.

Alert Forester Protects Watershed: When Greenbrier Section resident and past AFCA President David Mog noticed heavy silt entering Lubber Run from a storm water pipe at the top of the park near N. George Mason in mid-March, he traced the runoff back to the Buckingham construction site. He notified the County's Department of Environmental Services which sent out an inspector who directed the contractor to install the legally-required filter bag between its pump hoses and the storm sewer. That stopped the harmful silt from entering the Chesapeake watershed. Neighbors who notice apparent cases of illegal runoff should call County storm water specialist Diana Handy at 703-228-0772.

Sharing the Forest: A brown fox has been seen making the rounds of the first blocks of N. Granada and N. Galveston after sunrise in recent weeks. According to website of the Humane Society of the United States, "Foxes aren't dangerous to humans, except when they are rabid (which is very rare) or are captured and handled." The website of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington says "There's no need to fear wildlife. If you don't bother them, they generally won't bother you."

Long Branch Nature Center: As the days get longer and the nights get warmer, the nostalgia of summer begins. Some of the fondest memories are spent outdoors. The sweet aroma from roasting marshmallows by the campfire and the feeling of the cool grass under your feet as you catch twinkling fireflies in the night sky. For more excuses to be outdoors, join LBNC in a few activities. Programming is listed in LBNC's newsletters *The Snag* and *The Snag for Wee Ones* available at LBNC and on the County website. For info: 703-228-6535. Register at <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>:

Insect Safari: Saturday, 7/16/2011, 4-5 PM. Families with children ages 5 and up. Join in an old fashioned insect safari to see what neat critters we can discover in the wilds of Long Branch. A naturalist will lead you in capturing insects and other small creatures to investigate before we release them back into the wilds. Wear long pants and closed toed shoes. Program 642951-E

Tales from the Deep Dark Woods: Friday, 7/29/2011, 7:30-8:30 PM. Families. Who knows what might lurk in the shadows of ancient trees? Margaret Chatham tells stories from forests in Africa, Sweden and Japan. Eclectic teller of ethnic tales, Ms. Chatham is the winner (with her husband) of the 2003 National Storytelling Network Oracle Award. Free. Program 642951-F

Summer Campfires: The whole family is invited to LBNC on select Saturday evenings for engaging programs around the fire ring which may include stories, animal guests, games, songs and of course, treats like s'mores. \$5 per person due at registration.

--Noisy Nature Campfire, 6/18, 7-8:15PM.

Program 642951-H

--Native American Campfire, 6/25, 6:30-7:45PM.

Program 642951-I

--Nocturnal Insects Campfire, 7/9, 7:30-8:45PM.

Program 642951-J

--Hop to It Campfire, 7/16, 6:30-7:45PM.

Program 642951-K

--Stories 'Round the Campfire, 7/23, 7-8:15PM.

Program 642951-L

--Spider Campfire, 8/13, 7-8:15PM. Program 642951-M

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Summer Babysitting: Arlington Forest resident and rising George Washington University Junior is available for baby-sitting this summer after June 5. Arlington Forest references. Please call Alan Bederka: 571-289-2010.

Housing Wanted: A friend is looking for a house or town-house in N. Arlington, mid-\$500s. Please contact Diane Hendel if you have any leads. 703-763-0070.

Delivery Kids Wanted: Two Arlington Forester delivery routes are coming open next September: one in the Greenbrier section and one Southside. The job entails about one hour of work eight times per year. A modest stipend is paid (\$9 - \$12 per month depending on the number of houses). Contact Karen Scheer at scheer4@comcast.net.

AFC Club Membership: Family seeking Arlington Forest Club membership. Contact Joan at 703-522-1322.

Ivy Removal: Forester Paul Kovenock, 703-525-5221, is available to advise Forest homeowners adjacent to Lubber Run Park on ridding their yards of invasive English ivy and voluntarily supervising day laborers to get it done.

Put Your Notice Here: Send your notice to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by Sept 8.

Community Calendar

Amphitheatre Public Meeting: Monday, May 16, 6:30 PM. Lubber Run Recreation Center.

AFCA Picnic and Election Meeting: Wednesday, May 18, 6:30 PM, Lubber Run Park picnic area. Final meeting before the summer break.

Annual Community Yard Sale: Saturday, May 21. Turn unwanted stuff into cash and/or check out neighbor's merchandise down the block.

