



Volume 61, Number 3

Arlington, VA

November 2019

## Updates on Parks and Land Use

An update on the County's plans to replace the four pedestrian bridges in or adjacent to Arlington Forest that washed away during the July 8<sup>th</sup> flood tops the agenda of the AFCA monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Barrett Elementary School library. The guest speaker will be Lyndell Core, Park Area Manager with Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation.

The second half of the meeting will feature a presentation by Arlington activist Peter Rousselot who will discuss the

County's plans to eliminate single-family home zoning and other zoning regulations that restrict land use. He will explain how the resulting increased density will affect our schools, environment, trees, infrastructure, flooding, taxes, housing affordability, and Arlington County's budget.

Finally, this is the last call for AFCA dues for 2019-2020. If you have not already done so, please pay your annual \$10 dues online at [www.arlingtonforestva.org/AFCADues.html](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org/AFCADues.html) or by clipping the coupon on this page and sending it with a check to your AFCA section representative.

## Make a Date with Santa

By Chris Scheer

**AFCA**  
**Holiday Party**  
**Dec 6th**

Arlington Forest kids of all ages get a jump on the holidays with an early visit by Santa on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at the annual Arlington Forest Holiday Party in

Barrett Elementary School's all-purpose room (the event's home for the next few years while the Lubber Run Community Center is being rebuilt).

The jolly old elf arrives at 7 PM aboard an Arlington fire truck -- his traditional mode of transportation -- and he won't depart until he's had a personal chat with every child. But don't wait until 7 PM to arrive! Before Santa shows, everyone will gather in front of the school to greet Santa's exciting siren-blaring arrival. Then it's inside for live music, caroling, holiday goodies, kids' crafts and Santa lap chats.

Please bring a plate of goodies to share. AFCA will provide holiday punch and a few snacks to get things started. Volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down, lead singing and manage activities for the kids. If you can help or if you have a group that might assist -- table crafts for kids, elf assistance for Santa, caroling -- please contact Chris Scheer at 703-276-9725 or [scheerjchris@gmail.com](mailto:scheerjchris@gmail.com).

### AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES

**ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD**

Deliver this form and your check payable to "AFCA" to your respective AFCA section representative.

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

*Northside:* Joel Yudken, 104 N. Columbus St. 22203

*Southside:* Sean Lyons, 34 S. Park Dr. 22204

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[www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)

*AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. November 20 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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Arlington Civic Federation Rep: Salvatore D'Itri

Historian: John Naland

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Website: <http://www.arlingtonforestva.org>  
Join AFCA listserv by e-mailing address to:  
arlingtonforestva@gmail.com

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## Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes articles, news notes, letters, and photos focusing on non-commercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish eight times per year (Sept to Nov and Jan to May). Deadline for submissions is the first of the month. E-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space often fills up before the deadline.

## Help Wanted: Newsletter Editor and Designer

We got no response to last month's call for volunteers to replace *Arlington Forester* editor John Naland and layout/design coordinator Laura Smialowicz who are stepping down after 10 years. John and Laura are available to produce the five remaining issues before publication pauses during the summer, but they want to start training their replacements in the coming months.

The editor collects articles, writes news briefs (often based on info from County listservs), and coordinates with advertisers. The current editor coordinates newsletter distribution, but another volunteer could be recruited to do that. The prerequisites are a computer, Internet connection, and written communication skills.

The layout and design volunteer places the articles and advertisements into the newsletter template in Adobe InDesign. He/she occasionally creates small graphics or basic advertisements. AFCA reimburses for the InDesign subscription. The prerequisites are a computer, Internet connection, and InDesign proficiency.

Because the newsletter is published on a fixed schedule, the editor and layout/design volunteer must be available on the eight weekends when final layout occurs. One person could do both jobs if they had both writing and InDesign skills.

The *Arlington Forester* plays a critical role in linking the three geographically separated sections of our community. Through the printed newsletter, all our 851 households learn about neighborhood issues and are drawn together for communitywide events. If the newsletter were replaced by emailed updates, most residents would be left in the dark since fewer than half are registered AFCA members. This reduced publicity would likely reduce attendance at AFCA meetings, the holiday party, amphitheater concerts, farmers market, park cleanups, and the annual yard sale.

For more information or to volunteer, email newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

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**Home Tour:** AFCA is still looking for a chair or co-chairs for the House Tour Committee. This popular event is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and get terrific ideas to enhance your Arlington Forest home. But it can't happen without one or more fearless leaders! Fortunately, long-time chair Jennifer Claffey has made it very easy for anyone willing to step up. She can provide a step-by-step plan, materials and everything needed to create a successful House Tour. And, she is willing to provide technical assistance along the way. In addition, long-time Committee volunteers will help with all the details. So, please consider taking the lead. If you are interested, contact AFCAPrez@gmail.com.



# Parties to Celebrate AFCA's 80 Years a Rousing Success

The weather was perfect, and thanks to organizer extraordinaire, Deanna Caputo, not one - but two parties held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> gave 275 Foresters of all ages a chance to have fun, eat some great food, meet old friends and make new ones.

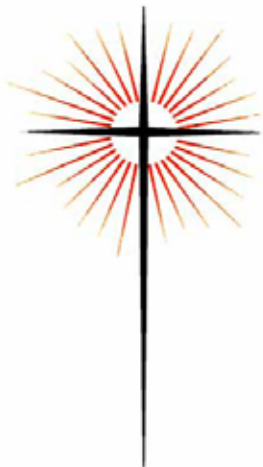
Residents living in the Forest for a few weeks to 55 years had a wonderful time sharing memories and agreeing that Arlington Forest is the best place in Arlington to live.

Barcroft Elementary School was the perfect venue for the family brunch party, complete with kids' activities, face painting and a balloon artist. Then, revelers met in the

afternoon for happy hour at the neighborhood's Out-back Steakhouse restaurant.

Helping out to make sure everything went smoothly were volunteers Mike and Patty Gibson, Chris and Karen Scheer, Dick and Donna Simpson, and Larry and Esther Bowring.

Keep the party going with a special edition 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary tee shirt (see photo). You can order one for \$7 from Dick or Donna Simpson at [dmsimpson@comcast.net](mailto:dmsimpson@comcast.net) or by calling 703-527-3867.



## ***Celebrate the Birth of Christ With Us!***

St. John's Episcopal Church is a vibrant congregation with a big heart. We are an inclusive and welcoming community of faith where everyone is supported in their spiritual growth and questions and discussion are always welcome.

*-The Reverend Ann Barker, Rector*

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**All Children 5 and up are invited to  
participate in our Christmas Pageant!**

Call the office at 703-671-6834 or  
email [familyprograms@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:familyprograms@stjohnsarlingtonva.org)



<b>Sunday, December 15</b>	10 am	Children's Christmas Pageant at the 10 am service
<b>Tuesday, December 24</b>	5 pm 11 pm	Christmas Eve Service with carols and a children's message Christmas Eve Service with carols
<b>Wednesday, December 25</b>	10 am	Christmas Day Service with carols
<b>Sunday, December 29</b>	10 am	Hear the Christmas story in Bible lessons and carols

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



415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

[www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org)



# Lubber Run Recreation Center Update

If you have driven by the Lubber Run Recreation Center lately, you may have noticed the addition of huge beams above the building's central gym. The Center has really taken shape over the last couple months as crews work to get the building closed in before winter. At the end of October, the last giant truss was installed, marking the topping off of the building - when the last beam is placed atop a structure during its construction. As is customary on construction projects, the staff and crew held a party to mark the occasion that was attended by the County Manager.

To further commemorate the milestone, Department of Parks and Recreation Athletic and Facility Services Division Chief Peter Lusk and Department of Environmental Services Facilities Project Specialist Michael Manos invited AFCA officers on a tour on October 28<sup>th</sup> to view the progress (see photo). Although the walls were concrete and there were no finishes, we used a bit of imagination to picture the finished spaces: activity rooms with soaring ceilings, inspiring views of Lubber Run Park, and an exciting, multi-level playground.

The County will hold a tour for the entire community in the spring. To keep up to date search "Lubber Run Community Center Project" on the County website.