Taste of Arlington: Sunday, May 22, Noon to 5 PM in front of Ballston Mall. Sample delicious food made by dozens of Arlington restaurants.

Ballston Farmers Market: Thursday, May 26, 3 to 7 PM. The farmers market returns to Welburn Square with favorites like Great Harvest Bread Company, Two Belle's Southern Pound Cakes and Gonzales Produce. The market is open every Thursday and features live music. Come pick up fresh fruits, crispy veggies, breads, pastries and more.

Lubber Run Amphitheater summer programs: Schedule to be determined. Details will be announced on the AFCA listserv.

Arlington County Fair: August 10 to 14.
<http://www.arlingtoncountyfair.us/>

AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, Sept 21, 7 PM, Barrett School. First meeting after the summer break.

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Barcroft School News

Join us for great events happening at **Barcroft Elementary** in May to August, including our special fitness program, **Monday Mornin' Movers** (MMM). Depending on the weather, we meet at the outdoor track or in the gym from 8:30-8:50 AM on May 16, 23 and June 6, 13 and 20.

On Monday, May 16, the Barcroft PTA will host a **fund-raiser at P. Brennan's Irish Pub and Restaurant**, located at 2910 Columbia Pike (at the intersection of S. Walter Reed). Eat-in or take-out between 4:30-10:30 PM, and 15% will be donated to the PTA. Enjoy a variety of fabulous entrees and an affordable kids' menu. For a menu, go to: <http://www.pbrennans.com/menus/dinner/>. Garage parking is available.

On Wednesday, May 18, Barcroft Kindergarten classes will host an **Open House** for prospective parents and students from 9:30 AM-Noon. All are welcome to see Barcroft School in action. Beginning Friday, May 20, students in Grades 3-5 will take the **VA Standards of Learning (SOLs)**. The PTA will support the students with healthy snacks during test days. Good luck, students!

On Friday evening, June 3, Barcroft will host the **Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Night Celebration**. Please join us for special "Taste of Asia" cuisine, featuring a sampling of restaurant dishes and home-made specialties. And look forward to family entertainment as well. All are welcome!

The Barcroft PTA will celebrate **Farm-2-Table Week** from June 5-10. Every school-day, chefs - including Warren Brown, Food Network veteran and CakeLove owner -- will come to the school and use locally-grown foods to cook delicious, nutritious recipes for the students to sample. The celebration commences on Sunday, June 5, when the Barcroft PTA will have a booth at the **Columbia Pike Farmers' Market** equipped with stickers, balloons, copies of the **NEW Barcroft Cookbook**, and a healthy-eating scavenger hunt for the kids. Please join us!

The **5th Grade Graduation Ceremony** is Tuesday, June 21. Congratulations to our wonderful 5th Grade students! The Final Day of School is Friday, June 24. After **Summer Break** in July, the **2011-2012 School Year** will resume for our Barcroft students on Tuesday, August 2.

We hope that everyone enjoys a lovely summer. See you again in September! In the meantime, to learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft, go to <http://www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp>.

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Open: Tues - Fri -- 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat -- 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Closed: Sun & Mon

Appointment & Walk-in Welcome

Spring Specials: Highlights, Haircut & Style \$95; Haircut & Style \$45
New Customer Specials: Hair Color & Haircut \$80; Permanent \$75
(Bring this Arlington Forester coupon with you.)

Barrett School News

Kindergarten Orientation: Attention Parents of Rising Kindergartners! Give your children a jumpstart for a successful school year! On Friday, June 10, 10-11:30 AM, you and your child are cordially invited to Barrett's spring orientation for parents of children entering Kindergarten in September 2011.

Parents will meet with Principal Terry Bratt and Barrett reading, science and math specialists to learn about the kindergarten curriculum, the daily schedule, school supplies, summer screenings and other details that will help your child make a smooth transition to kindergarten. While parents are meeting, rising kindergartners will meet the kindergarten teachers, join in classroom activities and attend music or P.E. with this year's classes. Parents and children are also invited to stay and have lunch in the school cafeteria.

For more information and to RSVP, please call Terry Bratt at 703-228-6288 or e-mail her at tbratt@arlington.k12.va.us. We look forward to seeing you!

A successful year in Project Discovery (submitted by Laurie Sullivan and Allyson Greene): As this is the last newsletter of the school year, we would like to say thank you for the wonderful, ongoing support given to Project Discovery throughout the entire year from our community.