**Call for Photos of the Old LRCC:** Have any photos of the interior or exterior, of the old Lubber Run Recreation Center? How about shots of activities, classes or events? The County is compiling a timeline history for the Center and is asking the community for photos and memorabilia. Remember the lines around the Center to register for summer classes? What about the preschool, meetings, dance and other classes and after school activities? How about photos of the tree lighting, holiday party, Easter egg roll and Arlington Forest anniversary parties? Did you hold birthday parties at the Gazebo, have good times at the playground or teach the kids to ride bikes in the parking lot? Please share your memories with the community by sending copies of your pictures to Peter Lusk at [plusk@arlingtonva.us](mailto:plusk@arlingtonva.us) by the end of January.

This time of year is when we enter a winter market stage, with fewer homes being listed for sale. Some homes priced inaccurately are staying on the market longer than they might have earlier in the year. The decrease in new inventory is noticeable to buyers who have been tracking the market this year. Some homes might take a bit longer to sell depending upon the price range, location and condition, although we are still seeing multiple offers in some situations as there is still good momentum in the local real estate market.

Historically, between November to January we see a smaller amount of properties hit the market and this year Arlington is experiencing historically low inventory levels which has caused frustration for many buyers.

Arlington's problem with low housing stock is also a national issue. The inventory level is the US has dropped

2.7% from last year's third quarter.

Pricing a home properly is the key factor a seller can control. There are typically four different pricing strategies that are used in our local market (contact me for more on how that works and the impact it has).

Condition is also critical dynamic. Since the typical buyer in Arlington is paying a premium price for housing, they are maxing out their purchasing power just to acquire the home, which leaves them with little resources for upgrades after closing. So they seek homes that are in pristine condition and will pay a higher price for a turnkey property.

Have you had thoughts of selling? The next few months might present an opportunity with the current conditions and trends.

Contact me for a confidential discussion about your situation.



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# Volunteers Needed for Neighborhood Conservation Plan Revision

Arlington Forest has a neighborhood conservation plan. It covers topics ranging from street conditions to our local parks, and it sets priorities for our neighborhood that County government can use in its project planning. Having a current plan helps us work with the County to improve our neighborhood -- such as signage to highlight historic and natural features and pro-active storm water improvements.

Our existing plan was drafted in 1991, almost 30 years ago. It is high time for a plan revision, and we need your help! Consider contributing 5, 10, or 20 hours between now and March to write one or more sections and bring our plan up to date. The sections do not have to be long, and you will have lots of guidance, along with survey data and other information to work with. This is not a hard lift, and you will get credit!

For your section, you would note any updates in County policies or plans; we will connect you to County staff if needed. Then you would draft a few paragraphs describing the current situation and any opportunities for improvement. Once neighborhood survey data is compiled, you would compose recommendations for County action. We may meet as a team, in person or by phone.

We are looking for volunteers for the Land Use and Zoning subsections on: (1) existing land uses and County policy guidance for future land development; and (2) development potential, including for the Arlington Forest Shopping Center and neighborhood churches. The Housing section needs a simple overview of the type and ownership of neighborhood housing, the general condition of Arlington Forest homes, and housing trends.

In the section on Public Services and Facilities, we need volunteers to write about (1) County services such as trash collection and emergency response; (2) social services such as for children and seniors; and (3) private neighborhood services such as hospitals and utilities. One volunteer is welcome to take on one, two, or all three.

Finally, we need someone to write about the commercial areas in or near Arlington Forest, including the various types of businesses and relationships with residential areas.

If you can help, please contact Liz Kauffman, our Neighborhood Conservation Program coordinator, at [lizkauffman@yahoo.com](mailto:lizkauffman@yahoo.com); or Hutch Brown, the editor of the revised plan, at [hutchbrown41@gmail.com](mailto:hutchbrown41@gmail.com). Our current conservation plan is posted on the AFCA website.