It has been a great year here in the Discovery Lab as we have had many fun, engaging lessons, as well as many unique opportunities. We would like to share some of the highlights from the past year:

--First place in the NASA Spaced Out Sports Challenge! 5th graders designed a game called "Save The Earth" that will be played by astronauts onboard the International Space Station (ISS) later this year!

--As the winner of the contest mentioned above, the entire school will be treated to a NASA Fun Day on Friday, June 10. We are very excited!

--We had a small team of 3rd graders finish as finalists in the Kids Science Challenge! Their project was called Magical Microbes.

--ROBONAUT 2 became a permanent fixture in the Discovery Lab. This model is a replica of the one NASA sent into space in February to work aboard the ISS.

--We had an incredible turnout for our annual NASA Science Discovery Night! The highlight was building with thousands of LEGOS!

--Project Discovery was awarded a \$10,000 Toyota TAPES-TRY Grant for the upcoming school year! The grant is to connect kids with local wildlife habitats.

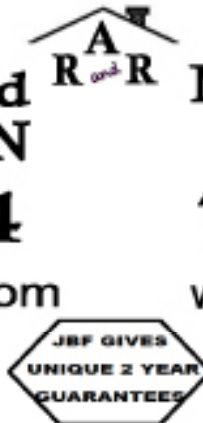
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Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are available for babysitting, dog walking, yard work and other services. They are listed by neighborhood, but some may prefer to work within a few blocks of home. Contact them to discuss availability and fees. Middle or high schoolers who want to be on this list should send their name, e-mail address and/or phone number, neighborhood and list of services by September 8 to nalandfamily@yahoo.com.

Northside:

- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046
- Joshua & Sammy Patecell, yard work, mowing, joshuapatecell@yahoo.com, 703-524-6891
- Bo Sampson, babysitting (Red Cross certified), Trombone lessons (4th and 5th graders), Bo.i.samps@gmail.com, 703-522-2761

Southside:

- Samantha Harris, yard work, mowing, pet sitting, dog walking, samanthaharrisservices@gmail.com, 571-225-5604

- Jon Tiernan, dog walking pet sitting, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), jonny.boy4@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

- Liz Tiernan, dog walking, pet sitting, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), lizzytiernan@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

Greenbrier Section:

- Andrew Bryant, yard work, mowing, skatebk93@aol.com, 703-312-9310
- Kate Felsenheld, pet sitting, dog walking, k.cliffhero@gmail.com, 703-276-9874
- Emily Goldman, babysitting (Red Cross certified), dog walking, Tsukiko8@gmail.com, 571-288-5198
- Alex Hendel, dog walking, tutoring (pre-K to 5th grade in science, math and history), alexhendel@gmail.com, 703-763-0070
- Chris Mutty, babysitting (Red Cross certified), yard work, dog walking, pet sitting, cbmutty@gmail.com, 703-522-4741
- Alice Naland, mother's helper (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, LucyMNaland@gmail.com, 703-888-0125

Northern Virginia Market Trends

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on March 2011 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

A total of 1,437 homes sold in March 2011, a 7.71% decrease below March 2010 home sales of 1,557. Active listings decreased by 7% from 2010, with 3,975 active listings in 3/11, compared with 4,267 homes available in 3/10. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in 3/11 increased 39% to 71 days, compared with 51 days in 3/10. Sale prices rose compared with those realized last year. The average sales price in March 2011 increased 3% from March 2010, to \$448,957 from \$434,129 last March. The median price of homes sold rose in March 2011 to \$385,000, an increase of about 5% compared with March 2010's median price of \$368,000.

The number of new pending home sales in Northern Virginia in March showed a decrease of 5.5% 2,113 compared to 2,236 new contracts pending in March 2010.

Arlington County Statistics comparing March 2010 to 2011: **Condos** - Avg. Sold Price was \$373,112 in 3/10 - up 13% in 3/11 to \$421,108. **Single Family Attached** - Avg. Sold Price was \$551,911 in 3/10 - up 18% to \$653,160 in 3/11. **Single Family Detached** - Avg. Sold Price was \$712,483 in 3/10 - up 3% to \$732,041 in 3/11.

Mortgage Rates are still attractive! The following rates are average quotes with no points: 4.75% to \$417,000, 4.88% up to \$729,750, 5.38% over \$729,750

On 10/1/11 the current administration is **proposing** lowering the conforming loan amount from \$729,750 to \$625,500 for FHA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac housing loans.



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Arlington Forest Community Yard Sale Map Saturday, May 21