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## Forest Exchange

**Washington-Liberty H.S. Holiday Bazaar:** Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 4 pm, free admission. Over 70 local artisans selling quality handcrafted and other gift items -- jewelry, ceramics, glassware, pet items, clothing, accessories, and more. Enjoy multi-ethnic food while you shop. Take home baked goods, a holiday wreath, or a poinsettia plant. Live musical performances by The Madrigals and other school musical groups. Proceeds help to buy caps and gowns for the graduating Class of 2020. Free parking and easy access from the I-66 parking garage off N. Stafford St.

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## Community Calendar

**Next AFCA Meeting:** Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM, at Barrett Elementary School.

**AFCA Holiday Party:** Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at Barrett Elementary School.

**Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:** Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Annual Yard Sale:** Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Arlington County Fair:** August 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Rides, food, and displays.

### ***Future AFCA Meetings:***

January 15<sup>th</sup>: School Board Member

February 19<sup>th</sup>: Carlin Springs Crossing Update

March 18<sup>th</sup>: Farmers Market Update and Preview

April 15<sup>th</sup>: Lubber Run Community Center Update

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Picnic and Annual Membership Meeting



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# Barcroft School News

Thank you to everyone that supported the Barcroft PTA Bake Sale! Those funds will help support staff mini-grants and student enrichment. Speaking of mini-grants, this fall the PTA awarded grants to Barcroft staff to support outdoor learning, classroom technology and mentoring programs.

The next few months are action packed! Please join us for the following events:

- December: The always popular book fair will take place in early December. This is a great opportunity to build up your personal libraries as well as purchasing books from teacher wish lists.
- January: Our online auction, which is a major fundraiser for PTA, will take place in January. We are accepting donations of goods, services and experiences. If you would like to contribute, please email [president@barcroftpta.org](mailto:president@barcroftpta.org).
- February: Mark your calendars now for the special Leap Day version of the Snowball Stride 5K. Lace up your walking or running shoes and join us on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. It is a bonus day – how better to spend it then getting some physical activity with your friends and neighbors! Registration will be available soon and the link will be sent out on the neighborhood list serves.

We are also celebrating the return of our little library (see photo below). Please stop by the front of the school to pick up and share child appropriate books.



**New Advertiser:** In this month's issue, we welcome new advertiser Sense of Place Café (see back cover). We encourage residents to turn first to our advertisers and neighborhood businesses when you need goods or services.



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# Barrett School News

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Barrett 2<sup>nd</sup> graders hosted a digital living museum night by bringing historic Hispanic figures to life. The event not only honored those historic figures, but also educated the Barrett community of the important contribution of many Hispanic individuals.

In addition, Barrett PTA members attended a congressional Commonwealth Coffee event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner where we presented the Senators with our new Barrett t-shirts! (see photo) Over the past month, we have met with staff of the Virginia congressional delegation to explore opportunities to work together to support the Barrett community.

In our Discovery Lab classroom, students explored the Chesapeake Bay exhibit, which was on loan from the Virginia Living Museum. Connecting to the exhibit, students traced the path of water outdoors on watershed walks and in the Lab with Google Earth on iPads; created physical models of watersheds; and observed how pollution from many sources makes its way to the bay. Ms. Melody Mobley, our new volunteer from AAAS working in the Discovery Lab, also shared about her career as the first African-American female forester in the U.S. Forest Service.



As a NASA Explorer School, students watched live as two female astronauts made a historic spacewalk outside the International Space Station! A special treat for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders was a presentation by a former Barrett student who is currently working on a degree in aerospace engineering. In addition, Dr. Laurie Sullivan, who leads Barrett's Discovery Lab, was asked

by the U.S. Department of State to share some NASA Explorer School lessons with teachers in Kazakhstan (a highlight video of the presentation featuring Barrett students in the Discovery Lab can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/vKzjDqdvPIU>).

Happy Thanksgiving and happy holidays to Arlington Foresters in our Barrett community!

**Paul Cachion, MBA**

**571-216-6802**

**CachionHomes@gmail.com**



**\$38.84**

\$38.84? The amount of your cell phone bill? How much your kids spend at Starbucks in a month? The price of a fast casual lunch for 2 people? The Monday morning rush toll on the I-66 lanes inside the Beltway?

Nope. If you can believe it, that was the total monthly mortgage payment on our Arlington Forest homes, when they were first built from 1939-1942. And that included homeowner's insurance and property taxes! Here's what one of these solid homes looked like as it was being constructed in 1940.



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# Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are ready to help. To be added or deleted, e-mail [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org).

## Southside:

- Colin Mashkuri: math tutoring, plant watering, dog walking, [cjmashkuri@gmail.com](mailto:cjmashkuri@gmail.com), 703-302-559
- Andrew Rogers: yard work, dog walking, pet sitting, [andrewmcyt@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmcyt@gmail.com), 703-892-0226
- Caroline Rogers: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, [carolinearogers@verizon.net](mailto:carolinearogers@verizon.net), 703-892-0226

## Greenbrier Section:


- Donna Corina: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, 703-248-8885
- Atalie Dempsey: dog walking, pet sitting, babysitting, plant watering, mail collection, [atalie.dempsey@gmail.com](mailto:atalie.dempsey@gmail.com), call/text 571-317-9216
- Evan Dempsey: mail collection, leaf raking, snow shoveling, babysitting, pet walking, pet sitting, plant watering, [Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com](mailto:Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com), call/text 703-559-9690
- Shae Dempsey: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, mail collection, snow shoveling, leaf raking, [Shaelyn.dempsey@gmail.com](mailto:Shaelyn.dempsey@gmail.com), 703-350-7650
- Ellis Early: dog walking, pet sitting, 202-339-1414
- Anthony Lawson: yard work, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Charlotte Lawson: leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Reid Messman: pet sitting, dog walking (references), 703-469-1988
- Shea Messman: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-469-1988
- Alexandra Orli: babysitting (references), mother's helper, pet sitting, watering plants, call 703-528-5618
- Carsten Schoer: snow shoveling, leaf raking, [carstenschoer@gmail.com](mailto:carstenschoer@gmail.com), call/text 703-209-0905
- Leah Shvedova: babysitting (references), tutoring, pet sitting, watering plants, 571-426-6818
- Ava Smialowicz: babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, [ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com](mailto:ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com), text 703-424-0895
- Ben Sparks: pet feeding, dog walking, [benchispas@gmail.com](mailto:benchispas@gmail.com)
- Emma Weaver: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-875-8185

## Northside:

- Daniel Brancati: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, [daniel@bmbs.org](mailto:daniel@bmbs.org), 571-279-2710
- Niittisha Choudhary: babysitting, water plants, tutor (elementary to seventh), dog walking, [Niittisha@gmail.com](mailto:Niittisha@gmail.com), 703-981-1229


- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting (ages 4-12), yard work, [riittishachoudhary@gmail.com](mailto:riittishachoudhary@gmail.com)
- Ely Constantine: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, lawn mowing, [cpconstantine@comcast.net](mailto:cpconstantine@comcast.net), 703-841-9229
- Casey Dinan: babysitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, [chrisbettdinan@aol.com](mailto:chrisbettdinan@aol.com), 703-525-5763
- Tyler Dinan: babysitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, [chrisbettdinan@aol.com](mailto:chrisbettdinan@aol.com), 703-525-5763
- Alex Eng: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [dcharveydc@yahoo.com](mailto:dcharveydc@yahoo.com), 703-861-1890
- Evan Eng: pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [dcharveydc@yahoo.com](mailto:dcharveydc@yahoo.com), 703-861-1890
- Jeremy Fagen: pet sitting (any animal), dog walking, plant watering, [jdoxen11001@gmail.com](mailto:jdoxen11001@gmail.com), 703-200-2396
- Leina Gabra: babysitting (ages 4-12), house sitting, [leinagabra@gmail.com](mailto:leinagabra@gmail.com), 703-973-8914
- Ethan Nissenson: lawn mowing, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [Enissenson@verizon.net](mailto:Enissenson@verizon.net), 703-201-0523
- Sophie Stewart: mother's helper, pet sitting, [sophiestewart4@gmail.com](mailto:sophiestewart4@gmail.com), 703-402-5494

*Next AFCA Meeting:  
Nov 20, 7 p.m. at Barrett School*



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